



## Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)

### FY 2019 Annual Report

January 30, 2020

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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 Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Grants. 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 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 currently represent all six Child and Family Services regions in Montana.

Throughout this reporting period, MT CTF focused leadership efforts on collective impact and collaborations via a diverse network of individuals and public and private organizations, building awareness around prevention activities and messages, as well as 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 make a greater impact with limited resources. 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

With limited staff and resources, MT CTF cannot perform its work in a bubble. Woven throughout each of the following sections is collective impact and collaboration with other state entities or nonprofits, which has proven to be vital in providing effective services in Montana. The nature of these relationships will be laid out in more detail in Section 3: Collaborations and Partnerships.

### **Strategic Funding**

MT CTF’s goal is to support sustainable, effective programs aligned with safety, permanency, well-being, and continuous quality improvement. This network of funded programs is balanced across the state. Given the size of Montana and its rural nature, MT CTF funded geographically diverse family support programs that were sensitive to the needs and gaps of the communities they served.

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 have been the subject of reports and investigations of child abuse and neglect but did not have an open or substantiated case at the time of service.

### **Community-Based Grants**

MT CTF grantees entered the last year of a three-year grant cycle for community-based organizations using evidence-based and evidence-informed practices to provide primary and secondary child abuse and neglect prevention. Additionally, one-year grants were provided to foster systemic change and further strengthen early childhood coalitions. Two of MT CTF's funded programs went on to become supported by Children's Special Health Services and Child and Family Services Division. At the end of this reporting period, a new cohort of grantees were in a startup phase. While information will be provided on how these programs were selected, their outcomes will not be reported until the next fiscal year.

**Request for Proposal.** Based on feedback from previous and current grantees as well as a committee of board members, MT CTF improved its Request for Proposals by eliminating redundant sections, requesting work plans post-award notice, adding a service area risk score, and increasing the grant award amount and length. MT CTF also required uniform outcome and program assessments, the use of a statewide bi-direction referral system called CONNECT, and alignment with the Strengthening Families Framework. Future implementation of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework includes requiring funded programs to take the free online training: Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your work.

### **Trauma-Informed Care**

Building on a project from the previous fiscal year, MT CTF provided funding to Early Childhood Services Bureau at DPHHS to develop training on trauma-informed care and the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome-Abusive Head Trauma for early childhood professionals. *Building Skills and Safe Spaces* online training module, which was developed in the previous fiscal year, was utilized by 29 Pyramid Model Coaches and STARS Consultants during this reporting period and is now a requirement for all future Pyramid Model Coaches and STARS Consultants. This partnership also resulted in expanded resources on ParentingMontana.org for parents and caregivers of children aged birth to 4 years old.

### **Safe Sleep**

MT CTF provided funding to Family and Community Health Bureau at DPHHS for 262 Safe Sleep Kits to be distributed to home visitors at 14 local Health Departments across the state, including in low-income, rural, and tribal communities. The initial funding provided by MT CTF sparked cross agency support for the campaign. The Safe Sleep Kits included a Cribs for Kids Cribbette,

SleepSack, a sheet with safe sleep message, safe sleep photo magnet, Philips Soothie Pacifier, safe sleep booklet, and a “Sleep Baby Safe and Snug” children’s book.

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

In addition to the trauma-informed care training modules described above, MT CTF provided funding for many other training opportunities for family support professionals from general nonprofit management and fundraising to parental engagement and professional skill building.

### **Grantees**

MT CTF utilized site visits and semi-annual reporting to evaluate how funded 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.

Once programs were selected for the new five-year grant cycle, which began on July 1, 2019, grantees were sent a voluntary training and technical assistance survey to gauge their knowledge and interest in learning about various topics. MT CTF also recorded a tutorial on completing invoices and budget modification requests. This has cut back on common questions that arise on this topic.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) did not require a work plan to be submitted, rather the selected programs were expected to submit a work plan one month after receiving the contract. This allowed for staff to provide technical assistance, feedback, and examples that had scored high in previous RFPs.

### **Annual Grantees Meeting**

MT CTF’s Annual Grantees Meeting was held in August 2019 in conjunction with the Great Beginnings Great Families (GBGF) Conference. This provided an opportunity for 35 people (as well as approximately 15 attendees via Skype) including all funded programs, prospective grantees, and even state program managers to network and receive training on the Revised Protective Factor Survey and the Continuous Quality Improvement and Parent Leadership subscales of Understanding the Role of Program Assessment in Child Abuse Prevention: Tools for Peer Review and Beyond, which are new MT CTF requirements for outcome and program assessment. To provide this training, MT CTF took advantage of FRIENDS training services, which resulted in cost savings and the ability to train additional people. MT CTF offered all attendees of the Annual Grantees Meeting a scholarship to attend the GBGF Conference, which included registration and travel. This allowed current and prospective grantees to attend sessions based on their specific program needs.

**Protective Factor Survey Online Database.** MT CTF was one of five states chosen to pilot the online database for the Protective Factor Survey. MT CTF worked with FRIENDS National Resource Center to provide a tutorial on registering and using the database, as a follow-up

webinar to our Annual Grantees Meeting. 15 people attended the webinar, and multiple grantees have reported watching the recording again to walk them through setting up their profile. They have also reported appreciating having a video format, rather than just a manual.

### **GBGF Conference**

MT CTF sponsored, offered scholarships, and participated on the planning committee for the GBGF Conference, which is targeted toward service providers working with families, young children, or women of reproductive age. Topics included maternal mental health, adolescent health programs, sexual health and education, prevention programs, human trafficking, designing fatherhood programs, nutrition, food allergies, trauma-informed and trauma-responsive organizations, historical and intergenerational trauma of Native Americans, implicit bias, ethical decision making, and brave leadership.

In addition to the above trainings, MT CTF funded, sponsored, provided scholarships, and/or provided travel reimbursement for other training opportunities, including:

### **Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference**

MT CTF sponsored and participated on the planning committee for the Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference. MT CTF also awarded individuals, a nonprofit organization, and a business for their contributions to strengthening Montana's families and keeping children safe. The annual conference draws attendees made up of child protection workers, foster/adoptive parents, direct service providers, and Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardians ad Litem. 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.

### **ChildWise Institute Fall Summit**

MT CTF sponsored ChildWise Institute's Fall Summit: Impact of Sexual Trauma. Topics included were: Impact of child sexual abuse, Sexual exploitation through technology, and Human trafficking. The conference boasted clinical, educator, and community breakout sessions. Although the content was heavy, counselors were on site to visit with any attendee who needed it. The conference planners and speakers also succeeded in weaving in primary and secondary prevention discussion in their sessions.

### **Montana Nonprofit Association Conference**

MT CTF sponsored the Montana Nonprofit Association Conference in October 2018 by providing funding for a trainer and scholarships for grantees to attend. Topics revolved around nonprofit management and included: Building a resilient team, Strategic Marketing and

Communications, Fundraising, and Becoming a champion of change. MNA scholarships have seen little interest from current and prospective grantees over the past two years, so MT CTF does not foresee its continued sponsorship in the future.

## **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.

### **Abusive Head Trauma Prevention**

MT CTF funded the [redesign of the Crying Card](#) to include a diverse representation of families, a fillable plan for caregivers, tips for crying infants, and state and national crisis text and call lines. Before printing, MT CTF collaborated with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies to create the original design idea and the two partners vetted the final design and concept through home visitors, tribal service providers, and other state entities. In the second half of the reporting period, MT CTF distributed 2,000 Crying Cards across the state.

### **Public Events**

MT CTF funded or sponsored, coordinated, promoted, presented, and/or provided information at various trainings and events, including:

- Annual MT CTF Grantees Meeting
- Great Beginnings Great Families Conference
- Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference
- ChildWise Fall Summit: Impact of Sexual Trauma
- Safe Schools Summit
- Ready 2 Read Rendezvous
- Montana Prevention Fall Symposium
- Montana Nonprofit Association Conference
- 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, “Resilience” and “Broken Places” film screenings with panels, awards ceremony, and Blue Sunday
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference
- Local resource fair in Ekalaka in partnership with the local FCCLA Chapter



## Media

**Print publications.** MT CTF utilized a mailing campaign to reach out to churches and faith-based organizations for Blue Sunday. Local newspapers picked up Strengthening Families Month and Not Even for a Minute press releases.

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

**Television.** MT CTF advertised with Montana Television Network (MTN) for the [#GoBlue Campaign](#), [Go Blue Mondays](#), and Income Tax Check-Off Campaign ([“What can you do with a dollar?”](#) and [“Helping Hands”](#)).

**Web.** Although MT CTF’s [website](#) receives minimal 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 [Facebook page](#) saw an 8% increase in 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 statewide happenings.

In addition to the above efforts, MT CTF required all grantees to have a public awareness plan to show how their programs intended 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.

## 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 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, intentional collaboration and communication must occur on a regular basis. The nature of these collaborative relationships will be described in more detail in Section 3: Collaborations and Partnerships.

MT CTF continues to improve the delivery of community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities by focusing on research and data, strategic funding mechanisms, and programming that prioritizes strengthening families and communities to ensure the healthy development of children statewide, while seeking to highlight that everyone plays a role in raising children no matter their profession.

## **Becoming a Data-Informed State**

Although collecting and analyzing data takes a great deal of time and effort, 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.

### **Parenting Montana**

MT CTF participated 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. The scope of this project was informed by a [Montana Parent Survey](#). 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.

The first phase of this project, which was completed during the reporting period were tools for parents of school-aged children. Tools for parents of children aged zero to four will launch in February 2020. The Abusive Head Trauma Prevention social norms project funded by MT CTF will also inform tools related to crying infants on the Parenting Montana website.

### **Strengthening Montana's Early Childhood System Project**

Under the 2019 Preschool Development Birth through Five grant from the Administration for Children and Families, a needs assessment and strategic plan were created that speak to strengths and gaps related to access to early care and education, its quality, workforce, coordination, family engagement, commitment, and governance. MT CTF participated in several meetings, alongside stakeholders from across the state, to inform the needs assessment and strategic plan including Best Beginnings Advisory Council meetings, a Childcare Solutions Summit, a formal Tribal Consultation on Early Childhood Systems, and a Family Engagement Forum. Unfortunately, Montana received word in December that it was not one of the states selected for continued funding for early childhood systems work.

The goals within the strategic plan are that which are within the scope of DPHHS and include:

- Increase access to and participation in high quality early care and education across a mixed delivery system
- Montana has a confident and effective early childhood workforce

- The early childhood system is coordinated to support effective family assessment, system navigation, care coordination, and use of data
- Families are engaged and valued as partners in the early childhood system
- Communities make early childhood a priority, and act to support children’s health, learning, and well-being.

### **Geospatial Analysis of Risk and Protective Factors**

When drafting the most recent Request for Proposals (RFP), MT CTF researched data to give higher risk communities and those with less resources or experienced grant writers a greater opportunity of being funded. Staff found that if there was data to support it, MT CTF could prioritize specific areas in Montana by allocating a predetermined amount of points to them in the application process. To come up with the point system, MT CTF worked with an epidemiologist who has a working relationship with DPHHS Child and Family Services Division, to assign points to counties based on maltreatment rates, state involvement rates, high school dropout rates, poverty rates, divorce rates, violent crime rates, alcohol outlet density, and the rural nature of counties. MT CTF plans to continue this work with a Geographic Information System (GIS) Analyst and other state partners to identify conditions that are affecting the child maltreatment rates of communities and those that are contributing to their resilience. It is MT CTF’s hope that not only will this inform MT CTF funding decisions and focus areas, but that of other state and local prevention programs.

### **Grantees Measurements**

In the most recent Request for Proposals (RFP), MT CTF required the use of common outcome and program assessment tools to obtain more cohesive data from grantees. As these grantees just started their contracts at the end of this reporting period, outcomes will not be provided until next fiscal year.

**Outcome Assessment.** Funded programs were required to utilize the Revised Protective Factors Survey. Although they were not required to select all the subscales within the survey, the data received is anticipated to be easier to work with when demonstrating the impact of funding dollars. The use of the Online Database will also reduce some of the reporting workload of funded programs.

**Program Assessment.** Funded programs were required to utilize the Parent Leadership and Continuous Quality Improvement subscales from the FRIENDS National Resource Center tool, Understanding the Role of Program Assessment in Child Abuse Prevention: Tools for Peer Review and Beyond. They have collected the baseline data and chosen areas for improvement to report on annually.

**Montana Children’s Health Data Partnership (MCHDP) Project.** Stakeholders, some of which included MT CTF grantees, from across Montana came together in 2018 to develop actionable, early childhood performance measures to improve the social determinants of

health for children. Funded programs were asked to identify one of the following measures they would work to improve upon over the course of the grant cycle and report on annually.

- Low birth weight babies
- Post-partum visits within 56 days
- Access to quality care/early education
- 3rd grade reading levels
- Immunizations on-time by age 2
- Quality well child check
- Home visits: Evidence-based
- 0-5 Foster care rate
- 0-5 Homeless rate
- WIC rates- usage
- Prenatal care initiated in the 1st trimester

### **In-Home and Community-Based Trainings to Support Montana Families**

MT CTF embarked on a project to elevate home visitor competencies in Montana, as well as that of other professionals and community members that may interact with families in their homes. MT CTF worked with the Family Community Health Bureau that oversees Healthy Montana Families and the University of Montana Center for Children, Family, and Workforce Development to design and conduct a survey to home visitors to determine their training needs. From this survey, the partners developed a plan for web-based and in-person trainings, as well as web-based coaching on topics such as Motivational Interviewing, family diversity, substance abuse, mental health, and child development. The bulk of this work will occur in FY2020, and so will be reported next year.

### **Funding Mechanism**

MT CTF's mission is to strategically support initiatives to effectively strengthen Montana's families and keep children safe from abuse and neglect. MT CTF accomplished this by focusing funding on state-level projects and community-based grants.

#### **State-Level Projects**

**Trauma-Informed Care.** As stated in Section 1, Strategic Funding, MT CTF collaborated with Early Childhood Services Bureau to develop training for early childhood professionals on trauma-informed care and the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome-Abusive Head Trauma. As this training is required for Pyramid Model Coaches and STARS Consultants, this investment will continue to positively impact the quality early care and education for years to come.

**Safe Sleep.** As stated in Section 1, Strategic Funding, MT CTF collaborated with Family and Community Health Bureau to distribute Safe Sleep Kits to home visitors across the state, but with priority to low-income, rural, and tribal communities. MT CTF saw this as an

opportunity to not only provide concrete supports to families that needed them, but also to provide an incentive to access home visiting services.

### **Community-Based Grants**

**2018-2019 Grantees.** Grantees were required to provide a 40% non-federal match, 50% of which was required to be hard cash. Administrative fees were limited to 10%. Grantees submitted invoices at least quarterly for reimbursement. Semi-annual and final reports were required.

**2019-2020 Grantees.** The application process for community-based grants changed significantly during the reporting period, as described in Section 1, Strategic Funding. The grant cycle increased from 3 years to 5 years, the maximum grant award increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000, and the required match for Year 1 increased from 5% to 10% non-federal hard cash match. The required matches for Years 2, 3, and 4-5 are 25%, 40%, and 50% respectively. The match for Years 2-5 may include up to 50% in-kind sources. Administrative fees remained limited to 10%. Grantees will continue to submit invoices at least quarterly for reimbursement. Semi-annual and final reports are still required, however the lift for reporting quantified data should be reduced, as MT CTF has required the use of the Revised Protective Factor Survey and the Protective Factor Survey Online Database.

## **Legislation Related to Children and Families**

Although MT CTF does not conduct advocacy efforts, legislation has important implications for MT CTF and Montana families. Provided below are some important pieces of legislation relating to children and families from Montana's 66<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, which ran from January to April 2019.

### **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) is vitally important for Montana, which has one of the highest per capita placement rates for children in foster care. MT CTF was included in internal and external stakeholder meetings for FFPSA and had conversations with leadership at the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD). In response to FFPSA, the Montana Legislature passed [House Bill 604](#), legislation requiring the Department of Public Health and Human Services to create a strategic plan to develop and expand prevention programs.

### **Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse**

[House Bill 640](#) revised the statute of limitations laws to allow for delayed reporting in child sexual abuse, increased penalties to felonies against mandatory reporters who fail to act in child sexual abuse cases, required CFSD to notify the County Attorney of child sexual abuse allegations received, and required county attorneys and CFSD to retain records of child sexual abuse allegations for 25 years.

Tara's Law, or [House Bill 298](#), was passed in Montana's 65<sup>th</sup> Legislature in April 2017. The law requires Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to create a curriculum to educate elementary school children about sexual abuse, including steps to report when they are experiencing it. The law was passed with no funding, however OPI has two online courses available for educators regarding child sexual abuse and trafficking.

### **Healthy Pregnancies**

The Safe Harbor Bill, [Senate Bill 267](#), was signed into law and allows women who are pregnant with a substance use disorder to seek evaluation, treatment or support services without the fear of being charged criminally. The expected results of the law are that more pregnant women will receive treatment, and fewer children will be taken into state custody.

### **Early Education and Child Care**

[House Bill 225](#) and [755](#), measures to fund preschool, were both tabled in the House Education Committee. Other bills that would have provided options to school districts to fund preschool, such as [House Bill 177](#), were also tabled. The conversation continues among advocates and state leaders related to public preschool options.

A bill to study child care and transitions to preschool and K-12, [House Joint Resolution 60](#), died when the legislative session ended early. This bill would have examined the economic impacts on families caused by the shortage of child care in Montana.

### **Resilient Parents and Families**

Several bills were passed that help Montana families raise healthy children:

- [House Bill 54](#), [21](#), and [20](#) improve standards for missing person reports, specifically strengthening reporting standards for missing indigenous women;
- [House Bill 583](#) directs the executive branch to collect data for children receiving targeted case management, to better understand outcomes and shape future policy;
- [House Bill 726](#) extends the obligation to pay child support for children with disabilities if they remain in the home of the custodial parent. These payments help stabilize families by reducing the financial stress of caring for children with severe disabilities; and
- House Bill 604 directs Montana DPHHS to develop a strategic plan to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act (see above).

Another significant bill was [House Bill 208](#), which would have ensured paid family and medical leave insurance for the workforce. The bill was tabled in committee but would have helped Montana parents and businesses during periods of family sickness or childbirth.

### **Suicide Prevention**

[House Bill 696](#), directly funding suicide prevention efforts became law this session. The measure appropriated \$500,000 to existing suicide prevention programs, ensuring that

Montana does not lose ground on earlier investments in addressing Montana’s high suicide rate. [House Bill 660](#), which indirectly addresses suicide by funding mental health crisis needs for communities in need appropriated another \$500,000 to create a grant program that supports mobile crisis units. The text of the bill ensures that at least one grant will go to a rural area.

## Medicaid

The Medicaid measure [House Bill 658](#) ensured that 100,000 Montanans would not lose access to affordable healthcare. This bill emerged as the vehicle for continuing Medicaid expansion when House Bill 425 was tabled in committee.

One other significant bill that became law was [Senate Bill 30](#), which created a funding source for peer support services under Medicaid. These services employ peer support specialists to work with individuals coping with a substance use disorder (SUD). These peer specialists have successfully treated their own SUDs and can offer valuable insight on seeking and sticking with treatment to people on their road to recovery.

## 2019-2020 Interim

The Legislative Council assigned four relevant studies to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee:

- [House Joint Resolution 32](#), a study of neonatal abstinence syndrome;
- House Joint Resolutions [48](#) and [49](#), studies of various elements of the child protective services system; and
- [Senate Bill 202](#), a study of the Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act.

## 3. Collaborations and Partnerships

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFSR/PIP                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Families, Head Start                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IV_B/PSSF  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Head Start  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Launch     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CFSP                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APSR   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health/ACES |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Community |
|   |   | <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. MT CTF continued building and strengthening new and existing collaborations and networks of partners to better leverage the resources in Montana. Partnerships range from information sharing, material distribution, and/or communication to contracts, MOUs, and/or the leveraging of funds to meet common goals. 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 and collective work. 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).

## **Internal Partners**

### **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)**

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. The ICC Work Group facilitates functional communication among involved agencies, departments and local entities throughout the State. It is charged with developing 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.

**Parenting Montana.** Through the ICC Work Group, MT CTF identified opportunities for collective impact such as Parenting Montana, a statewide campaign to reduce underage drinking by focusing on parenting skills and social emotional tools organized around the Positive Cultural Framework. The website and tools for caregivers of school-aged children went live in January 2019. During this reporting period, tools for caregivers of children age birth to 4 were being developed and are anticipated to go live in Spring 2020. Surveys to inform future tools for foster parents and caregivers of children with disabilities, and Abusive Head Trauma prevention are being conducted. Currently [ParentingMontana.org](http://ParentingMontana.org) receives approximately 2,000 hits per month.

### **State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)**

During the reporting period, MT CTF joined the SHIP Healthy Mothers, Babies, and Youth/ACEs Work Group. The purpose of the work group is to maintain a living work plan and align efforts and resources to improve health outcomes. The goals are to 1) decrease unintended pregnancies by increasing the use of effective contraception methods; 2) increase home visiting services for all Montana Families; 3) increase education and awareness of the importance of prenatal care, birth outcomes, postpartum care, and childhood health; 4) increase childhood and adolescent immunizations; and 5) decrease maternal and child health disparities among American Indian populations.

### **Early Childhood Services Bureau (ECSB)**

**Trauma-Informed Care.** MT CTF worked with Early Childhood Services Bureau to develop training on trauma-informed care and the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome-Abusive Head Trauma for early childhood professionals. This partnership also enhanced the



expanded resources on ParentingMontana.org for parents and caregivers of children aged birth to 4 years old.

**Best Beginnings Advisory Council (BBAC).** BBAC serves as the comprehensive early childhood advisory council and will serve as the collaborating entity for the early childhood system. The council includes representation from interested constituency groups, governmental agencies, the public at large, child care providers, state and local government, and tribal communities. MT CTF participates in the BBAC meetings and is a member of its Family Engagement Work Group. During this reporting period, MT CTF had the opportunity to inform the Strengthening Montana's Early Childhood System Project and the Family Engagement Guiding Principles and Definition.

### **Family and Community Health Bureau (FCHB)**

**Safe Sleep.** Working with the FCHB and Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, MT CTF provided the initial funding for 262 Safe Sleep Kits to be distributed to home visitors at 14 local Health Departments. This sparked cross agency support for the campaign, as Healthy Montana Families Home Visiting, Maternal and Child Health, and the Montana Department of Justice provided funding during the reporting period.

**Great Beginnings Great Families Conference.** The statewide conference represented collaboration between MT CTF and FCHB programs, including Children's Special Health Services, Healthy Montana Families Home Visiting Program, Maternal and Child Health, Women's and Men's Health and Montana's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The conference focuses on improving the health and well-being and increasing healthy behaviors of Montanans.

### **Office of Public Instruction**

**State Management Team (SMT).** The goal of the SMT for the Montana SOARS (Project AWARE) Grant was to build and expand capacity at the state and local levels to make schools safer and improve school climate, increase awareness of mental health issues, and connect children and youth with mental, emotional, and behavioral health issues with needed services. Unfortunately, continued funding for Montana SOARS was not awarded, but there are plans to reapply once funding becomes available again. Because the funding was not received, several of the local programs lost staff; however, some were able to find the funding within their budget to continue the work. Although funding was not awarded, the SMT will continue to work together on school climate and whole child wellness.

**Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).** 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 worked 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. One local resource fair was conducted in Ekalaka through a small grant award to the local FCCLA chapter.

### **Child and Family Services Division (CFSD)**

MT CTF worked to strengthen its relationship with CFSD by discussing how the two entities might partner and coordinate efforts on primary and secondary prevention of child abuse and neglect. 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, which will include inclusion as a stakeholder in the Family First Prevention Services Act strategic plan development, as required by [House Bill 604](#). Previously, leadership at CFSD experienced a high rate of turnover. The current administrators have been in their roles since May 2018. Shortly after their hire, MT CTF approached them to strengthen the relationship by introducing them to MT CTF and CBCAP, giving some MT CTF history, and exploring areas for collaboration.

**Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).** During the reporting period, internal and external meetings were held to discuss and educate stakeholders on FFPSA. [House Bill 604](#) requires DPHHS to create a strategic plan to develop and expand prevention programs. After the reporting period ended, CFSD hired a project manager to begin to address this mandate. Planning is underway, and MT CTF along with other DPHHS prevention entities were at the table to discuss the components of a compliant FFPSA plan.

**State Team Planning Meeting.** MT CTF participated in the State Team Planning Meeting for the first time in April 2019. Much of the conversation centered around the court system, so MT CTF used this meeting as a learning opportunity and looked for ways MT CTF could bring prevention to the table. CFSD leadership used the meeting to inform the PIP. CFSD utilized conversations from the State Team Planning Meeting, as well as phone and in-person meetings to inform the Program Improvement Plan and Child and Family Services Plan, especially as they relate to primary prevention.

**CFSD Statewide Advisory Council.** MT CTF staff participated in CFSD Statewide Advisory Council Meetings. Discussions included FFPSA, regional CORE Trainings, engaging foster/adoptive parents on the council, public perception of CFSD, workforce development, Centralized Intake, and the Kinship Navigator Program.

**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.

## **Court Improvement Program (CIP)**

Following the State Team Planning Meeting, MT CTF joined the CIP Advisory Council to give prevention a voice in the group. Although not in the core decision-making group, MT CTF has been able to provide valuable insight while also learning more about the court system and legal representation as it pertains to children and families.

## **Montana CONNECT Referral System**

MT CTF encouraged its grantees and partners to explore the electronic referral system that is expanding statewide 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. Programs selected for the new five-year grant cycle, which began on July 1, 2019, are required to use CONNECT, as it becomes available and functions well in their communities. Some of the funded programs are also ambassadors for CONNECT in their communities.

## **External Partners**

### **MT CTF Grantees**

MT CTF maintained the priority of CBCAP funding that supports evidence-based and evidence-informed child abuse prevention programs and practices to provide or support the implementation of direct preventative services, trainings, awareness, and collective impact. Funded programs were required to identify collaborative partners and services. This collective work helped foster a culture of continuous quality improvement by strengthening collaborations, resource sharing, referrals, communication, ongoing evaluation, and quality improvement activities.

### **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. Through this group MT CTF collaborated on a summit for Montana business leaders to explore ways to increase availability of high-quality early care.

### **Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies**

MT CTF worked with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies and the Abusive Head Trauma Taskforce to design a new Crying Card for all taskforce partners to distribute to their respective stakeholders. The Crying Card is 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 and their child's pediatrician. It also lists the phone numbers for state and national crisis helplines.

## **Strengthening Families Month coordination**

MT CTF hosted a statewide Strengthening Families (Child Abuse Prevention) Month coordination group. This cross-sector group represented 19 counties and shared the goal of leveraging resources, sharing ideas, and cross promoting Strengthening Families Month. Through these partners, MT CTF distributed and displayed 4,000 blue pinwheels and 2,000 informational pinwheel lapel pins, along with other educational and promotional materials, across the state. Many groups also participated in the #GoBlue Campaign on social media.

## **Local resource fairs**

MT CTF transferred Halloween Fun Fest contacts, knowledge, and supplies to Montana WILD, as well as assisted in conducting Facebook outreach. Transferring the carnival and resource to a local community organization allowed MT CTF to step back and take a more statewide approach to local resource fairs (see FCCLA above).

MT CTF also participated in a local resource fair in April 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.

## **4. Needs Assessment and Prevention Service Array**

MT CTF assessed unmet needs in Montana for a variety of projects using a variety of methods. What follows are descriptions of how each need was assessed for each prevention service conducted during the reporting period, and for those which commenced shortly before the end of the reporting period.

### **MT CTF Grantees' Community Needs Assessments**

During this reporting period, MT CTF ended a grant cycle and started a new one. From one funding application to the next, methods for determining need changed significantly. Prevention services selected were supported by research (see Section 8, CBCAP State Lead Agency Evidence-Based Programs and Practices).

#### **2018-2019 Grantees**

Funding was directed to the local, non-profit agencies, community-based organizations, and early childhood coalitions targeted to specific programs and populations. In their 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. The statements of need below were provided in the funding application of funded programs, immediately followed by their chosen prevention strategy funded by CBCAP or leveraged funds.

**Alliance for Youth.** Cascade County ranks as one of the highest incidence counties for child abuse in Montana and has held this rank for many years. One in ten substantiated cases are due to Neglect. 27% of victims are younger than 3 years. Substance abuse accounts for 70% of cases where children are placed in foster care. Risk factors such as poverty, substance abuse, single heads of household, mental health and substance abuse disorders and domestic violence are high in Cascade County. **Prevention Service.** Circle of Security Parenting Program, Nurturing Parenting Program, and Parent Cafés.

**Butte Community Council.** The needs and concerns in Silver Bow County center on child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, children’s mental health, homelessness, youth suicide, parent support and access to services, domestic violence, and crime. After hosting community focus groups and assessing families’ needs, Butte Community Council found that there was not a support group for parents who have children with disabilities or mental health issues. **Prevention Service.** Local Circle of Parents support groups, expansion of Circle of Parents into various locations in Montana, and local kindergarten readiness screenings.

**Dawson County Health Department.** 560 children are living below poverty level in Dawson County. At least some of those children, are at risk individuals. Children living in low income families have lower health outcomes and less access to opportunities. It also has critical effects on well-being and child development. For parents struggling to raise a child, poverty adds extra stress to the family. Families in poverty can have trouble with depression, anxiety and irritability. All these factors have a direct impact on abuse. **Prevention Service.** Family Resource Center programs include Love and Logic, Parents as Teachers, parent-child activities, parent resource library, child safety seat checks, and other workshops.

**Family Support Network.** Big Horn County and the Crow Reservation are hit hard for abuse and neglect cases of children due to the high incidence of unemployment, poverty, substance abuse and low education levels. 2016 Montana Kids Count reports median household income (2014) in Bighorn county is \$38,871 compared to \$46,608 state wide. Bighorn County experienced an unemployment rate (2015) of 10% versus a statewide rate of 4.7%. The high school dropout rate for Bighorn county for the (2013-2014) school year stood at 7.6% compared to 3.7% state wide. A combination of these factors and the high rate of substance abuse erodes a parent's ability to provide a safe, nurturing environment to raise their children. **Prevention Service.** Culturally tailored parenting classes and family activities based on the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) and the Triple P-Positive Parenting Program (TP).

**Flathead Best Beginnings Community Council.** In the last five years, the number of child abuse and neglect cases handled by Flathead County District Court has doubled. Between 2008 and 2014, the number of children placed in foster care across the state grew by 60%. Flathead County’s suicide and teen pregnancy rates are higher than the national average, and crime (property and violent) and binge drinking rates are higher than Montana’s average. **Prevention Service.** Circle of Security, Active Parenting, and Children in the Middle.

**Head Start, Inc.** Billings, the core of Head Start, Inc.’s service area, has the largest and most concentrated population of children living in low-income households. As Billings and

Yellowstone County have a high population concentration, the growth of child abuse and neglect cases is also a large problem. According to an article in the Billings Gazette, 531 child abuse and neglect cases were filed in Yellowstone County in 2016. 391 children were in families with parents abusing drugs other than alcohol. 127 children were in families with parents abusing alcohol. At least one parent was incarcerated in 249 cases. Parental mental health issues were reported in 104 cases. Domestic Violence was reported in 94 cases. 491 children suffered significant neglect of health and safety. 93 children were physically abused, and 21 children were sexually abused.

Head Start, Inc. currently serves Lockwood, Billings, and Laurel. 92% of the children served are eligible for services based on federal poverty guidelines. 1% qualify based on the receipt of public assistance, 9% qualify based on foster care placement status, and 3% qualify based on homelessness. Furthermore, 19% of enrolled children have a diagnosed disability. **Prevention Services.** The Incredible Years (IY) Basic Parenting program, IY Autism Spectrum and Language Delays Parenting Program, and IY Basic Home Visiting program.

**Montana State University Extension.** In recent decades grandparents have been increasingly called upon to rear their grandchildren in the absence of their adult children. There are more than 2.7 million grandparents who have sole responsibility for rearing their grandchildren and of those, 42% have been providing for their grandchildren for more than five years (US Census, 2014). In Montana there are an estimated 6,600 grandparents who have the sole responsibility of rearing their grandchildren. The majority are doing so outside of the child welfare system either because they intervened prior to State involvement or they do not want the grandchild to be part of the State system. There is a cost savings benefit to serve these informal caregivers as the grandparents save the State of Montana an estimated \$213,000/day in foster care that would otherwise be needed to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the children. The terms used interchangeably for this family structure include: grandfamilies, kinship caregivers, custodial grandparenting, and grandparents raising grandchildren.

Across the US most grandparents who are raising grandchildren are doing so due to a family crisis. Parental substance abuse, incarceration, physical or mental disabilities, death, financial problems and parental pregnancy during the teen years are among reasons for grandparents stepping in to become the primary parent. This family configuration cuts across all socio-economic and ethnic/racial populations. **Prevention Services.** Kinship Leadership Development Training, support group meetings, and GrandCares classes held in various locations throughout the state.

**Thrive.** The top needs of Gallatin County are affordable housing, quality and affordable child care, and investment in young children. 13% of children ages 0-5 in Gallatin County live in households making less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. 98% of Partnership Project families live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Gallatin County is the fastest growing county in Montana, straining community resources as they try to keep up. The average cost

of living in Bozeman is up to 119% of the national average. With below average wages, families are moving out of Bozeman to rural areas where community resources are scarce.

Access to parent education, preventative services, and physical and mental healthcare for children were all identified as gaps in the recent needs assessment. Child abuse and neglect prevention continues to be a clear need and a high priority for the area. Local parents reported needing help getting parenting support, connecting with available resources, and navigating complex systems of social services. Parents as Teachers (PAT) services made available through this project are the only PAT service accessible to general public in our area. **Prevention Services.** Parent Partnership Project which includes intensive family support services provided through weekly home visits, monthly Parents as Teachers home visits and monthly Fabulous Families PAT parent education group or Teen Parent Advisory Council meetings.

## 2019-2020 Grantees

Funding was directed to local, non-profit agencies and community-based organizations. Risk data on maltreatment rates, state involvement rates, high school dropout rates, poverty rates, divorce rates, violent crime rates, alcohol outlet density, and the rural nature of the county was analyzed for each county in Montana. Organizations that applied for funding were assigned a risk score based on their service area. With the Geospatial Analysis project, MT CTF hopes to further refine this tool for program selection in the future. The descriptions below indicate areas of high risk for each funded program, immediately followed by their chosen prevention strategy funded by CBCAP dollars. During this reporting period, these programs were in a startup phase, so their outcomes will be reported in the next CBCAP report.

**Alliance for Youth** serves Cascade County and scored high in maltreatment, state involvement, and high school dropout rates. **Prevention Services.** Circle of Security, Nurturing Parenting, Parent Cafés, and Kid Kafés.

**Dawson County Health Department** scored high in maltreatment, high school dropout, and divorce rates. **Prevention Services.** Family Resource Center programs include Love and Logic, Parents as Teachers, parent-child activities, parent resource library, child safety seat checks, and Safe Sitter and Safe@Home workshops.

**First Presbyterian Church** serves Cascade County and scored high in maltreatment, state involvement, and high school dropout rates. **Prevention Services.** Morning and afterschool respite care, individualized case management for behavioral challenges, and sibling support groups.

**Nurturing Center** serves Flathead, Lincoln, Lake, and Sanders Counties. Because of this, the evaluation committee averaged each county's score together. While Flathead County only scored high in divorce rates, Sanders County was the highest risk county, scoring high on all but violent crime rates. Lincoln County and Lake County fell between Sanders and Flathead

Counties, respectively. **Prevention Services.** Active Parenting course, Circle of Security, 1-2-3 Magic, and a pilot program based on the Active Parenting for incarcerated parents.

**Parenting Place** serves Missoula County and scored high in maltreatment, state involvement, divorce, and violent crime rates. **Prevention Services.** Nurturing Parenting Program and Exchange Parent Aide Home Visiting.

## **Statewide Projects**

### **Trauma-Informed Care**

A 2018 Montana Department of Labor and Industry Report demonstrates that Montana ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in childcare affordability, costing more than in-state tuition. 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. As confirmed by the Strengthening Montana's Early Childhood Systems project, quality early care and education as well as workforce development were identified as areas for improvement. **Prevention Service.** Building on a project from the previous fiscal year, MT CTF provided funding to Early Childhood Services Bureau to develop training on trauma-informed care and the prevention of shaken baby syndrome-abusive head trauma for early childhood professionals. This partnership also resulted in expanded resources on ParentingMontana.org for parents and caregivers of children aged birth to 4 years old.

### **Safe Sleep**

The 2017 Child Fatality Review Report showed ten out of 14 fatalities involved children under one-year-old and a significant number of those involved sleep-space circumstances – suffocation or asphyxiation as a result of a child sleeping and/or co-sleeping in the parents' bed. The data demonstrated that most infant deaths in Montana are due to preventable sleep-related causes. **Prevention Service.** MT CTF partnered with DPHHS Family Community Health Bureau and Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies to engage in a Safe Sleep Campaign by providing initial funding for the purchase and distribution of 262 Safe Sleep Kits to home visitors at 14 local Health Departments across the state, including in low-income, rural, and tribal communities.

## **Prevention Service Array in Montana**

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 and private entities 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)** 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)** has several 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.

## **Individuals and Families Served**

The charts below reflect numbers served, as reported by MT CTF grantees in their final reports for contract dates July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 following the State Fiscal Year. The numbers reflect direct preventative services only and do not include community awareness, outreach, collective impact, or training numbers. These numbers represent unique individuals, and do not reflect a person receiving services on multiple occasions.

CBCAP Numbers Served	
Population	Total Number
Children	270
Parents/Caregivers	1522
Families	1118
Children with disabilities	22
Parents with disabilities	986

CBCAP & Leveraged Funds Numbers Served	
Population	Total Number
Children	725
Parents/Caregivers	1856
Families	1373
Children with disabilities	38
Parents with disabilities	1031

## 5. Outreach to Underserved Populations and Cultural Competence Efforts

- 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, with 7% of the population identified as only American Indian and/or Alaska Native. There are eight recognized tribes in Montana. Through Strengthening Families Month work, grantees serving on reservations or Native American families, MT CTF reached all tribal reservations during the reporting period. In addition, MT CTF Staff attended the Montana Tribal Relations training and the Tribal Consultation on Strengthening Montana’s Early Childhood System.

### Rural and frontier areas

Because of Montana’s vast geography, MT CTF relied on partners to reach rural Montana. For example, MT CTF provided awareness materials at statewide trainings and sent materials to programs at their request. A resource fair sponsored by MT CTF was also conducted in Carter County, a frontier area in Southeast Montana. Grantee programs in rural areas were innovative in finding ways to serve families in their communities, as detailed below.

### Outreach Reported by MT CTF Grantees

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. Below are examples taken from final reports.

## **Alliance for Youth**

Alliance for Youth delivered flyers for parenting classes to several agencies, including Great Falls Housing Authority, Opportunities Inc, Suite 650 Counselors, Great Falls Clinic Pediatrics, and Great Falls Community Recreation Center. Alliance for Youth posted information on parenting classes to the Great Falls Counseling Association Facebook group page. They participated in Family Support Team meetings with Child and Family Services and several other agencies to assist families with timely engagement in services when appropriate.

Parent and Kids Cafés flyers were distributed to Alluvian, Discovery Counseling, Great Falls Early Childhood Coalition, Young Parents Education Center, Family Connections, City-County Health Department, Peace Place, L.O.V.E., Mighty Kids Expo, MT Kinship Navigator Program, Head Start, Malmstrom Air Force Base Family Resource Center, Great Falls Public Library, Victim Witness, Cameron Family Center, Foster Parent Support Groups, Child Bridge, Youth Dynamics, Family Connections, Great Falls Public Schools, Community Resource Center, Salvation Army, and Opportunities Inc.

## **Butte Community Council**

Updates on Circle of Parents were provided at the monthly Butte Community Council and Children's Mental Health Committee meetings. Many of the community partners who attend these meetings interact with underserved or underrepresented groups, and these partners continue to send referrals for families who might benefit from attending. Information was shared monthly with Healthy Families Network home visitors.

## **Dawson County Health Department**

Referral sources included pediatricians, obstetricians, and preschool teachers, The Mental Health Center, The Food Bank and WIC. Dawson County Health Department met regularly with each referral source and left information and advertisements. Outreach was also conducted at Child Find, local grocery stores, and the courthouse during Strengthening Families Month.

Between the two funded programs, Dawson County Health Department saw 45 new families and served 23 families falling into the high-risk category. 10 of those families served reported being involved with the court system, but not with an open or substantiated case of child maltreatment.

## **Family Support Network**

Parenting classes were held in Wyola and Crow Agency, both of which are located within Crow Reservation, and consequently all of those who attended parenting classes were Native American. Two of the families also shared Hispanic ethnicity. Outreach was conducted to children and adults with disabilities, families at risk for homelessness, fathers, kinship caregivers, and former victims of child maltreatment and domestic violence.

### **Flathead Best Beginnings Community Council**

The Nurturing Center staff gave a presentation to 60 high school students, focusing on the importance of early childhood services for parents, childcare providers, and resources in the community. The Nurturing Center also utilized social media, community events, local coalition and committee meetings, print media, and referrals as forms of outreach. Community events included the annual Child Abuse Prevention community event, Winter Warm Up sponsored by the local United Way, and the Northwest Montana Fair.

### **Head Start, Inc.**

During the 2018/2019 program service year, 90% of families served by Head Start, Inc. were living at or below federal poverty guidelines. Five percent of families served were categorized as homeless. Approximately 23% of families served identified themselves as American Indian.

### **Montana State University Extension**

385 Native American grandparent caregivers were served in support groups. This is a disproportionately high number as we had two reservations report the numbers they had served while some off-reservation support groups did not report numbers. The Tribal Social Services Conference provided an opportunity to network with service providers on reservations.

At the Kinship Leadership Development Training, it was apparent that many kin are raising children whose parent has experienced incarceration. 68% of kinship caregivers in attendance reported on the evaluation that the Voices of Incarceration presentation was an important session, and they would like to see such an organization in other areas of the state.

Based on anecdotal information over the entire tenure of the project, we receive a very high number of kinship caregivers calling to find information on financial assistance.

### **Thrive**

Rural home visiting increased 40%. 65% of the families worked with were living in rural areas.

## **6. Parent Leadership and Involvement**

During the reporting period, MT CTF Board members showed an increased understanding of parent leadership and involvement. In fact, family engagement has been a topic of importance among many state agencies related to prevention and intervention. These stakeholders have found that meaningful parent involvement sometimes takes years, and while the outcomes can be very beneficial, it can lead to frustration for both the providers as well as the parents. Parents often lead hectic lives and may choose not to continue their participation. Parents that are engaged are often overburdened with requests by multiple agencies or providers. Below is

a description of parent leadership activities conducted by MT CTF at the state level, as well as activities carried out by funded programs.

## **State Level Activities**

### **Pinwheels for Prevention Award**

MT CTF presented awards at the annual Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference. The Pinwheels for Prevention Award was created in 2015 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, including during this reporting period. Heather Stenson, a staff member for a former CBCAP grantee, received this award in 2019 and was recently recruited to the national FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council. This will be the first time Montana has been represented on the Council.

### **Family Engagement Workgroup**

Although an MT CTF Parent Advisory Council was unsuccessful, staff were and continue to be involved in the Family Engagement Workgroup through the Best Beginnings Advisory Council (BBAC). During the reporting period, the workgroup was successful in developing a state definition and guiding principles for family engagement.

### **Grantee Measurement Tool**

In the recent Request for Proposals (RFP) issued during the reporting period, MT CTF required the Parent Leadership Subscale of the FRIENDS evaluation tool: Understanding the Role of Program Assessment in Child Abuse Prevention. Grantees were required to fill out the full self-assessment subscale and select five target items to improve upon during the grant year. MT CTF also provided training on the required program assessment tool during the Annual Grantees Meeting in August 2019.

### **Annual Grantees Meeting**

MT CTF always encourages parent leaders of funded programs to attend the Annual Grantees Meeting as one of the program representatives, however this training opportunity is rarely utilized by parents and caregivers for many reasons including travel restraints or interest in training topics.

## **Parent Leadership Reported by MT CTF Grantees**

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 cultivated, fixating on the ultimate picture of what parent leadership should look like rather than their current position on the continuum. At every site visit and on all reports, MT CTF asked grantees to

describe their parent leadership efforts, emphasizing the transition of addressing their own parenting challenges to partnering with providers in decisions that affect other families.

### **Parent Leadership and Involvement Reported by MT CTF Grantees**

Below are examples of parent leadership taken from grantee final reports.

**Alliance for Youth.** Parents filled out a feedback form at the end of Circle of Security and Nurturing Parenting, which included suggestions for program improvement. Parents that are involved in hosting and planning Parent Cafés received training on the protective factors and took a program fidelity checklist as a knowledge assessment. Alliance for Youth facilitated the discussion planning and the actual café, while the parent leader handled logistics and facilitated table discussions during the café. This created a trusting environment that encouraged learning, sharing, and relationship building.

**Butte Community Council.** Parents in the Butte Circle of Parents support group completed evaluations of the monthly support groups, in which they provided feedback and expressed any challenges they were facing. The facilitators, one of which is a parent leader, encouraged and supported them as they gained their voice to advocate for their children and speak with other parents. One parent from the Butte Circle of Parents support group promoted Circle of Parents and trained four other communities in the program.

**Dawson County Health Department.** Love and Logic class participants were given a pre & posttest, as well as a survey to evaluate and assess the impact of the program. Parents as Teachers and Mommy/Daddy & Me clients were also given satisfaction surveys annually and asked to provide input about activities. Through these parent support services, parents and children were provided an opportunity to interact with peers and make connections with others who have experienced similar struggles. Many friendships evolved from these activities.

**Family Support Network.** A pastor and past recipient of services spoke at the Strengthening Families Month event about the effects of alcoholism on families and the tribe as a whole. He shared his story of overcoming past alcoholism, and he spoke of the benefits and supports he received from the classes. Family Support Network's parent liaison stepped up to become a co-facilitator for the parenting classes, as well as recruit speakers. As a result of parent leadership efforts, Family Support Network has received requests from the Song Bird Daycare and Indian Health Services to provide further parenting information to the communities.

**Flathead Best Beginnings Community Council.** The Nurturing Center used the AAPI 2.1 to evaluate parents' knowledge base and gather feedback from participants on areas for program improvement. The Nurturing Center also worked to recruit and sustain parent leaders for the facilitation of a support group. Although this goal was unsuccessful, there has been an increase of discussion within the community recognizing the importance of collaboration to meet this need.

**Head Start, Inc.** Head Start, Inc. involved parents in program planning and evaluation. Parent committee meetings were offered at all 4 Head Start locations at least every other month. The Parent Policy Council, an agency decision-making board, met monthly. Family involvement efforts were evaluated via results of the Parent Opinion Questionnaires. Parents were very satisfied with topics covered in class, the facilitator’s ability to communicate, the facilitator’s knowledge, and the workshops overall. Parents also indicated they would like the opportunity to discuss parenting in an open format such as a support group.

**Montana State University Extension.** 25 kinship caregivers from across the state attended the Kinship Leadership Development Training, which addressed current issues in kinship caregiving such as parental incarceration, legal issues, and advocacy for grandchildren. A short survey following the training was used to evaluate the sessions and how participants would use the tools they learned. 70% found the event useful. 28% expressed interest and willingness to speak to community leaders in their area to start a support group for kinship caregivers.

**Thrive.** Thrive encouraged parents to take leadership roles within the program through its Parent Advisory Council (PAC), held each month at Fabulous Families. The PAC allowed parents to give input on existing programming and inform the direction of future programming. Thrive also conducted bi-annual evaluations with the parents to ensure their needs were being met and questions were being answered. 73% of clients reported they felt they were a better parent because of the Partnership Project, and 94% were very satisfied with the services they received from the Partnership Project.

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

<b>Individuals who received training and technical assistance from Lead Agency</b>	<b>5,196</b>
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During the reporting period, MT CTF offered support and training in several ways:

- Annual Grantees Meeting
- Great Beginnings Great Families Conference
- Montana Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect Conference
- ChildWise Institute Fall Summit: Impact of Sexual Trauma
- Montana Nonprofit Association Conference
- Protective Factor Survey Online Database webinars
- Ongoing communications and site visits with multi-year grantees
- Conference calls to connect programs across the state for greater awareness
- Training and technical assistance needs assessment survey to funded programs

MT CTF was involved in the various trainings above in varying degrees of capacity, from sponsorship to full event planning. Topics included:

- Revised Protective Factor Survey
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Parent Leadership
- Maternal mental health
- Adolescent health programs
- Sexual health and education
- Circle of Parents
- Healthy Montana Families Home Visiting
- Safe infant sleep practices
- Designing fatherhood programs
- Nutrition and Food allergies
- CONNECT Electronic Referral System
- Trauma-responsive approach
- Historical and intergenerational trauma of Native Americans
- Implicit bias
- Ethical decision making
- Brave leadership
- Impact of child sexual abuse
- Sexual exploitation through technology
- Human trafficking
- Resilience
- Parenting with the Brain in Mind
- Promoting Cultural Connections
- Children in Domestically Violent Homes
- Engagement Strategies for parents with Substance Use Disorders
- Decoding Baby & Toddler Communication
- Motivational Interviewing
- MT Parent Partner Program
- ParentingMontana.org
- Strengthening Families Month
- Preparing foster youth for transitions
- Home Visitor Strategies
- Pet Abuse and its Interconnectedness with Child Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence
- Quality of Early Relationships
- Engaging Fathers More Effectively
- Helping Children in High Conflict Divorce
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- Self-care and mindfulness
- Nonprofit management and leadership
- Becoming a champion of change
- Building a resilient team
- Strategic Marketing and Communications
- Fund development

### **Training Reported by MT CTF Grantees**

Specific trainings conducted by grantees were reported as follows.

**Alliance for Youth:** Stop the Stigma trainings, No More Violence Week including training topics such as Planting the seeds of Hope, Resiliency, child-friendly cooking, and Grad Matters.

**Butte Community Council:** Parent leaders received training on Circle of Parents, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and positive parenting.

**Dawson County Health Department:** Safe Sitter classes for teens and Safe@Home classes for students grades 4-6.

**Flathead Best Beginnings Community Council:** Circle of Security Classroom classes offered to child care providers.

**Head Start, Inc.:** Two new agency Family Advocates plus 6 professionals from Riverstone Health completed The Incredible Years Basic Parenting certification training. 12 Family Services staff completed training and certification in The Incredible Years Home Coaching.



**Montana State University Extension:** 25 kinship caregivers from across the state attended the Kinship Leadership Development Training, which included topics on agents of change and leadership, the Voices of Incarceration Project, Parenting a Second Time Around curriculum, guardianship and other kinship legal topics.

## 8. Evaluation Data

### CBCAP State Lead Agency Evidence-Based Programs and Practices

Total funding amounts that supported evidence-based (EB) and evidence-informed (EI) programs and practices are included below. These numbers follow the State Fiscal Year from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. MT CTF infrastructure included costs associated with indirect preventative services, training and technical assistance, evaluation and data collection, network development and collaboration, and grants management and monitoring. Total Match Funding below did not reflect the required match of MT CTF funded programs.

<b>Well-Supported</b>					
Program Name	Supporting Reference	CBCAP Funding \$		Total Match Funding \$	
		Direct	Infrastructure	Direct	Infrastructure
Parents as Teachers	FRIENDS, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, HOMVEE	\$5,477.83	\$2,022.17		
Partnership Project Home Visiting (a Parents as Teachers Model Affiliate)	FRIENDS, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, HOMVEE, Thrive Logic Model	\$13,866.54	\$1,133.46		
Incredible Years	FRIENDS, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, Blueprints, NIJ Crime Solutions	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00		
Totals:		\$26,844.37	\$10,655.63		
<b>Supported</b>					
Program Name	Supporting Reference	CBCAP Funding \$		Total Match Funding \$	
		Direct	Infrastructure	Direct	Infrastructure
Circle of Security	FRIENDS, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House	\$2,938.65	\$811.35	\$7,556.32	\$12,559.63
Nurturing Parenting Program	FRIENDS, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, HOMVEE	\$2,938.65	\$811.35		
Totals:		\$5,877.30	\$1,622.70	\$7,556.32	\$12,559.63

<b>Promising Programs and Practices</b>					
Program Name	Supporting Reference	CBCAP Funding \$		Total Match Funding \$	
		Direct	Infrastructure	Direct	Infrastructure
Circle of Parents	CA Evidence-Based Clearing House, Social Work with Groups: A Journal of Community and Clinical Practice, Journal of Rural Community Psychology			\$11,397.08	\$11,093.40
Totals:				\$11,397.08	\$11,093.40
<b>Emerging and Evidence Informed Programs and Practices</b>					
Program Name	Supporting Reference	CBCAP Funding \$		Total Match Funding \$	
		Direct	Infrastructure	Direct	Infrastructure
Parent CAFE (Community and Family Engagement) based on Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and Community Café Model	AFY Logic Model	\$5,877.30	1,622.70		
Kinship Navigator Program	MSU Logic Model, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House	\$9,089	\$5,911.00		
Love & Logic	DCHD Logic Model, CA Evidence-Based Clearing House	\$5,477.84	\$2,022.16		
Culturally tailored parenting classes based on Nurturing Parenting Program and Triple P-Positive Parenting Program System	FSN Logic Model	\$9,853.25	\$5,146.75		
Totals:		\$30,297.39	\$14,702.61		
<b>EBP Totals:</b>		<b>\$63,019.06</b>	<b>\$26,980.94</b>	<b>\$18,953.40</b>	<b>\$23,653.03</b>
<b>SLA Totals:</b>		<b>\$63,031.76</b>	<b>\$68,760.12</b>	<b>\$12,860.10</b>	<b>\$46,004.34</b>
<b>Overall Totals:</b>		<b>\$126,050.82</b>	<b>\$95,741.06</b>	<b>\$31,813.50</b>	<b>\$69,657.37</b>

## State Lead Agency Evaluation Activities

### Training and Technical Assistance Survey

MT CTF distributed a training and technical assistance survey to funded programs in July 2019 to determine topic areas of interest and preferred methods of learning. Out of five grantees, only four people completed a survey, as it was not mandatory. This made it difficult to home in on common needs. However, many of the topics scoring the highest need were topics that

were being addressed through tutorials and training such as PFS-2 Administration and Database, as well as MT CTF Reporting. MT CTF also found that grantees were largely unaware of the free online resources available through FRIENDS National Resource Center. MT CTF added several resources to its Grantee Resources webpage and began recommending use of the FRIENDS website during site visits with grantees.

### **Annual Grantees Meeting**

During this reporting period, the Annual Grantees Meeting was evaluated by the FRIENDS external evaluator because FRIENDS and the University of Kansas provided the training. 32 people attended the training in-person, and approximately 15 people attended via Skype. Anecdotally, participants were excited to use the Revised Protective Factor Survey Online Database System, which was also evident by the 15 attendees participating in the follow-up webinar on how to use the online database. They were also able to glean new ideas for Parent Leadership from the subscale in Understanding the Role of Program Assessment in Child Abuse Prevention: Tools for Peer Review and Beyond. They appreciated the training being connected to the Great Beginnings Great Families Conference and the networking opportunity.

### **Grantee Site Visits**

MT CTF conducted one site visit with each 2018-2019 grantee during the reporting period. MT CTF also conducted one site visit with a 2019-2020 grantee that was new to State of Montana contracting in order to provide orientation and any technical assistance that might be needed. Staff strived to conduct all site visits in person, however, in some cases this was not possible due to intermittent weather in Montana. In these cases, staff conducted the site visit via phone. At the end of each site visit, grantees were asked about any areas in which staff could improve training and technical assistance efforts. Grantees were frequently referred to and reminded of the MT CTF Grantee Resources webpage, as well as FRIENDS National Resource Center.

### **Trauma-Informed Care**

The *Building Skills and Safe Spaces* online training module was utilized by 29 Pyramid Model Coaches and STARS Consultants during this reporting period and is now a requirement for all future Pyramid Model Coaches and STARS Consultants.

### **Safe Sleep**

MT CTF provided funding for 262 Safe Sleep Kits, which included a Cribs for Kids Cribbette, to be distributed to home visitors at 14 local Health Departments across the state, including in low-income, rural, and tribal communities.

## **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**

In Circle of Security and Nurturing Parenting, 100% of parents improved in at least one of the following: appropriate expectations, higher levels of empathy, alternatives to corporal punishment, appropriate family roles, and values power and independence. In-person Parent Cafés reached 69 parents and 42 children. Facebook Parent Cafés reached 162 participants with an average of 8 live views per video. 100% of the 69 parents who attended Parent Cafés with the Great Falls Early Childhood Coalition, L.O.V.E and GFPS Title 1 demonstrated improvement in social connectedness and at least one other protective factor.

### **Butte Community Council**

100% of parents signed in for Circle of Parents; 80% of the parents led conversation topics; and a parent leader attended 82% of the Children’s Mental Health Committee meetings. 100% of parents received information on community resources to support their children and families. Butte 4-C’s provided Circle of Parents training in Billings, Missoula, Butte, and the Mission Valley. They have either started their own COP group or are in the planning process.

### **Dawson County Health Department**

90% of Love & Logic participants reported feeling less stressed out as a parent and an increase in having fun as a parent; 79% reported an improvement in their child’s behavior. Mommy/Daddy and Me served 65 families (438 children, 355 parents/caregivers). 9 Parents as Teachers (PAT) families (20 children, 14 parents/caregivers) took advantage of the new group connection. The latter two programs served 45 new families and 23 families falling into the high-risk category. All PAT families were given age appropriate parent leadership kits, which included age appropriate books, parenting books, milestone information, and supplies to work toward the next milestone. 16 middle school students learned babysitting skills and CPR from

Safe Sitter classes. 21 students learned how to be safe when they are home alone during a Safe@Home class. 20 car seats were installed with a licensed car seat technician.

### **Family Support Network**

98% of participants report they received the type of information they need and 100% would recommend the class to others. 90% report they presently utilize the positive parenting skills they learned. 74% report 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. 100% demonstrated empathy toward their children.

### **Flathead Best Beginnings Community Council**

83% of participants increased their realistic expectations of their child(ren)'s development, empathy, alternatives to corporal punishment, appropriate family roles, and independence. 6% of participants lowered their level of risk in every category, and 27% lessened their level of risk in 80% of the categories.

### **Head Start, Inc.**

Incredible Years classes were offered at all 4 locations, at least monthly. 75 out of 96 parents that indicated they had a need for parenting education, accessed services. 100% reported an increase in knowledge of positive commands; 70% reported an increase in knowledge regarding child-directed play; 60% reported an increase in knowledge regarding descriptive commenting and specific coaching; 55% reported an increase in knowledge regarding helping children to problem solve; 50% reported an increase in knowledge regarding helping children to self-regulate; 45% reported an increase in knowledge of routines, responsibilities, and rules; 40% reported an increase in knowledge of effective limit setting; 44% reported an increase in knowledge of natural and logical consequences; 33% reported increased knowledge of ignoring inappropriate behaviors; 22% reported an increase in knowledge regarding the use of time out to calm down and control anger.

### **Montana State University Extension**

613 kinship caregivers in support groups were offered information and referrals based on their needs. 461 informational packets were disseminated to relative caregivers and service providers. Three GrandCares classes were held with 21 participants. The original evaluation of GrandCares does not show a difference from pre to post test. We attribute that to multiple correlating factors, and questions asked that could not show a difference in six weeks. We have since moved back to our retrospective measurement.

### **Thrive**

94% of mothers showed reduced depression, mental health issues, substance abuse, and/or increased self-esteem. 98% of parents increased parental understanding of child development, discipline, nurturing, and/or safety. 97% of children demonstrated improved communication,

social, and/or emotional skills. Rural home visiting increased by 40%; 65% of the families served lived in rural areas; 95% showed increased knowledge of how to access community resources; 100% of clients working with their family support worker to receive childcare were doing so through high quality, certified child care centers. 85% of families found Fabulous Families to be a valuable resource for learning and networking with other families.

## **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**

“I love Parent Cafés because they are interactive learning opportunities. It is real life information that can be used. As a foster parent this type of connection with others is a great child abuse prevention tool. You realize in these meetings you are not alone and there are other things to work through and try when parenting.”

### **Butte Community Council**

“I learned a lot from this training and enjoyed the fact that I could talk about some of my experiences. I feel confident that being a parent leader will help me in my own personal life and goals and helping others.”

One of the grandparents who attended the Circle of Parents training listened to the positive parenting piece of the training and realized that there might be a better way to discipline and guide her grandchildren. This group gave her a purpose and helped connect her with other grandparents going through the same experiences.

### **Dawson County Health Department**

A single Native American mother who grew up on the reservation and in the foster care system since age 5 became involved with Parents as Teachers two years ago after moving to Glendive. In those two years she set 3 major goals: get housing for her and her son to live on their own, obtain her HSET, and get her driver’s license. At age 26 she accomplished all 3 goals that she set for herself. She credits PAT’s support and help for achieving her goals.

### **Family Support Network**

One of the fathers in our parenting group stepped up during a community event to urge parents to take part in our parenting program because we provide valuable information to assist parents no matter what their parenting concerns were.

Another father started the classes at the urging of his mother. He said he was only coming because his mother insisted. Halfway through the class, he told us that he had never thought to look at parenting through the eyes of his children and how his actions and behaviors affected

them. By the end of the class, he said he knew several people who would benefit from our classes and would be telling them to talk to us.

### **Montana State University Extension**

One attendee reported being stuck in the middle of the kinship care process, including trying to find the parents of her grandchild that is living in her home. As a result of attending the Kinship Leadership Development Training she was able to obtain the necessary information during the legal portion of the seminar to move forward with adopting her grandson. As of the middle of July, the grandparent reported she has officially adopted her grandson. She said, "I have to thank you for inviting me to the seminar; I wouldn't have had the courage or information to make this possible without the information I learned at the seminar."

## **9. Strengthening Families Month and Public Awareness Activities**

With a population of just over one million people, the following estimate clearly reflects individuals who were served content on more than one occasion.

<b>Individuals who received public awareness or public education activities</b>	<b>1,539,635</b>
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### **Strengthening Families Month**

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

- Received \$10,000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana for Strengthening Families Month activities
- Received a Governor's proclamation of April as Strengthening Families Month
- Planted 1,500 pinwheels around the Montana State Capitol lawn during Strengthening Families Month in conjunction with a press conference that included Governor Bullock and DPHHS Director Hogan as speakers
- Participated in local resource fairs in Helena and Ekalaka
- Provided 4,000 pinwheels, as well as t-shirts, pinwheel lapel pins, totes, protective factor pens, and other resources to grantees and partners across the state
- Coordinated Go Blue Mondays Campaign (see PSA links in Section 1: Awareness)
- 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
- Continued 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
- Hosted "Resilience" and "Broken Places" film screenings in conjunction with the CAN Conference

- 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 \$15,000, MT CTF received over \$55,000 through taxpayer contributions.

### **Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) Prevention**

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 was printed in March 2019, but MT CTF continues to gather feedback for further revisions. MT CTF distributed approximately 2,000 newly designed rack cards and 375 *Period of PURPLE Crying* DVDs across the state. It is the intent of MT CTF to have the resource validated by the Center for Health and Safety Culture through MT CTF's current AHT Prevention Social Norms project.

### **Not Even for a Minute (NEFAM) Campaign**

MT CTF distributed approximately 900 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 disseminated a press release, which led to 3 phone interviews regarding NEFAM.

### **Local Resource Fairs**

To expand on the successful Halloween carnival that doubled as a resource fair in Helena, MT CTF created a public [toolkit](#) and a short funding application for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapters in high-risk communities to start or enhance local events with state and/or local resources that benefit families and increase concrete supports. One such resource fair was conducted in Ekalaka, MT, a rural town in southeast Montana, in conjunction with the local Easter Egg Hunt. In a town of under 400 people, over 60 children attended. Every



child was given an MT CTF tote bag filled with state, regional, or local resources that they could also use to collect their Easter eggs. This was done to provide information about prevention services to all families in a non-stigmatizing way. MT CTF also provided information about Strengthening Families Month activities at a local resource fair in Helena.

### **Social Media**

MT CTF Facebook fans grew from 798 to 856 in FY19, a 7% 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.

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 programs and events. It was also used to promote events, share positive prevention stories from across Montana, and announce funding opportunities.

### **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 reportedly reached 87,917 people through their awareness efforts. Outreach numbers may include individuals who were reached multiple times.

## **10. Challenges and Barriers**

MT CTF experienced two main challenges in FY19: state general fund cuts and DPHHS restructuring.

Due to revenue shortfalls as well as a brutal fire season in Montana in 2017, budget cuts put MT CTF and many critical services at risk. These cuts took effect in November 2017 and continued to be a challenge during this reporting period. On July 1, 2019, \$100,000 of the original \$110,000 state general fund was reinstated to the MT CTF budget for the next biennium. Although this news came after the MT CTF Board made budgetary decisions for SFY2019, MT CTF welcomed the opportunity to expand its prevention efforts.

At the end of this reporting period, DPHHS announced it would be restructuring prevention and early intervention programs for children and families under one Division called Early Childhood and Family Support Division (ECFSD). MT CTF will be included in ECFSD, although it is not yet clear what the internal structure will look like. There may be growing pains along the way, but MT CTF is confident that restructuring will lead to more efficient collaboration and a reduction in duplicated services.