Number of Participants

HELP-Link enrollment continues to grow:

- Over 11,500 people completed HELP-Link surveys;
- Over 22,000 people enrolled through the Montana HELP Plan have received employment services through the Department of Labor & Industry;
- Since the launch of HELP-Link, over 2,500 people have received intensive, one-on-one employment training services through the program.

Employment Outcomes

HELP-Link is putting Montanans to work with higher wages for participants:

- 91% of HELP-Link participants who completed their training are employed;
- 78% of HELP-Link participants who were unemployed during 2016 found employment after completing the program.
- Roughly 39% of HELP-Link participants who completed the program in 2016 experienced wage growth. The average wage increase was $4,980 from 2015 to 2016.
- 51% of HELP-Link participants had higher wages after completing the program. The average wage increase was $1,470 over-the-year in 2016.
- During 2016, 72% of employed participants who did not need extensive services had higher wages after completing their HELP-Link program, by an average increase of $1,680.

Training Outcomes

HELP-Link continues to expand Montana’s labor force with trained workers:

- The most common occupations pursued by HELP-Link participants are:
  - Registered Nurses
  - Nursing Assistants
  - Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
  - Medical Record and Health Information Technicians

- Registered nurses earn a median wage of roughly $60,000 in Montana, which would likely be enough to lift a family of five out of poverty and above the Medicaid expansion eligibility threshold.

- The remaining occupations listed have median wages between $25,000 per year and $43,000 per year, which likely would be enough to individuals and small families of two people above the Medicaid expansion eligibility threshold.

Participant counts reported as of 3/02/18. Employment and training outcomes reported as of 7/07/17. This memo does not include data for Montana HELP plan participants who have been trained through DPHHS programs.