Collaborative Opportunities to Support Child Care in Montana

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Overview

- Introductions
- Re-cap of the Child Care Resources in MT Town Hall
- Collaborative Opportunities to Support Child Care in Montana
  - Ideas/options for employers to explore
  - Open discussion about community strategies, both to address the immediate COVID need, as well as longer-term infrastructure strategies
COORDINATION IS THE KEY

- Equity
- Effective Use of Resources
- Public Health Outcomes
7 Regions

One goal: Support children and families by increasing access to quality child care and education

www.mtchildcare.org
Through local community and statewide efforts, we work in partnership and collaboration to elevate the importance of the most critical time in a child’s life.

Community Collaboratives create conditions to positively impact school readiness, healthy pregnancy and school readiness.

The Statewide Office coordinates research, policy and advocacy on early childhood systems across the state.

www.zerotofive.org
The role of the afterschool network:

- Data
- Quality
- Professional Development & Technical Assistance
- Policy
- Statewide Steering Council Leadership

Montana OST Programs:

- 200+ Afterschool & Summer
- 45,000+ students PreK-12
- School & Community Based

mtafterschoolalliance.org
Day 1: Recap

Pre-COVID Child and OST Landscape

Reviewed Recent Survey Data

Shared New Funding to Stabilize Child Care and Support Families

Shared strategies employers can implement during this time to support employees
EFFECTS ON EMPLOYERS

79% of Employers reported not offering any type of child care benefits as a part of employment.

63% of Employers reported child care needs have impacted their business.
CHILD CARE NEEDS

92% of Families have same or greater child care needs due to COVID impact
CHILDM CARE NEEDS BY AGE

Total Responses = 2,805 * 178 Children with Special Needs
What can employers do to support employee child care needs?
An initiative to strengthen Montana employers through family friendly practices and policies

*More information coming in October
Group Conversation

1. What has worked for you as an employee or employer?

2. Are there strategies you’re curious about?
On-Site Child Care: Submittable Example
Child Care Cooperative Model: MCDC Example

Childcare Cooperatives in Montana
Opportunities for Coordination
Grants are available to organizations offering programs for school-aged children to meet the needs of working parents during out-of-school or after-school time!

Eligible programs will serve children ages 5-18 during out-of-school time during the pandemic and must serve at least 25% low-income children.

SCHOOL-AGED CHILD CARE GRANT

APPLICATION & MORE INFORMATION: HTTPS://COVIDRELIEF.MT.GOV

Apply today!
OUT OF SCHOOL CARE AND SCHOOL DISTRICT COLLABORATION TOOLKIT

https://www.zerotofive.org/outofschoolcaretoolkit
What OST Can Offer: This fall and beyond

- **Help parents return to work**
  - Partner with schools to address child care needs
  - Community-based programs with non-school staff may play unique role

- **Support safety and well-being**
  - Be a part of response for COVID-19 safety
  - Integral part of network for safety from abuse and neglect

- **Keep kids connected and learning**
  - Leverage existing relationships with kids and families
  - SEL and trauma-informed practices - integral to academic success
  - Targeted partners for academic recovery
School & Community Partnerships for Student Success in 2020-2021 School Year

The Goal
As schools aim to meet the instructional needs of students while also considering community health and safety, many are finding solutions that leave working families in need of child care for part of the day or week. Many community partners are ready to help fill this need. Community-level coordination is critical to ensure that the plans to serve children and families during out-of-school time reduce family stress and align with school-based strategies to support safety and student success.

Out-of-School Time Programs Can Help
Out-of-school time (OST) programs across the state partnered to offer emergency care for front-line workers when Montana was under “at home” orders. Once those orders were lifted, the majority of OST programs returned to some form of in-person program delivery during the summer months. These programs and providers have effectively adapted to keep children, families and staff safe and are ready to leverage this experience to support learning during the 2020-2021 school year.

http://www.mtafterschoolalliance.org/school-and-community-partnerships`}
Community Examples
Missoula Area Emergency Child Care Task Force is leading an effort to coordinate child care by school and share information with families. This information will be housed at the County Joint Incident Command.

Schools and school districts will link to this page to help families find care.

Bonner Elementary
Full-day Care, remote learning days
- Boys & Girls Club
  City Life Community Center, 1515 Fairview Ave.
  Register at https://www.bgcmissoula.org/register-after-school
  Contact: John Waters, john@bgcmissoulaounty.org

Offsite afterschool care
- Boys & Girls Club
  Our Savior’s Lutheran Church of Bonner
  Contact: John Waters, john@bgcmissoulaounty.org

Chief Charlo Elementary
Full-day care, remote learning days
- Missoula Early Learning Center (Cold Springs Elementary)
  Mark Roberts
  406-926-3688
  mark@missoulaeearlylearning.com

Onsite afterschool care
- YMCA
  http://ymcamissoula.org/school-age-child-care/
  schoolage@ymcamissoula.org
  Before and afterschool care
Helena

Helena YMCA is partnering with Lewis and Clark County and Helena Public School to provide distance learning child care for their staff’s school-age children.
Havre Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line has partnered with Havre Public Schools to provide families access to care at the Club on the days that students are not in school while they are utilizing a hybrid model. The School District is helping to fund the care with Title I funds.
Collaboration & Coordination

Who’s supporting these conversations in your community?

Who else can you engage?
INTERESTED IN…?

Exploring Policies that Support Working Families, as well as COVID resources and local connections
Contact Caitlin @ caitlinj@zerotofive.org

Partnering with OST Providers.
Contact Laurie @ laurieb@mtafterschoolalliance.org

Learning more about how to offer resources for families with children birth to five.
Contact Meghan @ mballenger@mtchildcare.org
Thank you!