



Health Advisory Commission

Senator Bob Keenan
Senator Carl Glimm
Senator Mary McNally

Representative Frank Garner, Chair
Representative Matt Regier
Representative Terry Moore
Representative Mary Caferro

Adam Meier, DPHHS Director, Vice Chair
Anita Milanovich, General Counsel
Charlie Brereton, Policy Advisor

July 26, 2021

Director Adam Meier
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59602-0801

Dear Director Meier,

The Health Advisory Commission met on July 26, 2021 to consider American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Pursuant to HB 632, the Commission makes the following recommendations:

1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Early Intervention Funding

Allocate \$1,218,273 to Montana Milestones/Part C for increased Child Find events and outreach, summer bridge activities for three-year-olds, increase Family Outcomes Survey participation, support for infant and toddler mental health professional development, to conduct an assessment with recommendations addressing how best to serve children with special needs, and to the extent allowable by federal law, to provide funding for workforce bonuses.

2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

Allocate \$310,026 in CAPTA funds to expand and enhance Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) and Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) in Montana, provide training and technical support to existing MDT and CACs, expand safety science methods to MDTs and CACs, and increase forensic interview trainings.

3. Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) Funding

Allocate \$1,000,000 per year for five years in supplemental STD funding to support the hiring, training, and technical assistance of Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) to address priority areas of Montana in need of additional DIS personnel to combat and prevent communicable disease, including COVID-19.

4. ELC Reopening Schools: Support for Screening and Testing to Reopen and Keep Schools

Allocate \$14,485,981, which is 50 percent of the remaining, unallocated supplemental grant, to support COVID-19 screening and testing to reopen schools and ensure their safe operation. DPHHS shall issue disbursements on an as-needed basis to ensure enrolled school districts and private schools can access funds in a timely manner in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year.

5. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Administration funds for FY 2022 and FY 2023

Allocate \$1,634,195.64 in SNAP administration funds. These funds will enable the department to expand the SNAP Employment and Training program across the state to assist members of SNAP households to gain skills, training, or work experience necessary to increase their ability to obtain regular employment and earnings that lead to self-sufficiency. The program expansion will be built on a framework that will lead to sustained expansion of the program into the future without reliance on state funds.

The Commission certifies that this proposal presently qualifies for funding pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act and all available guidance.

Sincerely,



Representative Frank Garner
Health Advisory Commission Chair