

*Montana's HELP Act Oversight Committee Summary Findings and Recommendations
August 2018*

1. The committee recognizes the absolute importance of continuing Montana's bi-partisan Medicaid plan/the HELP Act in Montana, and recommends it be continued beyond its scheduled sunset date and recommends making sure that, one way or another, the state's budget has the money to fund the state's small share of the cost.
2. To date, more than 25,244 HELP participants have received or are currently receiving workforce services from the Department of Labor through HELP-Link, WIOA, and RESEA programs. We recommend continuing and strengthening HELP-Link funding in order to continue to provide participants with access to workforce training and assessment and assist them with removing barriers to employment and greater earnings.
3. Montana should continue and build upon its efforts to eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse. The departments administering the act should evaluate ways to make the programs more efficient and effective, including economies of scale or shared contracts where possible.
4. Montana should explore the use of health care claims, clinical data, and data from the Medicaid and HELP-Link workforce program to increase data-based decisions, leading to refinements which could result in improved health outcomes; reductions in unnecessary, fraudulent, duplicative and wasteful expenditures; and increased workforce opportunities for HELP Plan participants. Policymakers should pay particular attention to the impact of policy changes on access to coverage, avoiding unnecessary barriers to enrollment that will negatively impact health outcomes and reduce access to coverage.