



**Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)**

**FY 2018 Annual Report**

January 30, 2019

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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. MT CTF Board of Directors achieved geographical representation in April 2018 with the addition of a representative from Eastern 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. Evaluation, training, and technical assistance
3. Awareness
4. Collective impact

### Strategic Funding

MT CTF's goal is to support sustainable, effective programs aligned with safety, permanency, well-being, and continuous improvement. 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.

MT CTF also provided funding for many training opportunities for family support professionals from general nonprofit management and grant writing to father engagement and trauma-informed care.

### **Evaluation, Training, and Technical Assistance**

In addition to the ongoing technical assistance and support provided to the funded programs, MT CTF required semi-annual 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 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 August 2018 in conjunction with the Great Beginnings Great Families (GBGF) Conference. This provided an opportunity for all funded programs and prospective grantees to network and receive training on grant writing and the State's electronic acquisition and contracting system. MT CTF also paid for participants of the grant writing workshop to attend the GBGF Conference, which allowed them to select sessions based on their specific program needs. The training topics provided by MT CTF in 2018 were selected based on challenges associated with the Request for Proposal issued in March 2018.

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

- [Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference](#)
- Montana Nonprofit Association Conference
- ChildWise Institute Fall Summit "Power of One"

### **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 Power of One
- Period of PURPLE Crying
- Title 1 Conference
- Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference
- Trauma-informed Care Trainings
- Statewide coordination of Strengthening Families Month (Child Abuse Prevention Month) activities
- Individual Strengthening Families Month activities: Pinwheels for Prevention, Go Blue Mondays, Reading and Resource Fair, and Blue Sunday
- Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sites
- Halloween Fun Fest, local resource fair

**Presentations:** MT CTF presented at local civic groups, such as Rotary Clubs, as requested.

**Print publications:** MT CTF utilized a mailing campaign to reach out to churches and faith-based organizations for Blue Sunday. Local newspapers often pick up events and press releases. MT CTF also advertised in the Montana Parent Magazine for the Income Tax Check-Off and the Not Even for a Minute Campaigns.

**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 advertised with Montana Television Network (MTN) for the [#GoBlue Campaign](#) and [Go Blue Mondays](#), as well as the Helena [Halloween Fun Fest](#). MT CTF also advertised with MTN for the statewide Income Tax Check-Off Campaign ([“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, easy to access, and ADA Compliant. Information provided on the website includes parenting resources, training information, ways to get involved with prevention, events, current grantee information, application and reporting templates, and board meeting minutes.

**Facebook:** MT CTF recruited two communications majors from Carroll College as interns to grow MT CTF's social media presence, with a focus on Halloween Fun Fest, Strengthening Families Month and the Not Even for a Minute Campaign. MT CTF [Facebook page](#) saw a 26% increase fans during the reporting period. The page reaches 87% women and 12% men, mainly ages 25 to 44. 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.

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 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.

## Collective Impact

MT CTF continued 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. 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 of agencies, coalitions and other entities, such as Best Beginnings Advisory Council, Office of Public Instruction, and Montana Interagency Coordination Council (ICC).

**Child and Family Services Division (CFSD):** MT CTF worked to strengthen its relationship with CFSD by welcoming the new administrators and discussing how the two entities might partner and coordinate efforts on primary and secondary prevention of child abuse and neglect. MT CTF Board and staff began participating in CFSD Statewide Advisory Council Meetings, including a meeting to create the [DPHHS Strategic Plan: Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect in Montana](#). CFSD administrators were notified of MT CTF Board Meetings and invited to participate. It is MT CTF's intention to continue building and strengthening this relationship. It is anticipated that this next year will focus on supporting social workers' referrals of at-risk families to preventative services.

**Best Beginnings Community Coalitions (BCCs):** MT CTF, through strategic planning in 2014-2015, determined that it would direct some of its funding to support five of the BCCs 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. Helping fund these efforts brought more seamless services for families, reduced duplication of services, and maximized efficiency, strengthening the life trajectory for children and families.

**Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) Work Group:** The ICC facilitates functional communication among involved agencies, departments and local entities throughout the State. 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 [Parenting Montana](#), a statewide campaign to reduce underage drinking by focusing on parenting skills and tools using the Positive Cultural Framework. The website and tools are now live. MT CTF anticipates partnering to develop future tools, including tools for prenatal to age 5.

**Funders for Montana's Children (FMC):** FMC members represent philanthropic organizations who have joined forces to elevate early care as a critical workforce and economic issue for Montana communities by engaging Montana's business leaders. This group is focused on elevating early care and education as a critical workforce and economic issue for Montana communities. Activities this period included website development and summit planning for business leaders.

**Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Conference:** Montana's 2018 CAN 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 annual conference draws attendees made up of child protection workers, foster/adoptive parents, direct service providers, and CASA/GAL. Other attendees include law enforcement, medical professionals, education staff, tribal social services staff, and judicial representatives. The conference provides new information in various fields, as well as tangible practice skills that attendees can utilize post conference. Additionally, the conference meets the annual training requirement for foster/adoptive families.

**Strengthening Families Month coordination:** MT CTF hosted a statewide Strengthening Families (Child Abuse Prevention) Month coordination group. Groups represented on the statewide calls included Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS), Best Beginnings Coalitions, state agencies, and nonprofits and shared the goal of leveraging resources, sharing ideas, and cross promoting Strengthening Families Month activities. Through these statewide partners, MT CTF distributed and displayed approximately 4,000 pinwheels and 2,000 informational pinwheel lapel pins for Pinwheels for Prevention, along with other educational and promotional materials, across the state. MT CTF partnered directly with OPI and the Montana Afterschool Alliance to circulate lesson plans for afterschool programs about strong families across the state. Many groups also participated in the #GoBlue Campaign on social media.

**Abusive Head Trauma Prevention statewide taskforce:** MT CTF met with Fetal Infant Child and Maternal Mortality Review (FICMR), ECSB, Public Health and Safety Division (PHSD), and Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies to discuss what work was being done for Abusive Head Trauma prevention and how to collaborate moving forward. MT CTF has been working with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies to design a new, consistent booklet insert for all taskforce partners to distribute to their respective stakeholders. The insert will be small enough to include with the *Period of PURPLE Crying* DVDs and apps but can be provided as a standalone piece. The insert allows for caregivers to document soothing techniques that work for their babies, as well as phone numbers for trusted individuals, pediatrician, and the national helpline.

**Local resource fairs:** MT CTF carried the torch for the Halloween Fun Fest resource fair in Helena for one more year with the help of an intern with a background in communications and an interest in event planning. New to this year's event was a free flu shot clinic. 53 adults and 48 children took advantage of the free flu shots, given by Lewis & Clark Public Health in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana. Post event, MT CTF gathered stakeholders to gauge interest in taking over the event so that MT CTF could maintain a statewide focus. Two local organizations, Montana WILD and PEERS Unlimited, collaborated on the 2018 event. MT CTF was able to transfer contacts, knowledge, supplies, and assist in conducting Facebook outreach for the event. For more information on Halloween Fun Fest, please see Section 9.

The MT CTF AmeriCorps VISTA worked to identify high-risk areas in Montana to create new and/or build capacity for existing resource fairs across Montana. She also partnered with Montana No Kid Hungry to connect families to resources at their Summer Meal Program Sites. At the end of this reporting period, MT CTF successfully recruited a replacement VISTA. She is currently working with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) to develop a pilot project for low income, tribal, and/or rural communities to host family resource fairs that aim to increase understanding of early childhood and brain development, while incorporating fun activities that caregivers could recreate at home with their children.

## 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 make prevention a priority at all levels of the social ecology. 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.

## Strategic Planning

Due to changes in 2017, including staff transitions and state general fund budget cuts, MT CTF decided to revisit its strategic plan in December 2017. The [MT CTF Strategic Plan](#) was adopted by the MT CTF Board in February 2018.

MT CTF updated goals are:

1. CTF supports sustainable, effective programs aligned with its priorities of safety, permanency, well-being, and continuous improvement.
2. CTF is sustainable and effective in meeting statewide needs.
3. People are aware of CTF and needs associated with child abuse and neglect.

In response to Montana House Bill 517, an act requiring the Department of Public Health and Human Services to create a strategic plan to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, representatives from the following groups met on July 20, 2018. The [DPHHS Strategic Plan: Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect in Montana](#) was completed in September 2018.

1. Interagency Coordinating Council
2. Montana Children's Trust Fund
3. Child and Family Services (CFS) State Advisory Council
4. Former Protect Montana Kids Commission
5. Montana's tribal communities
6. State and local agencies and organizations that work to reduce or prevent child abuse and neglect, including juvenile courts and health, education, social services, and law enforcement agencies

Copies of the MT CTF Strategic Plan and the Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Evaluation were made available at this strategic planning meeting, and key items were pulled out to align with this plan. There was much discussion about capacity, sustainability, roles and responsibilities. Everyone recognized child abuse and neglect prevention as a multi-agency, cross-cutting issue and that there is a need for better alignment between MT CTF and the CFS Statewide Advisory Council.

## 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.

[Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Evaluation](#): 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 finalized in September 2017 and shared with partners and colleagues in during this reporting period.

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.

Based upon these findings, Dr. J. Bart Klika made seven recommendations listed below.

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.
5. Monitor regional trends in child maltreatment.
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.

During the December 2017 strategic planning session, MT CTF prioritized the recommendations made by Klika based on impact, influence, and effort. The top recommendations were supporting initiatives to address family economic indicators and developing a plan for understanding and addressing social norms in Montana. MT CTF has been participating in [Parenting Montana](#), a statewide campaign to reduce underage drinking by focusing on social norms, social and emotional learning, and parenting skills and tools using a Positive Cultural Framework. Additional projects tying to the evaluation are anticipated for FY2020.

**Montana Parent Survey:** As part of the Parenting Montana campaign, a statewide survey was conducted by the Center for Health and Safety Culture at Montana State University to explore the social norms of Montana parents around underage drinking. Along with the valuable insights into underage drinking, the survey also examined social and emotional competencies of parents. Parents with strong social and emotional competencies were over six times more likely to engage in protective behaviors than parents with low social and emotional competencies.

**Montana Children's Health Data Partnership Project:** This project began in February 2018 to develop actionable, shared early childhood performance measures for use across Montana to improve the social determinants of health for children. MT CTF will incorporate the following measures, which were identified by stakeholders across Montana, into future Request for Proposals.

1. Low birth weight babies
2. Post-partum visit within 56 days
3. Access to quality care/early education
4. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading levels
5. Immunizations on-time by age 2
6. Quality well child check
7. Evidence-based home visits

8. 0-5 Foster care rate
9. 0-5 Homeless rate
10. WIC usage rates
11. Prenatal care initiated in the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester

**MT CTF Grantees:** Annual grantee data such as the number of children, caregivers, and families served were compiled and shared with state agencies such as Child & Family Services Division.

### **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 (BCCs) to create local systemic change and collective impact across Montana. BCCs 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 BCCs 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**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFSR/PIP   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Families, Head Start                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Launch     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IV_B/PSSF  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Head Start  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFSP   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health/ACES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APSR   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other              |

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 Parenting Montana, a project to reduce underage drinking organized around the Positive Cultural Framework and social emotional learning.

**Funders for Montana's Children (FMC):** The goal of FMC is to create a statewide network of business leaders to elevate early care and education as a critical workforce and economic issue for Montana communities. 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, and First Interstate Foundation. Partners include MT CTF, Montana Community Foundation, and Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Through this group MT CTF collaborated on website development and a report examining the economic benefits of early childhood development. The group also planned a summit for Montana business leaders to explore ways to increase availability of high-quality early care.

**Montana Prevent 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.

**Strengthening Families Month statewide initiative:** The statewide group included Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Montana, the Montana National Guard, OPI and other state agencies, all MT CTF grantees, and other nonprofits. Through these partners, MT CTF distributed and displayed Pinwheels for Prevention, along with other educational and promotional materials, across the state. MT CTF partnered with OPI and the Montana Afterschool Alliance to send positive lesson plans about strengthening families to afterschool programs across the state.

**MT CTF Grantees:** Not only did MT CTF fund 12 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 resources and local resource fairs:** On promotional materials, MT CTF promoted the resource database housed and operated by Department of Justice (DOJ) Child and Family Ombudsman, instead of creating and updating a separate list.

In addition to the resource list, MT CTF encouraged its grantees and partners to explore the electronic referral system that is emerging in Montana. [CONNECT](#) is a closed-loop referral system, allowing for a higher level of communication among service providers, more efficient care coordination, and a measurable impact on health outcomes. CONNECT began as a pilot program in Helena but is expanding across the state. It is anticipated that MT CTF may support the program and/or include its use as a requirement of future grantees.

MT CTF organized one local resource fair in the Fall and participated in 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. 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 expand resource fairs across Montana.

## 4. Needs Assessment and Prevention Service Array

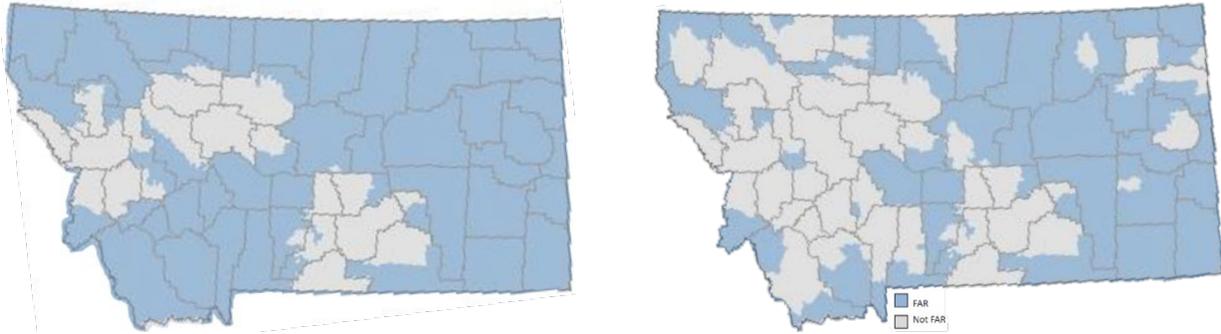
### Unmet Needs in Montana

According to Kids Count, Montana has been improving over the years. Although indicators have changed, Montana has risen from 30<sup>th</sup> in 2015 to 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2018. Children living in poverty and teen pregnancy has decreased, but Montana still struggles to support children's health.

Contributing to Montana's struggles is its rural nature. Many Montanans face unique challenges such as lack of transportation, scarcity of easily accessible services, food insecurity, adverse childhood experiences, and substance abuse. Perhaps those who feel the weight of these challenges the most are Native Americans, who are consistently over-represented in Montana's data sets.

Unless otherwise indicated, data below was pulled from Kids Count.

**Rural nature:** According to USDA Economic Research Service Frontier and Remote Areas (FAR) report from 2010, 53% of the population lived in a Level 1 area (pictured below on left), classified as far from cities providing "high order" goods and services, such as advanced medical procedures, stores selling major household appliances, regional airport hubs, or professional sports franchises. 11% of Montana's population lived in a Level 4 area (pictured below on right), which is classified as hard to access even "low order" goods and services, such as grocery stores, gas stations, and basic health-care services. Level 2 (21%) and Level 3 (21%) fall somewhere in between.



**Economics:** Montana ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in economic well-being. 15% of children lived in poverty, however 44% of American Indian children lived in census tracts with poverty rates of 30% or more compared to 4% of white children. Research indicates that as neighborhood poverty rates increase, undesirable outcomes rise and opportunities for success are less likely.

Montana's overall unemployment rate has been falling, and was 3.7% in September 2018 (Montana Department of Labor & Industry). However, 26% of Montana's children have parents who lack secure employment. An increasing problem contributing to this statistic is a lack of affordable and available childcare (see below).

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 Blackfeet, Crow, and Northern Cheyenne reservations; 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 a high number of Management of Companies & Enterprises; Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting; and Mining, Quarrying, Oil, Gas Extraction.

**Childcare:** This data comes from Montana Department of Labor & Industry report. Montana ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in childcare affordability. For families at the median income, childcare costs 11% to 13% of their family income for one child. A family with an infant and toddler in childcare pays roughly 25% of the state's median family income. Montana is one of 33 states where the cost of infant care is greater than in-state tuition. It is as costly as the average rent in Montana, and surpasses the average cost of healthcare premiums for a healthy 40-year-old seeking low-cost coverage. Single parents living in poverty with children under the age of five (mentioned in Economics) must spend 54% of their earnings to put one infant in licensed childcare, which leaves them without enough money to cover other monthly expenses.

Even when families can afford childcare, finding licensed childcare proves difficult. Montana ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in childcare availability. Childcare facilities only have the capacity to care for about 40% of the children who potentially need it. In fact, there is no county in Montana that meets the potential demand, and only two out of 56 counties meet more than half of the demand.

**Food insecurity:** According to the Montana Food Bank Network, 1 in 8 Montanans struggle with hunger, including over 38,000 children living in food insecure homes. Nearly 72,000 individuals live in food deserts and have limited access to a grocery store or supermarket. Public food assistance programs are also underutilized due to lack of knowledge, eligibility confusion, limited availability, and stigma.

**Public Assistance:** In 2017, 21% of children were in families that received public assistance from Supplemental Security Income, cash public assistance income, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In FY16, 3,095 families received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and 115,627 received SNAP benefits. In FY15, 18,373 pregnant women, infants, and children were enrolled in the WIC nutritional assistance program. In the 2017-2018 school year, 67,555 students were enrolled in the free/reduced-price lunch program.

**Education:** Montana ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in child education. 57% of 3 and 4-year-olds were not in school, and 14% of high school students did not graduate on time. 62% of fourth-graders were not proficient in reading, and 63% of eighth-graders were not proficient in math. In 2018, 35% of all students reported skipping school at least once in the past 4 weeks, compared to 51% of students on American Indian reservations.

**Children's Health:** While Montana ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> for overall child well-being, we rank 46<sup>th</sup> for children's health. Among the indicators measured, Montana's low birth-weight rate has increased to 7.9%, and 6% of Montana teens reportedly abuse alcohol or drugs. Insurance among Montana's children has increased, while child and teen deaths have decreased. Child insurance coverage, deaths, and drug abuse may have improved but they are all worse than the national average. 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.

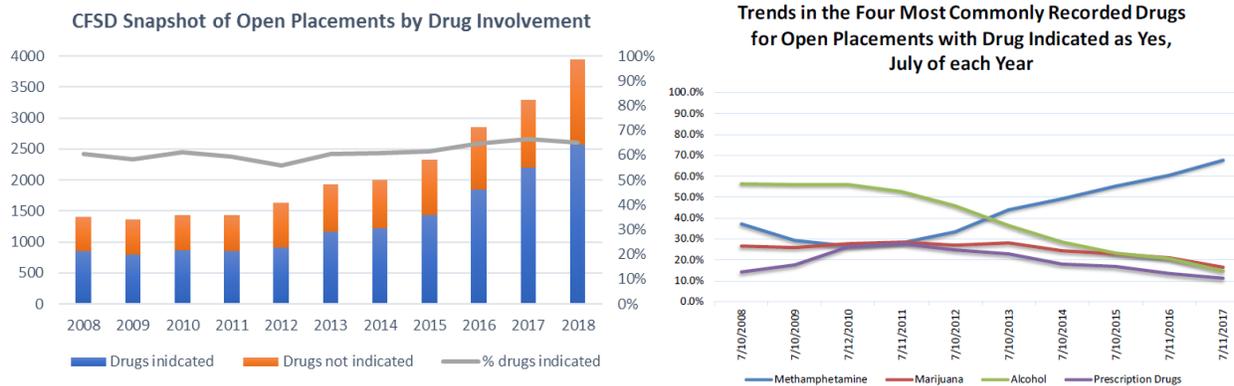
**Family and Community:** Montana ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in family and community, which is its highest ranking in the 2018 Kids Count assessment. Among the indicators improved were children in single-parent families (25%), children in families where the head of household lacks a high school diploma (5%), and teen births (24 per 1,000). Children living in high-poverty areas increased to 9%. 85% of all students reported feeling safe in their neighborhood in 2018, compared to 65% of students on American Indian reservations. 14% of all students did not have a trusted adult they could go to with their problems, while 25% of students on American Indian reservations did not.

**Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs):** 26% of children reportedly experienced two or more ACEs in Montana. Of the respondents, 57% of American Indian and 23% of white children in Montana experienced two or more 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 being substance abuse in the household, verbal abuse, and parents who were either separated or divorced. The National Survey of Children's Health reports that Montana is among the highest at the threshold for

greater risk of negative physical and mental health outcomes, between 10% and 12%. The survey also reports that 52% of Montana children aged 0 to 17, reported at least one ACE, while 17% reported three or more ACEs.

**Foster Care and substance abuse:** There were 3,951 children in the care of Montana Child and Family Services Division in June 2018, a number that has more than doubled in the last 10 years. During the same time period, the total population of children under 18 in Montana has grown less than 3%. One major factor is a rise in cases involving parental substance abuse, 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 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 Addictive and Mental Disorders Division, Early Childhood Services Bureau, Children’s Mental Health Bureau, Family and Community Health Bureau, Human and Community Services Division, No Kid Hungry, Office of Public Instruction, and Comprehensive School and Community Treatment. Non-profit, educational and foundation partners include Center for Children, Families, and Workforce Development, Children’s Alliance of Montana, Elevate Montana, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Montana CASA/GAL Association, Montana Healthcare Foundation, and Headwaters Foundation.

**Tertiary Prevention** is supported through the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD), the Children’s Justice Bureau, and many of the programs listed above.

A small amount of information on the State programs are provided below, but more information can be found in the [DPHHS Strategic Plan: Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect in Montana](#).

**Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD):** The mission of AMDD is to implement and improve an appropriate statewide system of prevention, treatment, care, and rehabilitation for Montanans with mental disorders or addictions to drugs or alcohol.

**Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB):** ECSB focuses on supporting children, families, and professionals who work with children.

**Children's Mental Health Bureau (CMHB)** cares for and supports individuals under 18 years of age who have been diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance (SED).

**No Kid Hungry** connects Montana's kids to the healthy food they need to succeed in the communities where they live. NKH supports school breakfast, summer meal, and afterschool meal programs.

**Office of Public Instruction (OPI):** As the statewide education agency, OPI has a number of initiatives that serve at-risk youth with a focus on strengthening families.

**Comprehensive School and Community Treatment (CSCT):** Students with more severe mental health concerns can be served in Montana Schools through CSCT, a school-based behavioral health service for children with SED supported by the CMHB.

**Child and Family Services Division (CFSD)** seeks to protect children who have been or are at substantial risk of abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

**Children's Justice Bureau** at the Montana Department of Justice is an agency-wide initiative focused on improving the Department's response to child abuse victims and supporting their recovery.

**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 funding applications, MT CTF grantees evaluated 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. 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 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 partner 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, as well as Parent Cafés. 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. Parent Cafés were conducted to Title 1 schools and Foster Grandparent Mentors.

[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, and 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. The program also hosted naming ceremonies and a Fishing Derby for fathers and their children.

[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](#) provided support and assistance to children diagnosed with a mental illness and their families, and educated 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.

[Gallatin Early Childhood Community Coalition](#) (GECCC) promoted thriving children from birth through age eight. It provided 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 GECCC 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 GECCC 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.

[Healthy Start Missoula](#) (HSM) used MT CTF funding 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) and GrandCares to GRGs in communities across the state and provided informational packets to new GRGs when they first received their grandchildren. A Montana GRG Project State Partners meeting was also provided.

[Thrive](#) provided parenting classes, family support groups, a resource library, home visiting, and community resource referrals. Thrive’s Parent Place offered Child Advancement Project, Parent Liaison Program, Partnership Project to Strengthen Families, Parent Place Family Resource Center, and Girls for a Change.

### Individuals and Families Served

The charts below reflect numbers provided by MT CTF grantees in their final reports for contract dates July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 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. MT CTF has worked with its grantees in recent years to obtain a more accurate depiction of people served.

<b>CBCAP Numbers Served</b>
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<b>CBCAP &amp; Leveraged Funds Numbers Served</b>
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Population	Total Number (unduplicated)
Children	1021
Parents/Caregivers	847
Families	492
Children with disabilities	88
Parents with disabilities	9
Population	Total Number
Children	1683
Parents/Caregivers	2024
Families	599

Population	Total Number (unduplicated)
Children	1155
Parents/Caregivers	989
Families	675
Children with disabilities	131
Parents with disabilities	45
Population	Total Number
Children	2640
Parents/Caregivers	2850
Families	1168

### 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%. The largest minority group in Montana is the Native American community, 7% of the population identified as only American Indian and/or Alaska Native. There are eight state recognized tribes in Montana and seven federally recognized tribes. Through Strengthening Families Month work, two grantees serving on reservations, MT CTF reached all tribal reservations during the reporting period. MT CTF Staff members and the AmeriCorps VISTA also attended the Montana Tribal Relations training.

**Rural and frontier areas:** 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.

#### Outreach Reported by MT CTF Grantee

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 from grantee final reports.

**Alliance for Youth** presented on services provided to many other agencies at a DPHHS Safety Model CORE TRAINING to collaborate on referrals. Continued outreach was conducted within the mental health community providers regarding the programs, both in-person and on social networking sites; and with Child and Family Services to inform new staff about the program and referral processes.

**Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe** provided Family Spirit Home Visiting to parents ages 14 to 21 years old, some of which were at risk for homelessness. The Father/Son Fishing Derby, was held to promote father engagement. Another activity, a Glow Run, was held during Strengthening Families Month

**Butte Community Council** distributed flyers and tear-off posters for Circle of Parents to partners and widely throughout the community. Information and flyers were provided at community meetings such as the Continuum of Care Homeless Coalition, the Community Action Team, Butte Eagles Special Olympics Team, and the Community Management Team. Information was shared directly with programs who serve parents, children and adults with disabilities, and underrepresented populations such as Family Outreach, the Montana Independent Living Project, AWARE, the Butte Silver Bow County Health Department, Rocky Mountain Clinic, Southwest Montana Community Health Center, St. James Healthcare, Butte School District, and early childhood professionals. Outreach activities were also conducted through home visitors.

**Dawson County Health Department** met regularly with referral sources such as pediatricians, obstetricians, The Mental Health Center, the Food Bank and WIC. Information and advertisements were also left in these facilities. The Nurturing Tree provided games for kids free of charge, and promoted services to the community, at the community's annual Bridge Day event.

**Family Support Network** offered classes and events on the Crow reservation. Participants of the classes came from local towns such as Lodge Grass, Pryor and Hardin. 98% of the families attending were Native American. Two adults with reported disabilities and five children with disabilities attended these events. Several of the attending parents reported past episodes of domestic violence and abuse as children. Four attendees were single dads and two families were homeless and living temporarily with relatives. These families were given information of available services and assistance in Crow Agency and Billings.

**Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council:** All community events and activities held this grant year were open and inclusive to all members of the community and had participation from minority groups. ECCC partners promoted these events and offer services to all community members as well. For the spring parent dinner held in June, the ECCC coordinator conducted targeted outreach to ECCC partners working with at-risk families from these special populations. This event had participation from nine parents and five children with disabilities and included one mother and three children from a minority group.

**Head Start, Inc.** offered direct training opportunities, access to agency social media pages and website, education opportunities, home visiting, parent/child activities, family fun events and referrals to all children and families utilizing services. This program year, children with a documented disability, families experiencing homelessness, children who identify as American Indian/ Alaska Native or multi-racial, and fathers were served

**Healthy Start Missoula** conducted respite and home visiting outreach via HSM member organizations, medical and dental provider lobbies, and coffee shops. Ads were placed in the Missoula Independent and on Facebook. Parents and children that utilized respite wrote and recorded radio ads that were aired by Missoula Broadcasting Company. HSM staff was able to connect with Child Development Center staff to educate them further on the respite program, which dramatically increased respite attendance for children with disabilities. Additionally, 31 of the 84 parents that were new to respite in FY18 reporting being adult victims of child abuse or domestic violence. Finally, HSM and Parenting Place staff tabled at Project Community Connect, an annual event which aims to connect homeless individuals with clothing, employment, documentation, and service resources. Thirteen families at risk of homelessness were new to respite in FY18, 6 of which utilized the MT CTF funded Friday respite sessions.

**Montana State University Extension** focused on grandparents raising grandchildren (GRGs). Staff developed guides for new GRGs on navigating resources and advocating for your grandchildren. In addition to Facebook and Pinterest, MSU used an email listerv to send newsletters to approximately 1,000 GRGs and informational packets to new GRGs across the state. Many GRGs were Native American, low-income, are raising grandchildren due to parental incarceration, and many of the children living with custodial grandparents were considered homeless.

**Thrive** worked closely with several local agencies to increase the opportunities and improve the outcomes of our clients. Thrive worked with the City/County Health Department to reciprocally refer clients. The Health Department provided low/no cost mental health and substance use services to Thrive's clients which allow them to help clients dramatically reduce these contributing factors to child maltreatment. The Health Department also provided resources for fathers, specifically their Father Engagement Specialist who works with young fathers who, as a demographic, often struggle to connect with their children. The Father Engagement Specialist worked one-on-one with these fathers to teach them healthy parenting, ways to bond with their child, and how to have a healthy relationship with the mother – which lack of can often be a barrier to fathers having access to their children.

## 6. Parent Leadership and Involvement

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. All of the current members of the MT CTF Board are parents and/or grandparents; but to my knowledge, they have not benefitted from services similar to those offered by grantees. When a new vacancy opens, staff will continue to seek nominations to achieve geographical representation and recruit parent leaders to the Board.

MT CTF presents awards at the annual Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference. The Pinwheels for Prevention Award was created a few years ago in memory of Mary Gallagher, former MT CTF Board Chair. It is reserved for exemplary commitment to families in the individual's community. This award has been given to parent leaders in the past, and MT CTF hopes to see more nominations of parent leaders this year and in the future.

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 and Involvement Reported by MT CTF Grantees**

Below are examples taken from grantee final reports.

**Alliance for Youth:** Parents helped support one another during the parenting classes by providing support and guidance when appropriate. Parents filled out feedback forms at the end of the program, which includes suggestions for program improvement from their perspective.

Parents from the community were involved in planning Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. A series of surveys narrowed down the desired topics from the entire planning committee that is represented by parents and agencies that advocate for families in the community. Evaluations from No More Violence Week overwhelming supported continuing trainings for the community, including those on topics that are difficult to talk about.

The Shared responsibility campaign was kicked off during No More Violence Week- CAN prevention month. Parents were used to test effectiveness of the message and ensure

sensitivity. Parents were also used as silhouette stories were developed, which were screened by the Child & Family Services department to ensure they could not identify one family.

6 successful Parent Cafés were held, hosting 98 participants. Planning meetings were held prior to each café with 3 parents in attendance for each. With each planning meetings parents/mentors were asked what they wanted to know and helped to plan the café questions and layout. With Foster Grandparent Mentors, the café was modified to include training, which was greatly appreciated by the planning team and the participants. Evaluation feedback was positive and asked for the format to continue.

We used pre and post protective factor surveys to measure the improvement of at least one protective factor. The Indicator was that 90 % of parents who participate would show improvement and the parents self-reported in the surveys that 100% of the 98 participants showed improvement in at least one protective factor.

**Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe:** A Father/Son Fishing Derby was hosted and to all grandfathers, uncles, cousins, brothers, and mentors to promote father engagement. Two individuals spoke during this event. One prayed and gave some words about Cheyenne culture, and the importance of being a father and provider. Another spoke on the importance of being a father and spending time with your child(ren). Over 100 people participated in the event.

A Glow Run was hosted to promote family engagement, as well as bring awareness to child abuse and neglect in the month of April. The event opened with prayer, and the purpose of the Fun Run. Volunteers threw Glow Powder on the course. The event closed with refreshments and a speaker on child abuse and neglect from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Social Services.

**Butte Community Council:** Circle of Parents is based on parent leadership. Three parent leaders organized and facilitated the monthly meetings. Two of the parent leaders attended the Pacific Rim International Conference this past year to gain valuable information on leadership skills and resources available to families who have children with disabilities. These two parent leaders also attended training offered by the national Circle of Parents program to become trainers. A group evaluation form was used to seek feedback from parents regarding their participation in the group. Feedback received was used to inform parent leaders, potentially recruit new parent leaders, meet families' needs, and improve the service provided.

**Dawson County Health Department:** With Mommy/Daddy and Me and Love and Logic classes, parents and children interacted and networked with peers, making connections with others who have experienced similar struggles. Parents taking Love and Logic classes were asked to complete a pre and post-test, as well as a short survey, to evaluate and assess the impact of the program. Additionally, those who attend Mommy/Daddy and me activities were asked to provide input about Nurturing Tree programs and services. Parent Leadership kits can also be checked out through the library, where the program is located. Topics include bringing baby home and potty training.

**Family Support Network:** The Nurturing Parenting Curriculum contains sections devoted to helping parents gain skills not only in raising their children but also addressing issues of self-improvement and care for the caregiver. Parents from each of the classes took ownership of the April Event and Family Celebration Events by helping with games and activities, speaker suggestions, setup, and cleanup. Some also helped with the children during class times when no childcare was available. Participants provided strategies they used when faced with common discipline and behavioral issues with children. Surveys were filled out at each class evaluating the effectiveness of the presentation of the material, and an evaluation on the skills learned in class and whether they would be used with their children. Suggestions made by the parents were incorporated into the children's program and at the Family Celebration events.

For the past few years, Perceilia Buffalo BullTail has fulfilled the role of Parent Liaison on the Crow reservation, providing outreach and adding cultural pieces to the parenting classes. For the FY 19, Kathy is stepping into more of an advisory role and Percelia will assume responsibility for planning and conducting the parenting classes. She will continue to be the lead for community outreach and has already recruited a volunteer from one of the previous classes to assume the duties of the Parent Liaison.

**Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council (ECCC)** provided 17 community events and activities that were open to all members of the community. The spring parent dinner had participation from nine parents and five children with disabilities, including one mother and three children from a minority group. ECCC used the information provided by the parents at the dinner to inform and shape ECCC's planning and strategies specifically related to special needs.

**Head Start, Inc.:** All parents/caregivers were given the opportunity to participate in leadership opportunities in which they have input and make decisions about the program, including center-based Parent Committee Meetings and a program-based Policy Council consisting of one representative from each program classroom. Parent representatives from each of four Explorers Academy/Head Start, Inc. center locations were invited to participate in planning and implementation of activities for Strengthening Families Month.

**Healthy Start Missoula (HSM):** In previous years, feedback from focus groups was utilized to create outreach materials. The home visiting ads were finalized in FY18. HSM designed an assessment consisting of parent focus groups and interviews to better understand parent stressors and barriers to accessing services. The HSM Coordinator, the director of the Parenting Place, the president of the Parenting Place board, and one parent that utilized both respite and Missoula Early Head Start were on the committee. Two parents utilizing respite child care worked with HSM and the Parenting Place to write and record respite radio ads, which were aired by the Missoula Broadcasting Company.

**Montana State University Extension:** Grandparents were included in ongoing planning as support groups ask the grandparents what information they would like to see provided. "Seasoned" grandparent caregivers participated to help the new grandparents when they first contacted the support group. They took the lead on providing support and information to the new grandparents. Two grandparent caregivers served on the Generations United

Grandfamilies Advisory Group. One, a Native American grandparent, serves on the diversity Advisory Group. Generations United has said how wonderful and active the Native American grandparent is on the Advisory Group. The other grandparent shared her information with her local support group. She also kept in touch with MSU about national issues that impact Montana grandparent caregivers.

**Thrive** conducts bi-annual evaluations with the parents served to ensure needs are being met and questions are being answered. This is in addition to the evidence-based Life Skills Progression (LSP) evaluations, which are also conducted bi-annually and assessed the full range of the parent/child relationship and risk factors. These allowed family support workers to see in which areas the family has progressed, as well as which areas could improve. These evaluations inform the next steps for family support workers, as well as the goals set with the family.

## 7. Training, Technical Assistance and Evaluation Assistance Activities

<b>Individuals who received training and technical assistance from Lead Agency</b>	<b>2,880</b>
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During the reporting period, MT CTF offered support and training in several ways:

- MT CTF Grantees Meeting
- Great Beginnings Great Families Conference
- Ongoing communications and site visits with multi-year grantees
- Conference calls to connect programs across the state for greater awareness
- Montana Nonprofit Association Conference
- [Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference](#)
- ChildWise Institute Fall Summit “Power of One”

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:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant writing</li> <li>• Electronic Montana Acquisition &amp; Contracting System (eMACS)</li> <li>• Family and father engagement</li> <li>• Quality early care and education</li> <li>• Circle of Parents</li> <li>• Montana Parent Partner Project</li> <li>• Grandparents Raising Grandchildren</li> <li>• First Years Initiative</li> <li>• Handle with Care</li> <li>• Montana Medical Home Portal</li> <li>• CONNECT Electronic Referral System</li> <li>• Linking Systems of Care</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing foster youth for life after high school</li> <li>• Safety, well-being, and permanency of LGBTQ and GNC youth</li> <li>• LGBTQ+ healthcare allies</li> <li>• Psychological well-being in the lives of teenagers</li> <li>• Child molestation and human trafficking</li> <li>• Hope-infused, trauma-informed approach to ACEs and</li> <li>• Resiliency</li> <li>• Compassion fatigue</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

- Self-care and mindfulness
- Hunger in Montana
- Dental and vision health
- Postpartum nutrition and exercise
- Breastfeeding
- Patient centered reproductive goals and contraception counseling
- Mandatory reporting laws
- Drug trends in Montana
- Nonprofit management and leadership
- Implementation methods
- Facilitation
- Fund development
- Marketing and communication
- Collective Impact
- Being a champion of change

### **MT CTF Grantee Activities**

Specific trainings conducted by grantees were reported as follows.

**Alliance for Youth:** A "Paper tigers" viewing and post-viewing discussion was facilitated with 20 parents/caregivers. There were 17 training opportunities during No More Violence Week with a combined total of 1300 in attendance. Topics included preventing sexual assault, partner violence, homelessness, suicide, and more. Trainings were also provided in conjunction with Parent Cafés to Foster Grandparent Mentors. Topics such as root causes of behavior problems, role modeling, de-escalation, positive praise and self-care were covered.

**Butte Community Council:** Two parent leaders attended training offered by the national Circle of Parents program to become trainers of the program. They are now certified to train other communities who would like to implement Circle of Parents. Training was provided to families on the following topics: Traumatic Brain Injury Simulation, Parent Partners at Southwest Montana Community Health Center, Employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, new special education classroom at local school.

**Dawson County Health Department** offers backpacks with topics for children such as opposites and shapes, and parent leadership kits mentioned in Section 6, which can be checked out at the library where the Nurturing Tree is located. They trained 12 middle school-aged kids in Safe Sitter classes and CPR. They also partnered with a certified car seat technician to install car seats and teach parents/caregivers how to install them properly.

**Family Support Network:** The current parent educator began training the parent liaison to take over parenting classes. The parent Liaison has been certified in the Nurturing Parenting Program.

**Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council** offered 7 training events on the following topics: ACES, Science and Practice of Resilience, Trauma-Informed Care, trauma-sensitivity assessment, child anxiety, and compassion fatigue and burnout prevention.

**Head Start, Inc.:** To date, 15 staff including Family Advocates, Directors, and Health/Disabilities Specialists have been trained and certified in The Incredible Years Basic Parenting program. All staff have completed training on mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect. A Family

Advocate and the Disabilities Specialists completed training and certification in *The Incredible Years* Parenting of a Preschooler with Autism or Language Delays.

**Healthy Start Missoula** provided a home visiting luncheon, a State of the Young Child Dinner, ASQ training, and a Managing Challenging Child Behaviors training.

**Montana State University Extension:** A Montana GRG Project State Partners meeting was provided to 20 support group facilitators and grandparent caregivers, as well as 16 State partners.

## 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.

Well-Supported				
Program Name	Supporting Reference	Total Amount of CBCAP Funding \$	Total Infrastructure Costs* \$	Total Match Funding \$
Parents as Teachers	CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, HOMVEE, SAMHSA	\$22,500		
Incredible Years	CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, Blueprints, NIJ Crime Solutions, SAMHSA	\$15,000		
Family Spirit	HOMVEE			\$23,090.33
Totals:		\$37,500		\$23,090.33
Supported				
Program Name	Supporting Reference	Total Amount of CBCAP Funding \$	Total Infrastructure Costs \$	Total Match Funding \$
Nurturing Parenting Program	CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, SAMHSA	\$5,000		
Circle of Security	CA Evidence-Based Clearing House	\$5,000		
Totals:		\$10,000		
Promising Programs and Practices				
Program Name	Supporting Reference	Total Amount of CBCAP Funding \$	Total Infrastructure Costs \$	Total Match Funding \$
Circle of Parents	CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, Social Work with Groups: A Journal of			\$24,997.99

	Community and Clinical Practice, Journal of Rural Community Psychology			
Totals:				\$24,997.99
<b>Emerging and Evidence Informed Programs and Practices</b>				
Program Name	Supporting Reference	Total Amount of CBCAP Funding \$	Total Infrastructure Costs \$	Total Match Funding \$
Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA)	MSU Logic Model, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House	\$7,500		
Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) program for Caregivers of Children with Special Health and Behavioral Needs	MSU Logic Model, Legacy Health Systems at the University of Oregon, Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging	\$7,500		
Love & Logic	DCHD Logic Model, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House	\$7,500		
Culturally tailored parenting classes based on Nurturing Parenting Program and Triple P-Positive Parenting Program System	FSN Logic Model	\$15,000		
Parent CAFE (Community and Family Engagement) based on Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and Community Café Model	AFY Logic Model	\$5,000		
Respite Care	HSM Logic Model			\$25,000
Collaboration and collective impact facilitation of a community-wide response to resilience, kindergarten readiness, and early literacy	GECCC Logic Model			\$25,000
Totals:		\$42,500		\$50,000
Overall Totals:		\$239,667.30	\$75,092.62	\$52,756.67

**MT CTF Annual Grantees Meeting:** Grantee feedback is always solicited and valued. To save paper, the Grantees Meeting evaluation was conducted via Survey Monkey. Overall, respondents gave the meeting a 4.41 out of 5. They appreciated the training being connected to the Great Beginnings Great Families Conference and networking. Most participants were pleased to have a grant writing workshop specific to MT CTF.

### **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, families
  - children, parents/caregivers with disabilities
- Number of individuals who participated in awareness, collective impact, or trainings
- Stories and testimonials
- Successes and challenges
- Meaningful parent leadership
- Qualitative and quantitative data based on identified outcomes and indicators
- Outreach activities, including for special populations and Strengthening Families Month

**Alliance for Youth** exceeded their goal of 90% of parents showing improvement in at least one risk factor by finding that 100% of parents showed such improvement. Most improved in more than one risk factor and many showed improvements in several. Alliance for Youth exceeded their goal of 10,000 community members reached with Child abuse prevention messages by combining messaging on radio, tv, social media, static displays and other outreach materials. to reach 1,633,145 people with messages. Alliance for Youth held 17 official meeting, that had actionable items complete by a collaborative group. Alliance for Youth were able to successfully launch the Yours, Mine, Ours Campaign, conduct a survey, plan and participate in the events of No More Violence week. Alliance for Youth facilitated 6 Parent Cafés with over 90% of parents who participated demonstrating improvement in at least one child abuse protective factor. 100% of parents who participated demonstrated improvement in Social Connections, and 100% of parents demonstrated improvement in at least one more protective factor.

**Best Beginnings Early Childhood Community Coalition protected by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe:** 32 families were enrolled in Family Spirit, 105 home visits were conducted, averaging about an 80% retention rate. 70% of families completed the HOME assessment survey, which involved watching how the family interacts with the child in the home environment, within 3

months of being in the program. Approximately 150 people attended the Glow Run and took all materials and resources offered.

**Butte Community Council:** 168 individuals attended the Day of the Child; 99 individuals attended the Project Service Connect event; and 112 individuals attended the Southwest Montana Early Childhood Conference. 267 people received emails and texts about CAN month and #GoBlue; 120 pinwheels were given out with CAN month and #GoBlue information; there were 730 website hits. 62 unduplicated parents and community members attended the BCC monthly meetings. 34 unduplicated parents and community members attended the monthly Children's Mental Health Committee meetings. 100% of parents completed sign-in sheets; 65% of parents led conversation topics; 100% of parents received information on community resources to support their children and families; and a parent representative from Circle of Parents attended 83% of the monthly Children's Mental Health Committee meetings.

**Dawson County Health Department:** 15 parents and 5 other participants with 32 children and 91% reported the techniques they learned in class improved their child's behavior and 83% reported feeling calmer and not as stressed out. Unfortunately, only one PAT client took advantage of group connections. 4 parents and 5 children checked out backpacks and parenting leadership kits. 12 middle school aged kids took the Safe Sitter class, which taught babysitting skills and CPR. The program partnered with a certified car seat technician, and 4 car seats were installed throughout the fiscal year. 5 news articles were published in the newspaper and 4 articles were submitted to the Health Departments newsletter reaching a total of 25,800 people in our community and surrounding area. 43 Facebook posts received a total of 5898 views. 738 children and 436 parents/caregivers attended The Nurturing Tree's programs. 43 new families participated, and the program served 5 children and 5 parents with disabilities, as well as 15 very high-risk adults that have a history of abuse or domestic violence. 547 children attended Mommy/Daddy and Me activities along with 331 parents/caregivers.

**Family Support Network:** 98% of those who attended parenting classes were Native American. 88% of the attending parents reported the information was presented in an understandable manner and would use or were already using skills learned with their children. 94% reported feeling more effective and confident as parents and discussed during classes how they adjusted some of the parenting techniques and activities to meet the ability levels of their children. 98% reported that they received the information they need and 100% would recommend the class to others. 100% of the parents/caregivers demonstrated empathy toward their children by comforting as needed, assisting children in activities, adjusting activities to meet children's developmental needs and setting limits to assist in behavior management and keep children safe. Parents/caregivers were also observed assisting other children in the class if needed. 6 parents and 10 children to the rescheduled April event, which was affected by adverse weather. 67 children and 51 adults attended the family celebrations in Crow Agency and Wyola. During the sessions and celebrations, approximately 70% of the parents took an active role in helping with set-up, clean-up and assisting with running activities. 100% of the parents encouraged and assisted all the children whether they were their own or not.

**Gallatin Early Childhood Community Council (ECCC):** An early literacy analysis found that 37% of incoming Bozeman Kindergartners are not ready based on the STAR Early Literacy Enterprise assessment. This means that the 37% of children not Kindergarten literacy ready have a 70% chance of not reading at grade-level by third grade. If a child is not reading at grade-level by third grade, they are thirteen times more likely to drop out of school. Over the grant period, ECCC distributed over 300 books via ECCC partner organizations to at-risk children in the community. ECCC supported the opening of the newly constructed Little Rangers Learning Center in West Yellowstone by connecting two donors resulting in \$10,000 to support learning materials needed for the classrooms. The new center will hold 70 students, twice as many as before, and will serve a Hispanic population that makes up nearly 30% of the population. With AWARE and Little Rangers Learning Center, ECCC contributed to the addition of 43 new child care spots in Gallatin County exceeding the goal by 6 spots. Over the grant period, ECCC established relationships with two local businesses – Zoot Enterprises in Bozeman and Printing For Less (PFL) in Livingston to learn about how and why they offer onsite care. ECCC's goal is to connect other businesses considering onsite care with Zoot and PFL, so they may offer guidance and support to help with the process and create additional child care spots in the area.

**Head Start, Inc.:** 15 Head Start, Inc. staff were trained and certified in The Incredible Years Basic Parenting program. The Incredible Years Basic Parenting Classes were offered at all 4 Head Start, Inc. locations during the program/school year. A Family Advocate and the Disabilities Specialists completed training and certification in *The Incredible Years Parenting of a Preschooler with Autism or Language Delays*. On an end of year parent/caregiver survey, 70% of parents report being very satisfied with their Family Advocate's support in enhancing their parenting skills. Of parents who completed *The Incredible Years* formalized parenting classes: 83% report feeling confident or very confident in their parenting skills after completing the classes; 100% report feeling their bonding/attachment with their preschooler has improved since taking the class; 100% report feeling confident in their ability to manage future behavior problems in the home. 6 Facebook posts reached over 5,500 people.

**Healthy Start Missoula (HSM):** 102 unduplicated children, 20 of which were children with disabilities, attended respite that hadn't attended in the past. 31 of the 84 parents new to respite reported being adult victims of child abuse or domestic violence. 13 families at risk of homelessness were new to respite. Parents reported lower levels of stress directly after respite than they did before respite. The percentage of parents reporting low stress increased from 35% before respite to 88% after respite. The number of parents reporting the highest stress scores reduced from 26% before respite to 6% after respite. These parents that perceived a high level of stress were able to reduce their stress level while their children were safely cared for by Parenting Place staff. Two families were connected to services following the use of respite care. At least 16 families were referred to respite from another parent support program and were already receiving parent support services. 500 Pinwheels for Prevention were distributed, 150 people attended the Pinwheel Party in the Park, which included children's activities, a band, community resources, and swag. 70 people attended the screening of *Resilience*, 49 people attended the State of the Young Child dinner, 20 attended the Ages and

Stages Questionnaire training, and 36 attended the Managing Challenging Behaviors training. Two parents utilizing respite child care wrote and recorded respite radio ads.

**Montana State University Extension:** Two MontGuides were completely developed for new grandparent caregivers on navigating resources and advocating for your grandchildren. One on incarceration was still being typeset and edited. Three newsletters were published, which reach approximately 1,000 grandparent caregivers across the state. Approximately 3,552 unduplicated people accessed the Facebook page. 187 Native American grandparent caregivers were reported to have participated in local support group activities across the state. In addition, 40 Native American grandparents participated in a GrandCares class in Polson. 36 grandparent caregivers were served on the Blackfeet Reservation through emergency funding obtained to assist grandparent families with fuel and food during the major winter storms. A presentation was given at the Montana Behavioral Institute to approximately 30 teachers and school administrators on grandparent caregivers to make them more aware that grandchildren may be considered homeless. 3 grandparent caregivers, 17 support group facilitators, one State Senator, and 15 other state partners attended the State Partners Meeting in Helena.

**Thrive:** 100% of mothers decreased mental health risks. 100% of mothers decreased substance abuse. 96% of mothers decreased tobacco use. 84% of mothers decreased depression/thoughts of suicide. 85% of mothers showed increased understanding of nurturing. 72% of mothers increased understanding of proper nutrition. 100% of children were on track developmentally for gross and fine motor skills, communication, and social and/or emotional skills. 64% of mothers showed improved relationships with family. 73% of mothers showed improved relationship with boyfriend/spouse/father of child. 82% of families increased knowledge of how to properly use community resources. Thrive also ran an article in Montana Parent Magazine from July to April, which was distributed to 12,000 households per month.

### **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.

**Alliance for Youth:** We have worked with a couple in COS-P in which the dad is retired from the military. The family was very behavior focused and did not have adequate understanding of appropriate developmental expectations. This resulted in children who were frustrated since they could not meet these expectations. After completing COS-P, this dad understands what his children are needing from him emotionally as a dad, instead of acting like their drill Sargent. The father and mother are both in agreement on how to meet these emotional needs and are recognizing that the behavior they focused on is driven by needs. As a result, both parents work to meet the children's emotional need first so that the discipline is more effective.

**Butte Community Council:** One excerpts from a parent letter shows how valuable and meaningful Circle of Parents is. Three full letters are provided in the attachment.

My twins Brooke and Hailee have Cystic Fibrosis. Cystic Fibrosis is a rare genetic disorder that affects mostly the lungs but also the pancreas, liver, kidneys, and intestines. As my girls get older and the CF progresses, it will affect all of their organs. CF is terminal and currently there is no cure. Brooke and Hailee are 12 years old but look around 9 or 10. They both do nebulizer treatments and chest therapy two to four times a day. They also take around 50 pills a day. They both have two types of Diabetes: Cystic Fibrosis Related Diabetes and MODY (maturity onset diabetes of the young). They also have depression and severe anxiety. Last but not least, Brooke has ADHD, ODD, and learning disabilities.

When I first learned about Circle of Parents, I didn't know if I would like it. I thought to myself, *I will try it once and see how it goes*. From the first day, I fell in love with this group. I felt connected. I felt like I wasn't alone. I love my kids, but somedays life can be so hard and overwhelming that I feel so alone. I finally found a place where they understand my hard days, and I can relate to these families. I have built a bond that feels like home. When I felt like my life was full of twists and turns, ups and downs, and that I couldn't digest anything else, Circle of Parents showed me an open hand and gave me a safe haven. I have learned so much from Circle of Parents. I have been given ample information that will help my twins down the road and I have learned about more doctors that they can see. I feel like I am a part of something so big and so amazing. We all have this amazing safe place together and we understand each other. Circle of Parents helps parents like me survive our hectic, chaotic days. This group is an outlet that can't be replaced. Circle of Parents is a lifeline, it is home, it is family, and it is a piece of my heart. I can't say thank you enough for how it has changed my life.

**Dawson County Health Department:** A Parents as Teachers client, a single mother of one boy, who has had past issues holding a job, moved here with no support and no driver's license, received her GED, has held a job for almost 9 months and has passed her test for a learner's driver's license. She credits PAT for helping her achieve these goals. She had to take the bus to take her son to daycare then on to the college to study and finally back home. It took her many months, but she stuck with it and ended up passing the test. She has had much turmoil at work, but we used the PAT curriculum to work through many of the issues, and she has learned to take a breath or even a day before reacting to situations. Although she gives us much credit for the support provided, I truly think her self-determination has also propelled her forward.

**Family Support Network:** One of the families reported instituting a list of family rules and incorporating the children's choices and opinions in making the rules, consequences and rewards. The parents were impressed with how well their children were willing to follow the rules and how one of their children reminded dad that he was part of the family and since one of their rules was that the family sat together to eat dinner at the table, then dad had to eat with them and not sit by the television. Dad joined them at the table.

**Healthy Start Missoula:** A few months ago, we started working with a family of seven. Five children, including two young boys on the autism spectrum, have since then been attending respite care one or two times a week. The first few evenings, the children had a hard time adjusting to the new space. Gradually increasing their time spent here with and without their

parents, we were able to help them successfully adjust to our staff and facility. Now, the children show up and will run up to staff to tell them about their days or show us things they learned at school or gymnastics. Their parents have told me repeatedly that they feel confident bringing their children here because our staff is trained to work with high-needs children and our facility has recently adapted to cater to the needs of children with sensory issues.

For six months, we worked with separated parents and their daughter. She attended respite care two times per week consistently. Her parents shared that we were a necessity in reducing stress by giving them a break and giving them a safe way to conduct a custody exchange. At the end of the six months, the mother's Bipolar Disorder surfaced. She showed up to pick up her daughter emotional, distraught, disoriented, and hysterical. Our first priority is the safety of the children. We were concerned for the child and in turn, reported this incident to the local authorities and Child and Family Services. We lost contact with the family for about six months. Recently, we got a call from the mother who informed us she received a Bipolar Disorder diagnosis, is being medicated, and is attending personal therapy. She looks at respite care as such a necessity for her and her family that she will be starting to use our services once again.

**Montana State University Extension:** This year, one grandmother stated that when she joined her support group two years ago she did not know what she was capable of. At the end of 2017, she had represented grandparents at our state GRG partners meeting and was accepted into the national Generations United Advisory Group representing Montana. Generations United is working with her to attend the national Grand Rally in 2018 in Washington DC. This is a true impact in that the grandmother who cared for her grandchildren and her husband who was in ill health can go from a state of crisis to advocacy.

One participant was having a hard time getting an IEP meeting set up with her granddaughter's school. After several ineffective meetings and feeling like her concerns for her granddaughter were not being heard we had a Akido and DESC communication lesson. She returned the following week and had this to say, "I used appreciation statements, I statements and made sure not to put blame on the teachers or administration; and as a result I have a daily email from each of my granddaughter's teachers. I used the DESC strategy to get help for my granddaughter with hopes of getting an IEP set up for her by using the Akido and DESC tools."

**Thrive:** Kate's referral only stated "post-partum depression". During our first few visits, I began to better understand that Kate had been struggling with depression for quite some time, and that things had only become more difficult after giving birth to her daughter, who was 6 months old. Kate shared that she felt immense stress daily, as well as feeling overwhelmed and not enjoying motherhood. She continued to share that she felt socially isolated and didn't feel that had anyone to talk to or relate with. Kate had been seeing a therapist but had to quit her job to care for her daughter. Kate's husband made \$40 over the income limit for Medicaid.

Kate began to have severe nightmares and started hearing voices. These voices encouraged her to not care for her daughter; they told her to leave her daughter in her crib crying alone, or to avoid feeding her. Using a recent grant award, Thrive was able to pay for a few sessions with Kate's counselor, as well as childcare during therapy. Things got a little better for Kate.

However, she still had a feeling that her medication wasn't quite right. She still wasn't getting good sleep and the voices in her head would return off and on. Kate would often text or call me late at night, sobbing and frightened. We would immediately make plans for another counseling session and ensure that Kate knew what her resources were in times of emergency.

When Kate was feeling at her best, we discussed positive self-talk, journaling, exercise, future goals, healthy cooking, self-care, etc. Things were going really well, and then a few big family circumstances arose. Kate hit another dark place in her depression. The voices returned, and this time they seemed worse. Kate shared concerns for other mental health diagnosis and her wonder for if these things ran in her genetics. Kate also continued to have concerns about her medications. With much encouragement, Kate made an appointment with a psychiatrist. Kate was able to meet with a psychiatrist and not only adjust her medication to proper doses and types, but have questions answered related to her family's history with mental health struggles.

Fast forward to Spring 2018 and Kate is doing so well! She is getting good sleep, the voices have left, and she has an incredibly positive outlook on her future. She is maintaining a part time job, practicing self-care regularly, and beginning to open up more with others about the struggles related to post-partum depression. She knows that post-partum depression may return if she decides to have another child, but she feels better prepared. Kate feels confident knowing more about herself and her mental health. She has shared that Thrive and its access to mental health grants saved her. She is ready to move forward in life with more confidence and a stronger grasp on her mental health.

## 9. Strengthening Families Month and Public Awareness Activities

<b>Individuals who received public awareness or public education activities</b>	<b>3,367,958</b>
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### Strengthening Families Month

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

- Wrote a state example about the Halloween Fun Fest resource fair for the 2018 Prevention Resource Guide from Child Welfare Information Gateway.
- Received \$10,000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana for Strengthening Families Month activities
- Planted 1,500 pinwheels around the Montana State Capitol lawn during Strengthening Families Month
- Participated in a resource fair at the Montana State Capitol Building
- Provided 4,000 pinwheels, as well as t-shirts, pinwheel lapel pins, bibs, protective factor pens, 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 lesson plans afterschool programs across the state
- Reached out to churches and faith-based organizations across the state for Blue Sunday

- Held a series of statewide conference calls to connect organizations and coordinate Strengthening Families Month activities
- Maintained an online statewide calendar of Strengthening Families Month events
- Piloted Blue Specials with local businesses during Strengthening Families Month
- Participated on the planning committee for the Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Conference
- Acknowledged champions of Montana's children at the CAN Conference
- Distributed promotional and educational materials at the CAN Conference, Title-1 Conference, and various other conferences
- 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, the campaign was advertised on statewide public, local and cable TV stations and radio stations. MT CTF also placed an ad in the Montana Parent Magazine. For just under \$14,000, MT CTF received over \$65,000 through taxpayer contributions.

**Abusive Head Trauma Prevention:** MT CTF distributed *Period of PURPLE Crying* DVDs, apps, and posters, as well as Never Shake rack cards and magnets. During the reporting period, MT CTF distributed approximately 270 DVDs, 70 apps, 10 posters, and 10,000 rack cards and magnets across the state. In addition, 48 Coming of the Blessing booklets were distributed. During the reporting period, MT CTF redesigned the rack card to be more functional, as well as more aligned with the Science of the Positive. It will be a standalone piece but can also be inserted into the *Period of PURPLE Crying* DVDs and apps. The rack card is in the feedback stage of design.

**Not Even for a Minute (NEFAM) Campaign:** MT CTF distributed approximately 1,500 rack cards and 100 posters for the 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. MT CTF also placed an ad in the Montana Parent Magazine, which is delivered to approximately 12,000 households per month, and approximately 1,000 people view the magazine electronically each month. MT CTF recruited an intern to increase the social media portion of this campaign.

**Halloween Fun Fest:** MT CTF hosted a [Halloween carnival](#) that doubled as a resource fair in Helena. 13 community resources provided information to an estimated 1200 adults and children at the event. \$2,650 was raised, as well as in-kind sponsorships and donations valued at approximately \$3,000. Activities included games, face painting, cake walk, costume swap, a scavenger hunt, a food drive, and a free flu shot clinic. 114 pounds of food was raised for Helena Food Share. 53 adults and 48 children took advantage of the free flu shots, given by Lewis & Clark Public Health in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana. Over 800 books of various reading levels were also given to children attending the event.

In an effort to maintain a statewide focus, MT CTF gathered stakeholders to gauge interest in organizing the event. Montana WILD, who had hosted a Halloween event in the past but desired an increase in participation in their activities, came forward to host the event with the help of PEERS Unlimited, which provides opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. With a new outdoorsy twist, Halloween Fun Fest became Howl-o-ween Fun Fest, but kept the same overall goal: a free, fun, and accessible event for all families to enjoy and connect with local resources. MT CTF was able to transfer contacts, knowledge, supplies, and assist in conducting Facebook outreach for the event.

**Social Media:** MT CTF Facebook fans grew from 634 to 798 in FY18, a 26% increase. Fans are scattered all over Montana, however nearly half live in Helena. Fans are 87% women and 12% men, and similarly the people reached are 89% women and 10% men. The largest age group amongst both fans and people reached is 25-34 followed by people aged 35-44.

The total Facebook reach was 94,115 with the highest reach occurring April and May due to Strengthening Families Month 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 events; 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 1,796,647 people through their awareness efforts. Outreach numbers include individuals who were reached multiple times.

## 10. Challenges and Barriers

MT CTF experienced two main challenges in FY18: staffing and state general fund cuts.

Staffing reductions continue to be a challenge for MT CTF. Although Melissa Lavinder accepted the permanent, full-time Grants Manager position and has been able to reexamine processes and prioritize statewide projects, activities such as proactive grantee technical assistance need to be bolstered. MT CTF is planning to conduct a technical assistance survey with new grantees

in July 2018. MT CTF also recently received approval to hire a part-time program assistant, which will allow the Grants Manager to focus on technical assistance and other activities outlined in the MT CTF Strategic Plan.

Due to revenue shortfalls as well as the most horrific fire season Montana has ever seen, budget cuts put MT CTF and many critical services at risk. These cuts took effect in November 2017. Although a large portion of state general funds were returned to programs within DPHHS, MT CTF state general funds were not reinstated during this federal fiscal year. Staff received notice that \$70,000 of the original \$110,000 state general fund will be returned to the MT CTF budget on July 1, 2019.

## 11. Attachments

Copies of the following are attached in pdf format:

- MT CTF Strategic Plan
- DPHHS Strategic Plan: Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect in Montana
- MT CTF Parent Testimonials and Positive Stories