CBCAP Lead Agency Identifying Information

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1. Leadership Role in State Prevention Activities

Montana Children’s Trust Fund (MT CTF) is a leader and voice for primary and secondary prevention of child maltreatment in Montana and serves as Montana’s Lead Agency for Community-Based Grants for Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP). Established by the Legislature in 1985, it acts as a quasi-public entity and is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor. The board members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience about the needs of children and families. Two board members must represent State government agencies involved in social work relating to children and in education. The Governor ensures that the Board represents the State’s broad vast geographic diversity throughout Montana. During the reporting period, MT CTF Board of Directors represented all but one region in Montana.

Throughout this reporting period, MT CTF focused leadership efforts on collective impact and collaborations via a diverse network of individuals and public and private organizations, building awareness around prevention activities and messages and supporting a variety of prevention programs across the state to ultimately create systemic change.

MT CTF’s efforts to create systemic change are a driving force behind the work and funding. As the ground work continues, a few important factors have risen to the top. Along with many partners and coalitions, MT CTF has made great strides but has still just scratched the surface as true change takes time and sometimes generations. MT CTF and partners must become more data-informed in prevention efforts to be more effective in making an impact with limited resources as a State. As grants and trainings are provided, awareness is raised, partnerships are built, and collaborations are strengthened, MT CTF has become known as a catalyst for change for various agencies, funders, and coalitions. MT CTF has found the following to be effective:

1. Strategic funding
2. Awareness
3. Training, technical assistance, and evaluation
4. Collective impact

Attachment: Strategic Plan

Strategic Funding

Using the CBCAP Federal Grant and leveraged funds, MT CTF provided three-year grants to community-based organizations using evidence-based and evidence-informed practices to provide primary and secondary child abuse and neglect prevention. Additionally, three-year grants were provided to foster systemic change and further strengthen early childhood coalitions. Smaller, one-time grants were provided to organizations and programs to increase community awareness pertaining to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, increase protective factors, and/or decrease risk factors for child abuse and neglect. This network of
funded programs is balanced across the state. Given the size of Montana and its rural nature, MT CTF funded geographically diverse programs that were sensitive to the needs of the communities they served, providing programs that sought to meet those needs and filling in where there were gaps in services to parents and families.

The target population was all families and caregivers of children ages 0-18, especially those at risk for child maltreatment and neglect. Additionally, many MT CTF programs intentionally reached out to underserved populations such as individuals with disabilities, teen parents, and tribal populations. The programs also served families who may be or have been the subject of reports and investigations of child abuse and neglect but did not have an open or substantiated case and may be working on a voluntary treatment plan.

**Attachment:** FY16 Request for Proposals  
**Attachment:** FY17 Request for Proposals  
**Attachment:** FY17 Renewal Application  
**Attachment:** Mini-grant Application

**Awareness**

To promote child abuse and neglect as the number one public health concern, MT CTF employed public awareness as a major strategy. Educating the community on their role in strengthening families and the lifelong consequences of child abuse and neglect manifested itself through public events and trainings, traditional and social media.

**Public Events:** MT CTF funded or sponsored, coordinated, promoted, and provided information at various trainings and events, including:

- Annual MT CTF Grantees Meeting;
- Montana Nonprofit Association Conference;
- ChildWise Fall Summit: The Brain Behind the Behavior;
- Period of PURPLE Crying Trainings;
- Trauma-informed Care Trainings;
- Promising Pregnancy Care Trainings;
- Early Learning Collective Impact workshop;
- Child Abuse and Neglect Conference;
- Title 1 Conference;
- Statewide coordination of Strengthening Families Month (Child Abuse Prevention Month) activities;
- Helena coordination of Strengthening Families Month activities;
- Individual Strengthening Families Month activities: Pinwheels for Prevention display and parades, Go Blue Mondays in April, Reading and Resource Fair in the Capitol Rotunda, and Blue Sunday; and
- Halloween Fun Fest, local resource fair.

**Print publications:** MT CTF utilized mailing campaigns to 1) reach out to churches and faith-based organizations for Blue Sunday and 2) raise awareness and gather feedback around Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma Prevention efforts and materials from pre- and post-natal medical professionals. Local newspapers often pick up events and press releases. MT CTF also advertised in the **March** and **Back-to-School** issues of Youth Connections Magazine.

**Radio:** Radio outreach was conducted statewide, often with in-kind matches. MT CTF used the Montana Radio Company for Strengthening Families Month activities, Halloween Fun Fest, and the Income Tax Check-Off Campaign. Northern News Network and Montana Public Radio were used to advertise for the Income Tax Check-Off Campaign.

**Television:** MT CTF has an outstanding relationship with Montana Television Network (MTN). During this reporting period, MTN sponsored the statewide **#GoBlue Campaign** and **Go Blue Mondays**, as well as the Helena **Halloween Fun Fest**, by producing and airing PSAs on its stations. MT CTF also advertised with MTN for the statewide Income Tax Check-Off Campaign, using PSAs MTN had produced in the past (**“What can you do with a dollar?”** and **“Helping Hands”**).

**Website:** Although MT CTF’s website does not receive much traffic, the information is kept current and easy to access. During the reporting period, MT CTF, along with the rest of DPHHS, pushed to make all webpages ADA Compliant. Information provided on the website includes parenting resources, training information, ways to get involved with prevention (e.g. volunteering, donating), events, current grantee information, application and reporting templates, and board meeting minutes.

**Facebook:** MT CTF recruited two communication majors from Carroll College as interns to grow MT CTF’s social media presence. MT CTF [Facebook page](#) saw a 30% increase fans during the reporting period. The page reaches 88% women and 12% men, mainly ages 25 to 34. Other than event promotion, Facebook was used to provide tips on parenting, wellness, and family friendly activities; help promote grantees’ and partners’ events; create awareness about their programs; and keep a pulse on what is happening across the state. The Facebook page is usually updated once per day.

In addition to the above efforts, MT CTF required all grantees to have a public awareness plan to show how their programs intend to carry out activities at the community level to promote prevention services and education. They were also required to coordinate and/or participate in observance of April as Strengthening Families (Child Abuse Prevention) Month. MT CTF and its grantees promoted the healthy, positive development of children statewide, while highlighting the shared responsibility of raising children and preventing child maltreatment of all citizens as neighbors, teachers, police officers, politicians, mentors, coaches, or family members.
Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation

MT CTF worked to shape the direction of prevention in Montana through providing support, training, technical assistance and evaluation. In addition to the ongoing capacity building, technical assistance, and support provided to the funded programs, MT CTF required semiannual reporting and site visits to evaluate how community programs were faring throughout the grant cycle. This gave MT CTF staff and board members the opportunity to review the grantees work, ensure projected service outcomes were met, and identify further technical assistance and capacity building needs.

MT CTF’s Annual Grantees Meeting was held in the Fall of 2017 and provided an opportunity for all funded programs to network, learn specific requirements, and receive training on Volunteer Recruitment and Management, Communication Through a Collective Impact Lens, and Self Care. The meeting featured a panel discussion involving representatives from DOJ, DPHHS CFSD, and First Judicial District Court to explore strategies to prevent children from entering the child protection system as a result of child abuse or neglect due to their caregiver’s methamphetamine dependence. The training topics provided in 2017 were selected according to previous evaluations completed by grantees.

In addition to the Annual Grantees Meeting, MT CTF funded, sponsored, and/or provided travel reimbursement for many training opportunities, including:

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Conference**
- **Montana Nonprofit Association Conference**
- **ChildWise Institute Fall Summit “Brain Behind the Behavior”**
- Great Beginnings, Great Families Conference
- **Period of PURPLE Crying Trainings**
- Promising Pregnancy Care Training
- Trauma Informed Care Trainings

MT CTF also contracted with J. Bart Klika, MSW, PhD at the University of Montana School of Social Work to complete a statewide evaluation organized around the four priority areas of the Center for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) Essentials for Childhood Framework. The evaluation included compilation of data regarding risk factors for child abuse and neglect by CFSD region, a scan of the policy and practice landscape for infants and toddlers in Montana using the Zero to Three Toolkit, and a review of social norms research and examples of statewide social norms campaigns. The report findings were presented to MT CTF in October 2017 and the MT CTF is using the report for planning purposes.

*Attachment: Annual Grantees Meeting Agenda*
*Attachment: Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Evaluation*

**Collective Impact**
MT CTF continued their dedication to building and strengthening new and existing collaborations and networks of partners to better leverage the resources in Montana such as faith-based organizations, civic organizations, media outlets, coalitions, and businesses. While some attempts did not pan out as hoped this year, such as hosting a joint grantees meeting with Maternal and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MECHV) Program and the Best Beginnings Advisory Council (BBAC), a conscious effort was made to merge duplicative efforts and leverage the limited resources of the state for a stronger impact while pushing prevention to the forefront of conversations statewide.

MT CTF works with agencies, workgroups, advisory boards and others to create meaningful policies and procedures that the state can use to be more effective on individual work and as a whole. MT CTF participates in strategic planning for a variety of groups, while many board members have dual roles as leaders, activists and directors for agencies, coalitions and other entities, such as BBAC, MIECHV, Office of Public Instruction, and Montana Interagency Coordination Council (ICC).

**Best Beginnings Community Coalitions (BBCCs):** MT CTF, through strategic planning in 2014-2015, determined that it would direct some of its funding to support five of the BBCCs also known as early childhood coalitions. This funding began in 2015-2016 as a three-year grant project. The local coalitions conducted community needs assessments; developed plans and priorities; provided professional development; built capacity, infrastructure, and communication plans; focused on sustainability; and supported implementation of prevention programs. Activities focused on identification, screening, and referrals to ensure that children and families receive the services they need and do not fall through the cracks. Helping fund these efforts continues to bring more seamless services for families, reduce duplication of services, and maximize efficiency, strengthening the life trajectory for children and families. Funded programs reported collective impact activities involving 1,393 individuals.

**Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Work Group:** The ICC facilitates functional communication among involved agencies, departments and local entities throughout the State including MT CTF. The ICC is charged with developing, through interagency planning and cooperation, comprehensive and coordinated prevention programs that will strengthen the healthy development, well-being, and safety of children, families, individuals, and communities—particularly children and families that are deemed to be at risk. The ICC’s main goals are reducing child abuse and neglect, youth drug use, youth violence and crime, school dropout rate, and teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Through this work group, MT CTF is participating in an opportunity for collective impact and coordination via a statewide campaign to reduce underage drinking. This project is underway and focuses on parenting skills and tools using a Positive Cultural Framework.

**Funders for Montana’s Children (FMC):** FMC members represent philanthropic organizations who have joined forces to ensure the well-being and future productivity of Montana’s youngest citizens. MT CTF is not a member of this group, but is a partner participating in meetings,
sharing information, and often leveraging resources. Major projects conducted through FMC were the Montana Early Learning Collective Impact Initiative (MELCII) a messaging project for the private sector. Communities included the MELCII were Helena (see workshop), Missoula, and Great Falls. Participants included early learning practitioners, school district personnel, non-profit organizations, local government, business and community members, and families with young children. The messaging project created a targeted message for businesses and emerging leaders to encourage them to join FMC to influence and invest in early childhood.

**Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Conference:** Since the early 1990s, this statewide conference continues to be a mainstay for training and education on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Montana’s 2017 Child Abuse and Neglect Conference represented collaboration between MT CTF, the MT DPHHS/Child and Family Services Division (CFSD), and the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA), the Court Assessment Program, the Montana Supreme Court Administrator’s Office, the Department of Justice, the National Resource Center for Family-Center Practice and Permanency Planning and the National Resource Center for Youth Services. The conference regularly highlights evidence-based programs and addresses emerging issues. This year’s conference focused on resilience, trauma-informed care, mindfulness, and resources for providers and families such as tools to support LGBTQ children and youth.

**Statewide and local Strengthening Families Month coordination:** MT CTF hosted a statewide Strengthening Families Month coordination group and co-lead a local coordination group. Groups represented on the statewide calls included Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS), Best Beginnings Coalitions, the National Guard, state agencies, and nonprofits and shared the goal of leveraging resources, sharing ideas, and cross promoting Strengthening Families Month activities. The local group consisted of many organizations and businesses coming together to cross promote family activities and ensure the least amount of competition for dates as possible. Through these statewide partners, MT CTF distributed and displayed approximately 3,500 pinwheels and 2,000 informational pinwheel lapel pins for Pinwheels for Prevention across the state. MT CTF partnered directly with OPI to circulate lesson plans for afterschool programs about strong families across the state. Many groups also participated in the #GoBlue Campaign on social media.

**Trauma-Informed Care and Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention trainings:** MT CTF provided funding for the Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB) to support trauma-informed care practices and education, as well as to provide training on prevention of shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma for child care providers across the state. An online six-hour trauma-informed care training and toolkit were developed. 1,500 toolkits were printed by the State and mailed to early childhood trainers and interested parties (As of June 2017, 200 were distributed). 23 trainings were provided to communities across the state, with a total attendance estimated at 997. Training topics included ACEs, Trauma Awareness, Strategies to Address Trauma (previously described as the ARC model), Secondary Traumatic Stress and Self Care, PURPLE, Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma, and Caring for
Children Who Have Experienced Trauma (for foster families). This effort resulted in the ability to leverage and braid resources from MT CTF and ECSB to meet a training need of child care providers.

**Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention/Abusive Head Trauma statewide taskforce:** This group just entered the planning stages at the end of the reporting period. MT CTF met with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies to discuss what work was being done, how to collaborate in the future, and who should be invited to be part of a statewide taskforce to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma. Additional groups identified were Period of PURPLE Crying tribal certified facilitators, Fetal Infant Child and Maternal Mortality Review (FICMR), ECSB, Public Health and Safety Division (PHSD), and pediatricians. As the work of this group unfolds, MT CTF offered to contribute prevention materials for dissemination to partners such as public and state department of health programs, home visiting, and pediatricians to reach their respective stakeholders.

**Statewide resource list and local resource fairs:** MT CTF met with Department of Justice (DOJ) Child and Family Ombudsman, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), and Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) to brainstorm about cross agency coordination to create or promote a resource hub. It was discovered that each division used a different method of compiling resource lists and promoted them separately. For example, the DOJ has a phone line that anyone can call looking for a resource from financial assistance to parenting classes. Since this initial meeting, MT CTF sent identified resources to the DOJ and added the phone line to awareness materials. MT CTF staff continues to meet with these partners to align resource list efforts.

MT CTF hosted two local resource fairs, including many partners, to increase knowledge of and access to prevention programs and concrete support resources available in the Helena area. An AmeriCorps VISTA was recruited to identify high-risk areas in Montana to create new and/or build capacity for existing events across Montana.

**Helena Area Early Learning Collective Impact workshop:** MT CTF leveraged funds with Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, the United Way of the Lewis & Clark Area, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies and others to bring over 80 parents and leaders in early childhood, education, health, community, business, and government together to strategize about how to ensure that all children have access to safe and engaging early years. Next steps identified were United Way of United Way of Lewis & Clark County providing backbone support and the Early Childhood Coalition providing a Steering Committee. Additionally, as a follow-up, MT CTF secured two 90-minute sessions at the CAN Conference to present on Collective Impact.

*Attachment: FY17 Zero to Three Funds Plan  
Attachment: FY17 Trauma-Informed Care and Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Plan*

### 2. Actions to Advocate for Systemic Change
As the lead agency in Montana for preventing child abuse and neglect, MT CTF strives to be a leader and voice for strengthening families and to make prevention a priority at all levels from the State House to Main Street to dinner tables. MT CTF engages traditional and non-traditional partners to facilitate communication among the many well-intentioned programs that exist in Montana. To create systemic change, silos must be broken down and collaboration must ensue.

MT CTF continues to improve the delivery of community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect by focusing on research and data, training and awareness activities, and collaborative programming that prioritizes strengthening families and communities to ensure the healthy development of children statewide, while seeking to highlight the fact that everyone plays a role in raising children no matter their profession.

Becoming a Data-Informed State

Although the work load required to collect and analyze data is heavy, it is crucial in leading Montana towards positive systemic change. MT CTF has taken a more proactive leadership role in shaping statewide, data-informed child abuse and neglect prevention strategies. MT CTF contracted with the University of Montana to complete a statewide evaluation of risk factors data for child abuse and neglect, policies and practices for infants and toddlers, and social norms research campaigns. The Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Evaluation was completed in September 2017 and paid for with CBCAP and leveraged State Special funds. Upon receiving the first draft of the evaluation, data errors were identified and corrected. As this was at the end of the grant cycle, the evaluation was not yet shared with partners and colleagues.

The goal of the evaluation was 1) to map the current primary and secondary child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives currently in place across the State, 2) to gain an understanding of the available data regarding risk factors and risk populations for abuse and neglect across Montana, 3) to summarize the policies and practices that exist for infants and toddlers in Montana, and 4) review social norms research. In addition, the current evaluation project provided a proposal for future data analysis.

Based upon these findings, Dr. J. Bart Klika made seven recommendations listed below. Please note that the recommendations, although discussed, have not been formally adopted by MT CTF Board of Directors.

1. Participate in the maintenance of a statewide prevention resource list.
2. Develop and conduct trainings on the public health approach to prevention.
3. Address cultural needs in child abuse prevention programs.
4. Support initiatives to address family economic indicators.
6. Convene stakeholder group to finalize Zero to Three Toolkit and develop a plan of action.
7. Develop a plan for understanding and addressing social norms in Montana.

MT CTF also compiled and shared annual grantee data such as the number of children, caregivers, and families served as well as the number of other adults (professional, community members, etc) served. The total number was collected and broken down further into categories such as parenting education, home visiting, or respite care. Through grantees, MT CTF also collected data on participants with disabilities, military affiliation, housing status, and adult victims of child abuse or domestic violence. On the reporting template, demographics were reported but the data is voluntary and inconsistent. Information was shared with state agencies such as CFSD and it is MT CTF’s intent to improve on presenting positive data to the public.

Training and Awareness

Abusive head trauma prevention trainings in tribal communities: MT CTF continues to increase its tribal outreach efforts. The tribal nations in Montana have very different procedures on how child abuse and neglect is handled. However, to create systemic change in Montana, the tribal nations must be part of that change. Because MT CTF is attached to the State, communications with tribal nations are true government to government relationships. Throughout the reporting period, MT CTF funded tribal certified facilitators from three different Montana reservations to train Dose Two providers on the Period of PURPLE Crying, incorporating cultural relevance throughout the trainings. MT CTF sponsored the trainers to participate in the State Tribal Relations Training, CAN Conference, and MT CTF Board Meetings. These trainings were crucial to making systemic change on the reservations in relation to abusive head trauma and bridging tribal and non-tribal resources. The following Period of PURPLE Crying trainings were conducted by tribal facilitators.

1. Fort Peck Tribes Education Conference
2. Blackfeet Manpower Staff Training
3. Rocky Boy Day Care Center Staff Training
4. Great Falls Foster Parent Classes
5. Box Elder Head Start Mandatory Reporting and Child Abuse and Neglect Training

Great strides were made in building collaborations with stakeholders that play a role in supporting families to create brighter futures for the tribal communities, both on and off the reservations. This effort was funded through leveraged State General Funds. Note: Due to the state’s economic situation, the State General Fund was eliminated from MT CTF’s budget at the end of the reporting cycle.

Trauma-informed care and abusive head trauma prevention trainings: MT CTF supported the statewide effort to ensure that Montana becomes a trauma-informed state. Trauma-informed practices and education are infused into many programs within MT DPHHS including but not limited to child care programs, evidence-based home visiting, teen parent programs, and Project LAUNCH (Linking Action for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health). MT CTF partnered with
the Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB), the Public Health and Safety Division’s Pregnancy Care Pilot Project and Emergency Medical Services for Pediatrics, and the Office of American Indian Health within MT DPHHS to provide trauma-informed care education and abusive head trauma prevention throughout the state including American Indian populations.

The ECSB strengthened collective resources for early childhood educators by providing training, education, and system support in trauma-informed care and education intentionally focused on supporting infant and toddler caregivers, home visitors, Healthy Montana Teen Parent Program (HMTPP) case managers, and parents of children from birth to three years. This included training on abusive head trauma prevention as well as trauma-informed care and ACEs for child care providers. Collaboration, within and outside of MT DPHHS, to achieve the project goals, was intentional. This effort was paid for through leveraged State General Funds, as well as funds from other agencies to fully support its implementation.

**Strengthening Families Month statewide initiative:** Without engaging community members, long lasting systemic change cannot occur. MT CTF continued to increase community engagement. This year, the Montana Children’s Trust Fund reached across the state with Strengthening Families Month efforts as a result of engagement with business partners who donated over $10,000 in private contributions to increase awareness and outreach. MT CTF provided statewide outreach via various media and social media outlets as well as directly engaged schools, businesses and organizations throughout the state. Through expanding community engagement, the Montana Children’s Trust Fund increased awareness of the importance of child abuse prevention, and the role that everyone plays in keeping children safe. With widespread community awareness and engagement, more buy-in was received from policy makers and key stakeholders who are instrumental in making systemic change happen.

**Collaborative Programming**

MT CTF maintained the priority of CBCAP funding that supports evidence-based and evidence-informed child abuse prevention programs and practices. A portion of leveraged funds was focused on systemic change, collective impact, and collaborations. This collective work helped foster a culture of continuous quality improvement by strengthening collaborations, resource sharing, referrals, communication, ongoing evaluation, and quality improvement activities across MT CTF, grantees, and communities in Montana.

MT CTF partnered with Best Beginning Community Coalitions (BBCCs) to create local systemic change and collective impact across Montana. BBCCs have a great ability to make systemic change because members represent a broad array of local organizations, from businesses and nonprofits, to faith-based organizations and concerned citizens, who come to the table devoted to the wellbeing of their community’s children. Funding these efforts enhanced and intensified the efforts across Montana to create strong systems of services that use public resources efficiently and meet families' needs more effectively. When supports are coordinated as part of an integrated family support system, duplication of services is minimized and appropriately
targeted services are maximized, strengthening the life trajectory for children and families. MT CTF funded BBCCs were:

- Best Beginnings Early Childhood Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- Gallatin Early Childhood Community Coalition
- Butte Community Council (BCC)
- Healthy Start Missoula (HSM)

3. Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaborations, partnerships, and collective impact continues to grow across Montana among community partners such as state agencies, faith-based and civic organizations, tribal partners, and businesses. It is vital to MT CTF to continue along this path to leverage the limited resources of Montana while pushing prevention to the forefront of conversations statewide. Partnerships range from information sharing, material distribution, and/or communication to contracts, MOUs, and/or the leveraging of funds to meet common goals. The most prominent collaborations from the reporting cycle are listed below. For more information, please see Sections 1 and 2.

**Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC):** The ICC met seven times during the reporting period and brought together state agencies, departments and local entities. Through this work group, MT CTF identified opportunities for collaboration such as the project to reduce underage drinking organized around the Positive Cultural Framework.

**Funders for Montana’s Children (FMC):** FMC members include O.P & W.E. Edwards Foundation, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch Fund, Lora L. and Martin N. Kelley Family Foundation Trust, First Interstate Foundation. Partners include MT CTF, Montana Community Foundation, and Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Through this group, MT CTF collaborated on the Montana Early Learning Collective Impact Initiative and a messaging project targeting the private sector.

**Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Conference:** The statewide conference represented collaboration between MT CTF, the MT DPHHS Child and Family Services Division (CFSD), the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA), the Court Assessment Program, the Montana Supreme Court Administrator’s Office, the Department of Justice, the National
Resource Center for Family-Center Practice and Permanency Planning and the National Resource Center for Youth Services.

**Statewide and local Strengthening Families Month coordination:** The statewide group included BCBS, the Montana National Guard, OPI and other state agencies, all MT CTF grantees, and other nonprofits. BCBS and Montana Television Network (MTN) were large sponsors of Strengthening Families Month activities across the state. MTN produced and aired a PSA, which BCBS helped fund. BCBS offices across the state also participated in Pinwheels for Prevention. MT CTF partnered with OPI to send positive lesson plans about strengthening families to afterschool programs across the state.

The local group consisted of many organizations and businesses such as United Way, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS), Purple Up! for Military Kids, YMCA, the County Health Department, the local library, Exploration Works, No Kid Hungry, Out of the Darkness, Youth Connections, Bike Walk Helena, and Montana National Guard.

**Trauma-Informed Care and Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention trainings:** MT CTF partnered with the Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB), the Public Health and Safety Division’s Pregnancy Care Pilot Project and Emergency Medical Services for Pediatrics, and the Office of American Indian Health within MT DPHHS to provide trauma-informed care education and abusive head trauma prevention throughout the state including American Indian populations.

**Abusive head trauma prevention trainings in tribal communities:** MT CTF partnered with tribal certified facilitators, who were trained in 2016, from three different Montana reservations to provide five trainings to Dose Two providers in tribal communities on the *Period of PURPLE Crying* program, incorporating cultural relevance throughout.

**MT CTF Grantees:** Not only did MT CTF fund 11 organizations across the state, 4 of which were Best Beginnings Community Coalitions, to provide direct preventative services, trainings, awareness, and collective impact, but they were also required to identify collaborative partners and services involved with the funded program or organization and to describe the referral process in their communities.

**Statewide resource list and local resource fairs:** MT CTF partnered with Department of Justice (DOJ) Child and Family Ombudsman, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), and Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) to promote one resource database instead of multiple lists. This cut back on duplicated services, and reduced the workload of MT CTF.

MT CTF organized two local resource fairs, one in the Fall and one in the Spring, to increase knowledge of and access to prevention programs and concrete support resources available in the Helena area. Community businesses and organizations sponsored the events, hosted tables, and brought information on their resources for parents to increase protective factors and access to prevention programs. Over 1200 adults and children were exposed to these
community resources. Based upon these events, MT CTF created a model and tools for other communities to use should they want to plan a similar event. MT CTF also recruited an AmeriCorps VISTA to identify high-risk areas in Montana to create new and/or build capacity for existing resource fairs across Montana.

**Helena Area Early Learning Collective Impact workshop:** MT CTF leveraged funds with Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, the United Way of the Lewis & Clark Area, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies and others to bring this workshop to over 80 parents and leaders in early childhood, education, health, community, business, and government.

### 4. Needs Assessment and Prevention Service Array

**Unmet Needs in Montana**

Given the rural and frontier nature of all of Montana, populations face unique challenges such as lack of transportation, scarcity of easily accessible services, poverty and unemployment, food insecurity, adverse childhood experiences, and substance abuse.

The risk factors identified by the Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Evaluation (conducted by Dr. J. Bart Klika) were mapped out by Child and Family Services Region along with the service areas of MT CTF grantees and Tribal Nations (Little Shell Chippewa Tribe is not federally recognized but is represented on the map). These data points were compiled using Montana Kids Count.

**Poverty:** Based on data from Montana Kids Count 2016, 19% of children under age 18 and 21% of children under 5 lived below 100% FPL. 7% of married-couple families with children lived below 100% FPL compared to 35% of single-parent families with children. The highest poverty levels are often in counties that overlap border Montana Indian reservations. For example in Big Horn County, 36% of children under age 18 lived below 100% FPL. Approximately 75% of the population under 20 in Big Horn County identified as American Indian or Alaska Native. A majority of the Crow Reservation overlaps with Big Horn County.

**Unemployment:** Montana’s overall unemployment rate was 4.7% in 2015. The highest pockets of unemployment were in Lincoln County (11.3%), Glacier County (10.7%), Big Horn County (10%), Sanders County (9.4%), and Mineral County (9%). Glacier and Big Horn Counties largely overlap with Indian reservations and Sanders County overlaps slightly with Flathead Reservation. Lincoln County is in the Northwest corner of Montana. The racial makeup of the
population under 30 was 93% white, 1% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 5% Hispanic or Latino. According to Data USA, the most common employment sectors for those who live in Lincoln County are Healthcare & Social Assistance, Retail trade, and Construction. Compared to other counties, Lincoln County has an unusually high number of Management of Companies & Enterprises; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting; and Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction.

**Insurance and Healthy Montana Kids (HMK):** HMK enrollment in FY 2015 was 110,007 or 49% of children under age 19, with the highest rate of children enrolled living in the Northwestern Region. In 2014, 8% of children under age 18 and 6% of children ages 5 and under did not have health insurance. 23% of American Indian children ages 5 and under did not have health insurance, while only 4% of White children ages 5 and under did not.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** In FY 2016, children accounted for 47% of the overall monthly caseload. The average monthly payment increased 20% to $447 from the previous year. Less than 1% of Montana’s population received TANF, while just over 12% received SNAP benefits. Montana provided TANF assistance to an average of 7,176 recipients per month and SNAP assistance to an average of 121,182 per month. Even combined, TANF and SNAP Benefits leave families far below the federal poverty level (at about 35% and 28%, respectively, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities). The TANF program has proven unresponsive to the economic realities of Montana families, with a sharp decrease in the number of families receiving cash benefits since 1996. The Montana TANF inflation-adjusted monthly benefit level has decreased 14% since 1996.

**Food insecurity:** Approximately 1 in 8 Montanans struggle with hunger, including 45,000 children living in food insecure homes. Hunger is directly related to economic insecurity in Montana, limited access to food, and underutilization of public food programs. Over half of Montana’s counties have areas considered food deserts and nearly 72,000 individuals live in these areas. Lack of knowledge about the public assistance programs, confusion over eligibility, limited availability in some areas, as well as the stigma of participating are some of the reasons participation in public assistance programs is not maximized.

**Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs):** 26% of the 2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) respondents reported experiencing three or more ACEs when they were children. More than one in ten admitted to having experienced more than five. The most prevalent of adverse experiences reported were substance abuse in the household, verbal abuse, and parents who were either separated or divorced. These numbers might be underestimated, as institutionalized adults were not included in the BRFSS survey and respondents might hesitate to report ACEs, especially the more egregious ones. Experiencing four or more ACEs is a threshold above which there could be a higher risk of negative physical and mental health outcomes. Montana is among the highest at this threshold, between 10% and 12% (National Survey of Children’s Health, 2012).
Montana Children’s Trust Fund  CBCAP Annual Report FY 2017

Foster Care and substance abuse: Montana has seen a 79.5% increase of children in foster care since April 2015 and a 162% increase since 2008. There were 3,950 kids in the Montana Foster System as of November 1, 2017. One major factor is a rise in cases involving drug use, especially methamphetamine. Although the percent of open placements involving drugs stayed relatively stable, open placements involving methamphetamine has increased significantly.

Prevention Service Array

Prevention in Montana is carried out through a variety of state agencies and nonprofits to strengthen and protect families by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors.

Primary and secondary prevention are implemented before abuse and neglect ever occur. Primary strategies are often universal and work to alleviate risk factors for child abuse and neglect while secondary prevention strategies work to identify individuals and families at high risk for abuse or neglect. Primary and secondary prevention are largely carried out by MT CTF and various state entities and nonprofits including allies and grantees that seek to reduce the stigma of accessing parenting programs. State programs include Maternal and Child Health Home Visiting; Medicaid and Healthy Montana Kids; Montana Milestones (Part C of IDEA); Head Start and Early Head Start; Best Beginnings child care scholarships and STARS to Quality Preschools; Women, Infants, and Children; Child and Adult Care Food Program; and No Kid Hungry. Descriptions of MT CTF funded activities are provided below.

Tertiary Prevention, also known as intervention, is one of the most common forms of prevention and is initiated after child abuse and neglect occurred with the goal of preventing future maltreatment and minimizing the associated impacts. These programs are supported through the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) within the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

MT CTF Grantees: The Statewide Network of MT CTF grantees established with the funding from CBCAP and leveraged funds, have helped build a statewide prevention network throughout Montana. Funding was directed to the local, non-profit agencies and community-
based organizations targeted to specific programs and populations. Each program was sensitive to the needs of the communities they served and provided programs that sought to meet those needs and fill in where there were gaps in services to parents and families. Programs in rural and frontier areas have been innovative in finding ways to serve families in remote areas.

In their applications for funding, MT CTF grantees evaluated their community needs based on their most current community needs assessment, state data and other resources. They described the community’s needs, demographics, existing resources, and the gaps between needs and resources. MT CTF board and staff reviewed and utilized these and other information to ensure that programs are filling gaps and providing resources and referrals to meet other needs to ensure families are strong. MT CTF worked to ensure that grantees have whole family and whole community care in mind as they provide direct preventative services to their clients.

Grantees provided goals and objectives that related to their community’s needs, methods to achieve them, and plans for evaluating the success of the funded program. MT CTF followed the 2010 Reauthorization of CAPTA, Title II to support community-based efforts to focus primarily on the prevention of child abuse and neglect; to fund programs to provide support to families in nurturing healthy children in safe environments; to strengthen a community’s capacity building; and to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by targeting the five protective factors. MT CTF funds were used for voluntary, primary and/or secondary prevention services.

The most effective way to meet the challenge of preventing child abuse and neglect is for all programs, both public and private, to work together in partnership with families and other disciplines such as social services, health and mental health, child care, respite care programs, early childhood, education, faith-based organizations, and other appropriate community-based organizations and advocacy groups in the community.

**Alliance for Youth, Inc.:** Circle of Security Parenting and Nurturing Parenting were implemented across the calendar year. The group education sessions provided parent support groups that helped parents deal with everyday stresses and meet the challenges of parenting. Parents were linked to existing community support groups and services. Individual counseling sessions were conducted in office or in the client’s home. As appropriate, families were referred to home visiting programs that provided support and assistance to expecting and new mothers.

**Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe:** The Coalition has an active Steering Committee comprised of Tribal programs, schools, and organizations. The Coalition has four committees: Family Spirit, Circle of Kinship Care, Drug Task Force, Drug Free Communities. MT CTF provided funding to support Family Spirit home visiting. Family Spirit served new and pregnant teen moms, ages 14-21, to increase parenting knowledge & involvement, decrease emotional & behavioral problems in mothers, decrease maternal depression, increase home safety, and decrease emotional & behavioral problems of infants at one year post-partum.
Butte Community Council (BCC) is a formal early childhood coalition recognized by the State of Montana. The BCC has elected officers, a coordinator, and a Children’s Mental Health Committee. MT CTF provided funding to support the implementation of the Circle of Parents in the city of Butte and Silver Bow County, increase public awareness of prevention resources and activities, and promote parent leadership activities. BCC members participated in the “Caring for our homeless community” group.

Dawson County Health Department provided the Nurturing Tree family resource center to offer information and resources on raising children from infancy through the teenage years. The Nurturing Tree offered a wide variety of community based and prevention focused programs and activities to strengthen and support families such as Love and Logic parenting classes, Parents as Teachers Home Visiting, youth development programs, social connections, family fun activities and parenting resources. Car seat safety checks, safe sitter classes, and take-home learning kits were also offered.

Family Support Network sought to provide support and assistance to children diagnosed with a mental illness and their families, and educate all parents in appropriate, nurturing parenting techniques. Family Support Network combined the Nurturing Parenting Program, Triple P Program, and Native American culture and traditions for families in Wyola and Crow Agency. MT CTF funded Family Support Network’s services in Big Horn County in both Crow Agency and Wyola.

Florence Crittenton provided innovative, comprehensive services and nurturing programs that engage and empower children, young adults and young families to thrive and build productive lives. Their residential program provides the highest level of therapeutic care for pregnant and parenting young women aged 12 – 21. MT CTF provided funding to facilitate Circle of Security Parenting and Love and Logic classes to families at-risk for child abuse and neglect.

Gallatin Early Childhood Community Coalition (ECCC) is a community effort to promote thriving children from birth through age eight. It provides leadership to community partners with the goal of creating an efficient and effective system of early childhood services in the Greater Gallatin area to ensure that every child has a healthy and enriched beginning. The Gallatin ECCC used MT CTF funding to support child abuse and neglect prevention services in the Gallatin Valley, promote public awareness of early childhood issues, work with partners to support services for homeless youth, support the work of the MT Project LAUNCH, and engage more parental involvement in the Gallatin ECCC and MT Project LAUNCH councils.

Head Start, Inc. offered preschool aged parenting classes and home visiting following the Incredible Years curriculum twice a year (Fall and Spring) in Billings, Lockwood, Laurel, and Carbon County. Specialized classes were offered to those parenting children with autism spectrum diagnosis and language delays in the Spring.
Healthy Start Missoula (HSM) has 13 council members and 23 general members. MT CTF funding was used to expand respite care at The Parenting Place in Missoula, to provide parent leadership workshops, and to connect more at-risk families with appropriate supportive services.

Montana State University Extension provided the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Project to provide support and education to grandparent caregivers across the State. The project offered Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA) curriculum to GRGs in 15 communities and provided packets to new GRGs when they first received their grandchildren.

Thrive provided parenting classes, family support groups, a resource library, home visiting, and community resource referrals. Parent Place offered Child Advancement Project, Parent Liaison Program, Partnership Project to Strengthen Families, Parent Place Family Resource Center, and Girls for a Change. The Partnership Project is a proven prevention program targeting young/teen parents with young children.

### Individuals and Families Served

The charts below reflect numbers provided by MT CTF grantees in their final reports for contract dates July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 following the State Fiscal Year. The numbers reflect direct preventative services only and do not include community awareness, outreach, collective impact, or training numbers. Except as indicated by “unduplicated”, numbers may include the same person(s) being served multiple times.

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5. Outreach Activities for Underserved Populations and Cultural Competency

- parents
- racial and ethnic minorities
- children and adults with disabilities
- homeless families and those at risk for homelessness
- unaccompanied homeless youth
- adult former victims of child abuse and neglect or domestic violence
- members of other underserved or underrepresented groups (i.e. fathers)
- other option
**Racial and ethnic minorities:** Montana is a predominantly white state at 89.2%. The largest minority group in Montana is the Native American community, 6.6% of the population identified as only American Indian and/or Alaska Native. There are eight state recognized tribes in Montana and seven reservations. Through the work of three tribal *Period of PURPLE Crying* facilitators, two grantees serving on reservations, trauma-informed care trainings, and resource sharing on the Fort Peck reservation, MT CTF reached all tribal areas during the reporting period. At the CAN Conference, MT CTF connected with the Fort Peck Tribes Red Bird Woman Center (RBWC), provided staff with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren information as well as *Period of PURPLE Crying*, Coming of the Blessing, and Trauma-Informed Care information. Because of this connection, staff reached out to MT CTF in search of child sexual abuse prevention resources for 6th-12th grade students. Along with this information, MT CTF sent RBWC resources regarding Not Even for a Minute, as well as more of the aforementioned materials and promotional items such as baby bibs. MT CTF Staff members and the AmeriCorps VISTA also attended the annual Montana Tribal Relations training.

**Rural and frontier areas:** Nearly 65% of Montanans live in rural Montana according to USDA-ERS. Because of the Montana’s vast geography, MT CTF relied on partners to reach rural Montana. For example, MT CTF provided awareness materials to all counties at a statewide health department meeting. Grantee programs in rural and frontier areas were innovative in finding ways to serve families in their communities, as detailed below.

**MT CTF Grantee Activities**

MT CTF encouraged the involvement of a diverse representation of families in the design, operation, and evaluation of funded programs wherever applicable. Programs were also required to define goals around developing a continuum of services for underserved populations listed as the target population: parents (all, new, teens, etc.); parents and/or children with disabilities; racial and ethnic minorities; members of underserved or underrepresented groups; fathers; homeless families and those at risk of homelessness; unaccompanied homeless youth; and adult former victims of child abuse and neglect or domestic violence. Below are examples taken directly from grantee final reports.

**Alliance for Youth** communicated with the director of the Cameron Family Center shelter for homeless families about the programs and ways in which they can complement other existing programs.

**Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe** reached out to fathers with the Father/Son Fishing Derby. There was initial conflict with the event, but in the end, it was a great success. The event celebrated fathers involved in their children’s lives and brought some attention to the importance of being a father. The presenters were well-respected men who shared great examples of their own families.
Butte Community Council continued to reach out to parents of children with disabilities or mental health issues. The Circle of Parents facilitator followed up on all phone calls and emails from parents who wanted more information about the group. She met with parents in person to talk about each family’s situation and needs. Parents were always thankful when they found out that this is an established group in the community. The group spent some time brainstorming ideas on how to reach more families. The facilitator attended some home visiting group connection activities and met new families. A Circle of Parents informational flyer was created with tear off contact information tabs. The facilitator and a parent leader attended the Children’s Mental Health Committee meetings to reach out to community partners who may work with families who could benefit from joining Circle of Parents.

Dawson County Health Department contacted various social service agencies in an effort to foster the relationships between agencies. The Health Department strives to continually keep community agencies abreast of programs and services which would be beneficial to the clients they serve. Agencies routinely visited include the Dawson Food Bank, Glendive Medical Center, Gabert Clinic providers, Action for Eastern Montana, Eastern MT Mental Health and the Office of Public assistance. Flyers were posted at gas stations, grocery stores and laundromats. Programs like WIC, Family Planning, Immunization programs are in-house, all under the Health Department umbrella, for smooth coordination. Program coordinators met monthly at staff meetings and provided updates on specific program activities. Additionally, the Nurturing Tree coordinator attended monthly Best Beginnings and Healthy Communities coalition meetings to share program information with more community partners.

Family Support Network offered classes and events attended by single fathers, single mothers, young parents and grandparents who were raising their grandchildren, as well as families struggling with mental health and addictions. Several of the parents in the classes were living with relatives or friends because did not have housing. One family was living in a tent.

Florence Crittenton Home Services (FCHS) offered parenting classes to teens and young mothers and fathers. Young families as well as single parents attended. FCHS participated in monthly home visitation task force meetings comprised of Lewis and Clark Health Department, Child Protective Services, Family Outreach, and Intermountain to recruit and share program information with staff interacting with families. FCHS provided community resource information for families and children of clients at a nearby correctional facility. Additionally, FCHS Outreach, which is located onsite at the Helena Housing Authority property hosted a community BBQ at the Outreach Center. This was open to all families with children 0-5 years of age. Events and class information were advertised on social media and posted at the library and local family friendly businesses.

Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council: ECC worked with Bozeman Public Schools and HRDC to implement two strategies to address unaccompanied homeless youth and those at-risk for homelessness. The first strategy was to participate in the November 14th Bozeman City Commission meeting to support HRDC’s use of $30,000 in city affordable housing funds over 3
Montana Children’s Trust Fund

years to help operate HRDC’s youth homeless shelter. As a result, the commission unanimously approved the funding to expand the shelter’s capacity from 3 to 6 youth. The Shelter provides youth a place to stay while they finish school or find work and has proven successful. The second strategy was for ECCC to participate in the Community Connect event in January 2017 in Bozeman. ECCC provided information and resources to homeless individuals attending the event. The event connected the homeless and other community members in need with services regarding housing information, medical care, haircuts, and a variety of social services that lead to housing and self-sufficiency. Over 60 attendees participated in this event.

**Head Start, Inc.:** Approximately 90% of the children Head Start, Inc. served were living in households at or below the federal poverty guideline. All children received free meals and snacks while attending Head Start through Montana’s Child and Adult Care Food Program. Approximately 18% of children in Head Start services qualified for Individualized Education Plans/Disability Services. Twenty families in Head Start services this program year were homeless, based on guidelines established by the McKinney-Vento Act.

**Healthy Start Missoula** provided respite postcards to all coalition member organizations, many of which work primarily with underserved populations. Additionally, postcards were distributed to HomeWord, a non-profit that supports families at risk of homelessness, the Missoula Food Bank, and child care providers that serve high numbers of low income children. The Detention Center and the Pre-Release Program advertised the respite program to these clients, so their partners raising children outside of the Detention Center can access services.

**Montana State University Extension** focused on grandparents raising grandchildren. The greatest outreach to underserved populations was directed to Native American communities, with two locations specifically on Native American reservations – the Blackfeet Reservation and Ft. Belknap Reservation. Carrie Bear Chief-Evans, Director of the Eagle Shields Senior Center, has worked with the project since its inception. She provided great leadership and support for grandparents on the Blackfeet Reservation. A new contact Barbara Skoyen, of Fort Belknap WIC, offered the Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA) curriculum on the reservation.

**Thrive** served 2 clients who started the program when they were homeless; both are now housed. The program worked closely with the Father Engagement Specialist at DPHHS to help include fathers in the lives of their children. Over 30 referrals to the Father Engagement Specialist occurred, and 17 are active clients. In another effort to engage fathers, Dynamite Dads has seen a steady increase of Partnership dads participating. Dynamite Dads is a monthly activity for fathers and father-figures and their children ranging from planting seeds and painting pots to meeting and running child-friendly drills with college football players. The program’s Family Support Worker was successful in encouraging caregivers, generally mothers, to continue their education, from studying for the HiSet exam to enrolling in Gallatin College.

### 6. Parent Leadership and Involvement
Although each member of the MT CTF Board is a parent and/or grandparent, they are not parent leaders who have benefitted from services. During the reporting period, MT CTF Board members showed an increased understanding of parent leadership and a desire to diversify the makeup of the Board. When a position on the Board opened, MT CTF encouraged the Governor’s Office to appoint a parent leader to the vacancy and help fill this void and voice. Staff also sought nominations from Board members, grantees, and partners across the state.

MT CTF encouraged funded grantees to collaborate with parents, either working with an existing group of parents or developing a new leadership group. Although grantees were required to identify a goal for parental involvement in program planning and evaluation when they applied for funding, many of them struggled to recruit and retain parents. Some also struggled to recognize the parent leadership they had cultivated, fixating on the ultimate picture of what parent leadership “should” look like. At every site visit and on semi-annual and final reports, MT CTF asked grantees to report on their parent leadership progress, emphasizing the transition of parents addressing their own challenges in parenting to parents partnering with professionals in decisions that affect other families and communities. This effort sometimes takes years, and while the outcomes can be very beneficial, the efforts can sometimes lead to frustration as parents lead hectic lives and may choose not to continue their participation.

At the mandatory annual Grantees Meeting, a parent leader is encouraged to attend the training as one of the program representatives. This year, MT CTF provided a volunteer recruitment and management workshop which addressed one avenue parent leaders could be utilized.

**Parent Leadership Reported by MT CTF Grantees**

Below are examples taken directly from grantee final reports.

**Alliance for Youth:** Parent leadership roles were fulfilled through partnerships with stakeholder agencies and were strategically developed through implementation of the Parent Café Model.

**Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe:** At the Glow Run, which included small presentations on Child Abuse and Neglect, many parents engaged with their children. The event brought so many families together and had an amazing turnout - over 160 participants, from birth to 65 years of age. Lessons in the Family Spirit Curriculum made parents realize that they are responsible for the wellbeing of their child. The Family Spirit home visitor encouraged setting goals, applying for jobs, and/or working towards high school diploma or equivalent. Some of these young moms were involved in Action of Eastern Montana, as well as in Family Spirit.

**Butte Community Council:** Circle of Parents was designed to be facilitated by parent leaders. Four parents were trained in the curriculum by national Circle of Parents trainers. The parent
leaders facilitated the meetings and took leadership roles in completing tasks for the group. They listened to other parents and provided support and resources to them. One parent leader is employed by the Butte 4-C’s and is the primary facilitator for the group. She effectively built partnerships with the other parents and shares the responsibilities with them. They worked together as a group to support each other and identify focus areas for the group. Some parent leaders talked about Circle of Parents at local PTA meetings and brought new families to monthly meetings. Two parent leaders consistently provided valuable input at Children’s Mental Health Committee meetings as parents of children with disabilities and representatives of Circle of Parents. For example, one parent shared that because special education students stay home during finals, she had to take three days off work to stay home with her child. The District Curriculum Director was at this meeting and so addressed the issue. Special education students attended school for the last finals of the 2017 school year.

**Dawson County Health Department:** Parents as Teachers taught parents how to have a voice for their families. The home visitor accompanied a young mom to her son’s doctor appointment because the mom felt she was not being heard by medical staff. Then, the home visitor and the mom strategized how to address her concerns with the provider. At the next appointment, the mom was able to advocate for her son. As a result, the provider tested for and found a reflux problem, changed the child’s formula, and put him on medication. Mom learned how to advocate and effectively express her concerns. Another client volunteered to lead a preschool class at her church using activities and information she learned through the program.

Mommy/Daddy and Me activities fostered relationships and mentorships between parents. It provided parents a venue where “established” parents can take newer parents under their wings, help them find services, give them advice, and expand their support system.

**Family Support Network:** Several parents made sure the room was set up for parenting class. They helped distribute donated items and left-over food to families in need throughout the community. Parents shared their challenges during discussion times and supported others when they were having difficulties, suggesting techniques to use. More than half of the parents attending classes volunteered to help other parents. Four parents provided transportation to other parents. Three parents volunteered to add items to meals provided. Two mothers assisted with the child care. One grandmother brought books and toys to give to children. Parents in Wyola helped organize, promote, run activities for, and clean up the Community Event. Three parents volunteered to help with the event in Crow Agency. The program provided 23 opportunities for parent leadership; parents accepted their roles as leaders over 116 times.

**Florence Crittenton Home Services:** Feedback and parent leadership was sought from parents who attended community parenting classes. Based on feedback from parents, a Parents as Teachers playgroup proceeded Circle of Security classes. The parents received Circle of Security, then saw the circle in motion during the playgroup. This created meaningful class experiences.
Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council (ECCC): ECCC coordinated two parent education events this year that positively impacted 142 parents from the area, many of which were fathers. Many of these parents served on advisory councils for several of ECCC’s partner organizations, allowing them a chance to serve in leadership roles and positively impact their families and communities. Two parents served on the ECCC Leadership Council. These parents collaborated with professionals in the community to provide strategic direction for the council and a parent perspective for ECCC partners’ work.

Head Start, Inc.: Parent Committees reported and made recommendations to the Parent Policy Council, which consisted of a parent elected representative from each of the 22 Head Start classrooms, 4 Community Representatives, and a Head Start Board Liaison. The Parent Policy Council then reported and made recommendations to the Head Start Board. All governing bodies were informed of the partnership with the Montana Children’s Trust Fund, as well as of agency happenings with The Incredible Years Basic Parenting Program and April Awareness Activities. Parents, key staff and agency leaders participated in a committee to plan and implement Strengthening Families (Child Abuse Prevention) Month awareness activities.

Healthy Start Missoula (HSM): Two parents spoke to the Exchange Club on behalf of the Parenting Place on two different occasions in April, relaying their personal stories and how the Parenting Place helped them evolve as individuals and as parents. Many of the Exchange Club members commented on how enlightening it was to hear directly from the parents. One of these parents spoke again at the Parenting Place appreciation luncheon. A parent representative attended HSM meetings throughout the spring and promoted the Parenting Place respite program on her Facebook page and at her business.

Three parent groups were consulted as focus groups in the creation of outreach materials designed to increase home visiting referrals including the Ravalli Head Start Policy Council Parent Representatives, the Baby Bistro breastfeeding group, and the Mountain Home Montana resident group. Additionally, surveys were distributed and collected by home visitors from the Child Development Center, Missoula Early Head Start, and the Missoula City-County Health Department. The feedback collected influenced material design and language.

Montana State University Extension: “Seasoned” grandparent caregivers provided support to those new to Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA) and those who advocated at the Montana Legislature. One grandparent served on a caregiver panel at the Montana Lifespan Respite Coalition Summit. A grandparent caregiving couple was identified to serve on the national Generations United Grandfamilies Advisory group to give voice to grandfamilies in the west and attend the annual GrandRally in Washington, DC to bring visibility to the issue.

Thrive: Input was regularly collected during group visits on needs, interests, ideas for program and outreach improvements. Fabulous Families successfully engaged parents in monthly leadership activities. A Teen Parent Advisory Committee was planned, consisting of 3-5 parents
to be more involved in planning parent activities, giving input and feedback, identifying current themes in challenges for teen parents, and actively participating in community outreach.

7. Training, Technical Assistance and Evaluation Assistance Activities

| Individuals who received training and technical assistance from Lead Agency | 2,845 |

During the reporting period, MT CTF offered support and training in several ways:

- Annual MT CTF Grantees Meeting
- Ongoing communications and site visits with multi-year grantees
- Conference calls to connect programs across the state for greater awareness
- Trainings provided to grantees, partners, providers, and parents across the state
- Child Abuse and Neglect Conference
- Montana Nonprofit Association Conference
- ChildWise Institute Fall Summit “Brain Behind the Behavior”

MT CTF was involved in the various trainings above in varying degrees of capacity, from full event planning to participating on a committee to sponsoring to traveling. Topics included:

- Nonprofit leadership
- Volunteer recruitment and management
- Collective impact and collaboration
- Facilitation
- Communication
- Grant writing and fund development
- Marketing and building an effective technology strategy
- Self-care and mindfulness
- Power of prevention
- Resiliency
- Trauma-informed care
- Adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress
- Teenage brain: understanding substance use, suicide, mental wellness, self-harm, social media, etc
- Improving policies and practices for LGBTQ youth
- Engaging fathers
- Preventing challenging behavior in infants, toddlers and preschoolers
- Military separation
- Role of the Child and Family Ombudsman
- SafeCare Augmented Home Visiting Program
• Period of Purple Crying and/or other Abusive Head Trauma prevention
• Promising Pregnancy Care

Tribal relations and the Period of PURPLE Crying: MT CTF created an online form for tribal facilitators to submit trainings for reimbursement. The form allowed MT CTF to track the number and location of trainings, as well as the anticipated number of people in attendance. A link to the evaluation tool was provided in the event facilitators needed additional copies.

MT CTF Grantee Activities

All grantees were required to evaluate the success of their programs through semi-annual and final reports. Specific trainings conducted by grantees were reported as follows.

Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe held an ACES training, as well as a human trafficking presentation.

Dawson County Health Department: Coordinators attended MT CTF meeting in October and completed trainings on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), ASQ/ASQ-SE, domestic violence, leadership, fundraising, and collaboration.

Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council hosted and sponsored four trainings in Bozeman on compassion fatigue, ACES, trauma-informed care, secondary traumatic stress, and self-care.

Head Start, Inc.: Family Advocates and other key staff completed Group Leader Training for the Incredible Years Preschool Basic Parenting Program. Family Advocates provided in-service trainings to community partner agencies including the Youth Crisis Network, RiverStone Health, United Way, The Home Center, Dress for Success, and Western Native Voice.

Montana State University Extension: Eight support group facilitators were trained on the Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA) Curriculum.

8. Evaluation Data

CBCAP State Lead Agency Evidence-Based Programs and Practices

Total funding amounts that support evidence-based (EBP) and evidence-informed (EIP) programs and practices are included below. MT CTF infrastructure costs include consultation and professional services, education and training, site visits, travel expenses, administrative services, subscriptions, office supplies, and rent. Public awareness was not included.

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<th>Match Funding, $</th>
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27
Parents as Teachers | FRIENDS NRC Matrix (CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, HOMVEE, SAMHSA NREPP) | $22,033.90
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Incredible Years | FRIENDS NRC Matrix (CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, Blueprints, NIJ Crime Solutions, SAMHSA NREPP) | $15,000
Family Spirit | FRIENDS NRC Matrix (HOMVEE) | $25,000

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<tr>
<td>Nurturing Parenting Program</td>
<td>FRIENDS NRC Matrix (CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, SAMHSA NREPP)</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle of Security</td>
<td>FRIENDS NRC Matrix (CA Evidence-Based Clearing House)</td>
<td>$7,828.42</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period of PURPLE Crying</td>
<td>FRIENDS NRC Matrix (CA Evidence-Based Clearing House)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,499.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Promising**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Supporting Reference</th>
<th>Total CBCAP Funding, $</th>
<th>Total Infrast Costs, $</th>
<th>Total Match Funding, $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Emerging and Evidence Informed Programs and Practices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Supporting Reference</th>
<th>Total CBCAP Funding, $</th>
<th>Total Infrast Costs, $</th>
<th>Total Match Funding, $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA)</td>
<td>MSU Logic Model, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love &amp; Logic</td>
<td>FCHS and DCHD Logic Models, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House</td>
<td>$10,328.41</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culturally tailored</td>
<td>FSN Logic Model</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Name</td>
<td>Supporting Reference</td>
<td>Total CBCAP Funding, $</td>
<td>Total Infrast Costs, $</td>
<td>Total Match Funding, $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting classes based on Nurturing Parenting Program and Triple P-Positive Parenting Program System</td>
<td>AFY Logic Model</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent CAFE (Community and Family Engagement) based on Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and World Cafe technique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respite Care</td>
<td>HSM Logic Model</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration and collective impact facilitation of a community wide response to child wellbeing and family support</td>
<td>GECCC Logic Model</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma-informed Care and Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention trainings</td>
<td>Early Childhood Services Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services (see TIC/SBS attachment)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$71,844.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Total of CBCAP funds, infrastructure costs and match
Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Evaluation: MT CTF contracted with Dr. J. Bart Klika at the University of Montana to gain an understanding of risk factors and risk populations for abuse and neglect across Montana (see map in section four). In addition, the current evaluation project provided a proposal for future data analysis. Based upon his findings, Dr. J. Bart Klika made seven recommendations. They are listed in section two, but have not been formally adopted by MT CTF Board of Directors.

Abusive Head Trauma Evaluation: MT CTF conducted a statewide survey of Montana providers who encounter new or expecting parents to assess current Abusive Head Trauma prevention activities and evaluate prevention materials provided by MT CTF. 49 responses were received and represented 23 different rural, urban, and tribal communities across the state. Only 25% of respondents were currently using *Period of PURPLE Crying* materials. 25% used other prevention materials and 22% only provided verbal prevention tips. 6% of providers indicated that they did not provide any Abusive Head Trauma prevention, and 22% did not respond to the prompt. Feedback regarding prevention materials was positive and additional copies were requested.

MT CTF Annual Grantees Meeting: MT CTF took the 2016 evaluation into consideration when planning topics for the Annual Grantees Meeting. Grantee feedback is always solicited and valued. To save paper, the evaluation was conducted via Survey Monkey. Despite reminders, only half of the attendees completed the evaluation. Overall, respondents gave the meeting a 4.11 out of 5. Overwhelmingly, they found networking to be the most successful or useful aspect of the meeting.

**MT CTF Grantee Outcome Data**

MT CTF provided multi-year grants throughout the state to provide primary and secondary child abuse and neglect prevention. Each grantee was required to develop or update their logic model as part of the application for funding, which includes methods for evaluation. Funded programs chose their means of evaluation as they deemed appropriate.

MT CTF collected the following information from each funded program, which were evaluated by MT CTF in relation to their original, projected outcomes.

- Numbers of individuals and families receiving direct preventative services
  - children, parents/caregivers, professionals, and other individuals
  - children, parents/caregivers, and other adults with disabilities
  - veteran/active duty military members and their family members
  - adult victims of child abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
  - homeless individuals or individuals at risk of homelessness
Montana Children’s Trust Fund

CBCAP Annual Report FY 2017

- unaccompanied youth
- Number of individuals who participated in awareness, collective impact, or trainings
- Stories and testimonials
- Successes and challenges
- Outreach activities, including for special populations and Strengthening Families Month
- Meaningful parent leadership
- Qualitative and quantitative data based on identified outcomes and indicators

Alliance for Youth: For parents who successfully completed Circle of Security or Nurturing Parenting, there was a 95% improvement in at least one of the five targeted risk factors for child abuse and neglect.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># parents successfully completing/# parents completing pre &amp; post assessment</td>
<td>19/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># parents with improved Appropriate Expectations</td>
<td>12 (63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># parents with Higher Levels of Empathy</td>
<td>12 (63%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of parents with improved Alternatives to Corporal Punishment</td>
<td>10 (53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of parents with improved Appropriate Family Roles</td>
<td>10 (53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of parents with improved Values, Power and Independence</td>
<td>6 (32%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head Start, Inc.: A successful partnership with The Incredible Years allowed for the training of 10 Head Start Family Advocates and other key staff, as well as a local therapist, in facilitating the Incredible Years Basic Parenting Program. Having eleven certified facilitators made it possible to offer parenting classes at all 3 Head Start Centers, as well as in Carbon County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Surveyed Parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved bonding and attachment with their preschooler since taking the program</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling confident or very confident in their parenting skills</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slight improvement in child's behavior problems in which change was desired using the methods presented in the Parenting Program</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeling slightly confident or confident in their ability to manage future behavior problems in the home using what was learned from the Parenting Program</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Butte Community Council: Seven new adults and five new children attended the Circle of Parents meetings this year. An average of 22 adults and children attended monthly meetings. BCC coordinated and completed five kindergarten screenings this past spring for over 220 incoming kindergarten children. Over 100 posters were distributed to businesses in the community promoting the Continue Your Story campaign.
Dawson County Health Department: Parenting classes were successful with a nearly 50% increase in attendance. 52 people attended Love and Logic classes, compared to 32 last year. Pre- and post-program surveys given at the spring Love and Logic classes show that 63% of the attendees saw a positive change in their children from the start of the parenting class to the end, and 50% say they feel less stressed as a parent and can stay calm when they discipline. For Parents as Teachers clients, 100% who took part in a satisfaction survey stated that this program has increased their parenting abilities, helped with resources in the community, increased their understanding of their child’s development, and helped them feel less stressed.

Family Support Network: On the Parent Check-In Form/Satisfaction Survey given at each class throughout the two 10-week seminars, 96% of adult participants could list what helpful parenting information/techniques they had gained. During weekly class discussions, 72% of the adult participants could share how they implemented the learned techniques in their homes. During class time, 100% of the adult participants demonstrated the use of positive discipline techniques. Additionally, 93% of participants gave a score of 4 (6%) or 5 (87%) when asked “Did you learn skills that you will use with your children?” indicating that participants gained a better understanding of how to connect with their children in age-appropriate ways. Throughout the two 10-week seminars in Crow Agency and Wyola, 100% of the adult participants were observed engaging in age-appropriate activities with their children/grandchildren in the classes. With support and guidance from the Parent Education Coordinator, 100% of the adult participants could acknowledge and respond appropriately to their children’s emotional needs.

Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council (ECCC): ECCC coordinated 12 community events and activities which directly reached 881 community members. These events included resilience-building and self-care education, family events, parenting classes, and a kindergarten registration. ECCC coordinated two parent education events this year that positively impacted 142 parents from the area. Gallatin ECCC also worked with Belgrade Public Schools to host their 2017 Kindergarten registration event, where they hosted a resource table with information and resources available in the community including child abuse and neglect prevention program, April’s Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention month info and resources. 197 children were registered at the all-day event with children receiving vision, hearing, and learning assessments. 125 participants were reached through four training events on resilience-building and trauma-informed care in Bozeman this past year. Gallatin ECCC served approximately 2,467 community members through activities, trainings, and community outreach activities.

Healthy Start Missoula (HSM): 99 new children, 72 new adults, and 50 new families were recruited to respite child care due to HSM outreach efforts. Overall, the respite program currently has 187 children, 147 parents and 99 families enrolled. The Parenting Place continues to enroll an average of 27 new children, 21 new parents and 15 new families each quarter due to HSM outreach. The Parenting Place reported that 30% of families are utilizing more services after attending respite child care.
Montana State University Extension: Eight support group facilitators were trained on Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA). Evaluations of participants at the training showed:

- 100% better understood the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) Project.
- 86% better understood local, state and national resources that can serve GRGs.
- 94% better understood how to use the PASTA curriculum.
- 86% better understood how to start and sustain a support/education group and deal with issues that arise.

PASTA courses were held in Great Falls, Browning, Billings, Harlem and Bozeman, where 54 participants completed the course. Approximately 80% of those showed an overall improvement in confidence in parenting their grandchildren.

Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe: Over 160 participants attended a Glow Run event, which included small presentations on Child Abuse and Neglect. This year the Family Spirit program successfully recruited 12 participants. Parents benefited from the Family Spirit curriculum during home visits by engaging with their infants and children, and they gained a better understanding of their child’s development and safety. 75% of the clients actively participate in the Family Spirit program.

Thrive: 96% of children in the Partnership Program showed positive results. Directly correlated to this, 95% of parents increased their understanding of child development and use of healthy parenting practices. Progress of families in the Partnership Project home visiting program were evaluated through the Life Skills Progression.

- 82% of primary caregivers showed reduced depression and substance abuse
- 63% of parents made progress towards educational and employment goals
- 95% of parents increased their understanding of child development and use of healthy parenting practices
- 96% of children demonstrate age-appropriate communication, social and emotional skills
- 96% of children demonstrate age-appropriate gross and fine motor skills
- 77% of primary caregivers show improved relationships with family and friends
- 32% of mothers show improved relationships with partner/or father of the baby
- 59% of families demonstrated increased ability to access needed community resources, including public health care, quality child care and mental health care as needed
- 50% of families leveraged Thrive resources in times of need (child care scholarships, emergency funds, food and gas cards, etc.)

Attachment: FY17 Final Grantee Report Template

MT CTF Grantee Parent Testimonials and Positive Stories

Parent testimonials and positive stories are provided verbatim as an attachment, but a few are highlighted below.
**Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe:** A grandfather heard that his premature granddaughter was born and tested positive for meth, which meant that she was removed from her birth mother and placed in our local modern-day orphanage, Rosebud Lodge. Rosebud Lodge is location on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and keeps the child until he/she is placed with a relative or foster care. The grandfather heard of this baby girl and filed for custody. He won and had her at nine days old. During the time he had her, he had nothing. He took her home with a carrier and one bottle. Then later, someone told him of the Family Spirit program and gave him my name. He then came and found me when she was 13 days old. We talked and I gave small lessons on how to feed her and burp her. I also told him to remember to talk to her in our Cheyenne language and to tell her stories. I said, she’s listening to you. Then I gathered some diapers, bottles, and other basic needs and reassured him he is doing a wonderful thing by keeping her safe and providing for her. The grandfather and baby stayed in the program and are thriving. He was so thankful, that this program was available to him, as he didn’t know any other resources or anyone that could help him. I am very thankful to be a part of their lives and assist in any way I can.

A young man was in the Juvenile Detention Center on the Reservation. The Best Beginnings Early Childhood Coalition, is a great place for referrals. We are lucky to have the Supervisor of the Juvenile Detention Center attend the meetings and provide referrals. The young man was soon to be a father. I pulled some lessons from the Family Spirit curriculum. We talked about goal setting, nutrition and the importance of culture in raising a child. I continued to visit him every two weeks and the Supervisor noticed change in his behavior. He recently was released out of the detention center and was very thankful that this program gave him more inspiration to be a good father/role model to his child. When we talked about the future his eyes would light up and he was excited to be a part of his child’s life. I hope some way, somehow he remembers the lessons we talked about.

**Butte Community Council:** “My son was diagnosed with autism six years ago. He is now 12. We were living in another state and they would only diagnose him as developmentally delayed because they didn’t want to label him. When my husband got a job in Montana we went to a local pediatrician because we knew something was wrong with him. She told us that she thought he was autistic and sent us to have him evaluated in Helena. We found out that our son did have autism and severe ADHD. He received medication. He sees a behavioral therapist due to his sudden meltdowns. This has helped, but we finally got the approval to have him on the waiting list for DD services. This has been a trying time for him and our family. I started going to the Circle of Parents about three years ago, and they are the most wonderful people I have ever met. They have helped me to get different resources that may help and just listen to me when things were getting out of control. I don’t know what I would have done if it weren’t for the Circle of Parents and knowing that I am not alone. My son is starting seventh grade and I hope things will go ok for him, but it will be a tough transition. He does participate in Special Olympics and absolutely loves it and tries so hard. The future for my son is up in the air as I don’t know when he will be getting additional services and how he will do after high school. All
I want is for my son to have the same opportunities as children without disabilities. I want him to have a bright future full of laughter and hope.”

“As parents, we all want what is best for our children and the things that make life just a little bit easier when you already have a rough start. I have attended Circle of Parents since it first started here in Butte. I don’t know how I got on the contact list for this beautiful group but I’m so grateful that I was. Circle of Parents has been a haven for me as a mother of three daughters two of which have cystic fibrosis and cystic fibrosis related diabetes, one has learning disabilities, ADHD, ODD, depression, and they both have anxiety. Cystic fibrosis can be a very overwhelming diagnosis. Now add everything else that my girls have going on and it can be quite paralyzing. We take day by day, hospital stay by hospital stay, surgery by surgery and we triumph when and where we can. Our days are filled with pills, breathing treatments, and chest therapy and that’s on a good day. My girls are the strongest people that I know and I learn from them every day not to take a moment for granted. I have learned to ask for help when I need it. As much as I think that I know everything and that I can do it all on my own, I don’t know everything and its okay to get help. Circle of Parents has given me an outlet, to cry and talk and to not be ashamed of having hard days. I have made beautiful friendships that will last for a lifetime. It has taught me about programs that I didn’t even know existed. To go and be a part of a group of parents that can relate to what you are going through is priceless. To hear and share how help has changed over the years for all our children has been great.”

**Dawson County Health Department:** “It (Parents as Teachers) has given me confidence in my parenting skills and decisions. It’s expanded the activities I do with my child. I’ve felt more secure knowing I can discuss my child’s milestones someone. LOVE my weekly visits with my parent educator. It’s a blessing to have someone to meet with weekly to discuss my baby’s development. Love it.”

**Healthy Start Missoula:** Bo and Manny’s family have a history of abuse and trauma. Their father just got out of jail and began taking our parenting class, and using our Respite Program regularly. We recently granted their family the ability to use Respite an unlimited amount of days upon hearing their grandmother, whom they are very close with, has cancer. They are frequent Friday users. Bo and Manny are dealing with a lot, but always appear happy when they are at Respite. We like to think we create an environment for them to play and be worry-free children despite the challenging emotions they live with.

**Montana State University Extension:** “We told the new grandparents that they will feel overcome with emotions. They will feel grief, sadness, a sense of loss and disappointment that their child is not able to take care of his children. They were told that they may feel angry or resentful about having to take on this role. We offered resources for help and gave them the MontGuides on anger, guilt, depression and stress that are available from Montana State University Extension. They asked how they were supposed to do all this in addition to actually taking care of their grandchild. We told them the only thing we know: you just do it!”
9. Child Abuse Prevention Month and Public Awareness Activities

**Strengthening Families Month**

**CBCAP Lead Agency:** MT CTF participated in the following activities.

- Presented on a National Child Abuse and Neglect Technical Assistance and Strategic Dissemination (CANTASD) Center Digital Dialogue: Building Public Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- Received $10,000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana for Strengthening Families Month activities
- Planted over 1,500 pinwheels around the Montana State Capitol lawn during the Week of the Young Child
- Organized a resource fair at the Montana State Capitol
- Held two Pinwheels for Prevention Parades with local elementary schools
- Provided over 2,100 pinwheels, as well as t-shirts, pinwheel lapel pins, bibs, blue crayons, and other resources to grantees and partners across the state
- Coordinated Go Blue Mondays Campaign (see PSA links in Section 1: Awareness)
- Provided afterschool lesson plans to schools across the state
- Reached out to churches and faith-based organizations across the state for Blue Sunday
- Held a statewide conference call to connect organizations and coordinate activities
- Participated on the planning committee for the Child Abuse and Neglect Conference
- Gave awards to champions of Montana’s children
- Distributed promotional and educational materials at the CAN Conference and Title-1 Conference
- Maintained an online statewide calendar of events as submitted
- Utilized Facebook Ads and Events to promote activities

**Grantees:** All multi-year grantees reported Strengthening Families Month awareness activities. Many funded programs implemented the Pinwheels for Prevention and #GoBlue Campaigns in conjunction with MT CTF, which helped with statewide visibility. Other activities included Week of the Young Child, No More Violence Week, a Glow Run, parent-child activities, educational sessions, resource fairs, open houses, publishing articles, media broadcasting, and awareness material distribution.

**Year-Round Awareness**
**Income Tax Check-Off Campaign:** Each year, MT CTF funds an annual Income Tax Check-Off PSA campaign to raise money and awareness. Using PSAs produced in the past ("What can you do with a dollar?" and “Helping Hands”), the campaign was advertised for three months on statewide public, local and cable TV stations and public and local radio stations. For $13,000 MT CTF received over 3,500 spots. As a result of the campaign, taxpayers donated over $60,000 (more than any previous year) to MT CTF.

**Abusive Head Trauma Prevention:** MT distributed 986 survey packets, which included one of each of the following: Period of PURPLE Crying DVD, Period of PURPLE Crying App, Never Shake Rack Cards, and Never Shake Magnets. Additional materials requested as a result of the survey included 619 DVDs, 858 Apps, 2,602 Rack Cards, and 1,601 Magnets. During the reporting period, MT CTF distributed approximately 3,000 Rack Cards and 10,000 Magnets across the state.

**Not Even for a Minute Campaign:** MT CTF distributed approximately 1,700 rack cards and 100 posters for the Not Even for a Minute (NEFAM) Campaign, which encourages parents to never leave their children unattended in or around a vehicle and offers tips on ways to remember to bring your kids out of the car and how to avoid needing to leave your car when running errands.

**Halloween Fun Fest:** MT CTF hosted a Halloween carnival that doubled as a resource fair in Helena. 15 community resources provided information to approximately 2000 adults and children at the event. $2,250 was raised, as well as in-kind sponsorships and donations valued at over $8,000. 20 volunteers, in addition to MT CTF and table sponsor staff, signed up to help with the event. Activities included games, face painting, cake walk, costume swap, photo booth, a book corner, and raffles. A post-event survey was conducted, however only 24 responses were received.

**Social Media:** MT CTF Facebook page has reached 669 fans (fans grew from 487 to 634, a 30% increase in FY17). Fans are scattered all over Montana, however the majority live in Helena. Fans are 86% women and 13% men, and similarly the people reached are 88% women and 12% men. The largest age group amongst both fans and people reached is 25-34.

The total Facebook reach was 94,115 with the highest reach occurring from October to November due to Halloween Fun Fest advertisements. Other than event promotion, Facebook was used to provide tips on parenting, wellness, and family friendly activities. MT CTF Facebook page followed the pages created by grantees and partners to help promote their events, create awareness about their programs, and keep a pulse on what is happening across the state.

**MT CTF Grantees:** MT CTF grantees utilized a variety of outreach methods throughout the reporting period including but not limited to flyers, posters, and other print material.
distribution; newspaper articles or advertisements, radio announcements, and television commercials; social media posts, advertisements, and events; and website maintenance. Grantees reached 517,572 people through awareness efforts.

10. Challenges and Barriers

The state lead agency experienced three main challenges in FY17: grantee performance, staffing, and state general fund cuts.

One grantee in Helena, due to reporting requirements and staff turnover, chose not to renew its contract for FY18. Prior to April 2017, staff received little indication that Florence Crittenton Home Services (FCHS) was struggling to meet its projections for the grant, despite encouraging feedback and discussion among staff and grantees. MT CTF staff worked diligently and offered assistance on multiple occasions to find a reasonable solution to FCHS challenges, but despite best efforts, FCHS was only able to spend thirty-eight percent of its grant award, which translated into unmet projections and outcomes. The relationship between MT CTF and FCHS remains intact, and MT CTF looks forward to future opportunities and collaborations.

Arguably the biggest staffing challenge was the amount of time needed to supervise and support the AmeriCorps VISTA member serving with MT CTF. The CBCAP State Lead chose to rewrite the VISTA’s work plan to better suit his skill set rather than terminate his service. The member lacked experience in professional settings and so required extensive supervision and coaching, which took a vast amount of time and energy from two part time staff members. However, it was found that immense growth comes from great challenges. The staff felt they grew professionally as supervisors, and the VISTA member gained invaluable experience that would serve him well in his future endeavors.

The previous CBCAP State Lead Jamey Petersen resigned with little notice at the end of June 2017. Fortunately, Melissa Lavinder, the Program Specialist who has four years of experience specific to MT CTF, stepped forward to keep the state lead agency operating smoothly and moving toward its goals. Although it has been challenging fitting two three-quarter time positions into one full time position, it afforded the opportunity to reexamine current processes, such as grantee reporting, and to prioritize activities that have more statewide impact.

Due to revenue shortfalls as well as the most horrific fire season Montana has ever seen, budget cuts hit MT CTF and other state departments hard, putting many critical services on the chopping block. Although these cuts did not take effect until November 2017, MT CTF was unable to spend state general funds starting in September 2017. MT CTF budgeted to spend $110,000 on Abusive Head Trauma Prevention and Trauma-Informed Care trainings. MT CTF met with a work group to collaborate on Abusive Head Trauma prevention for a larger,
collective impact and will work to reinstate the state general funds during the next legislative session.

### 11. Attachments

Copies of the following are attached in pdf format:

- Strategic Plan
- FY16 Request for Proposals
- FY17 Request for Proposals
- FY17 Renewal Application
- Mini-grant Application
- Annual Grantees Meeting Agenda
- Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Evaluation
- FY17 Zero to Three Funds Plan
- FY17 Trauma-Informed Care and Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Plan
- FY17 Final Grantee Report Template
- Parent Testimonials and Positive Stories