

The Montana Health Justice Partnership

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Montana Legal Services Association**

Montana Healthy Communities Conference
Helena, Montana
November 2, 2017



More than just a good idea: securing funding & identifying partners

- ▶ The Montana Health Justice Partnership is a pilot program providing a geographic cluster of Community health Center in Montana with an MLSA attorney.



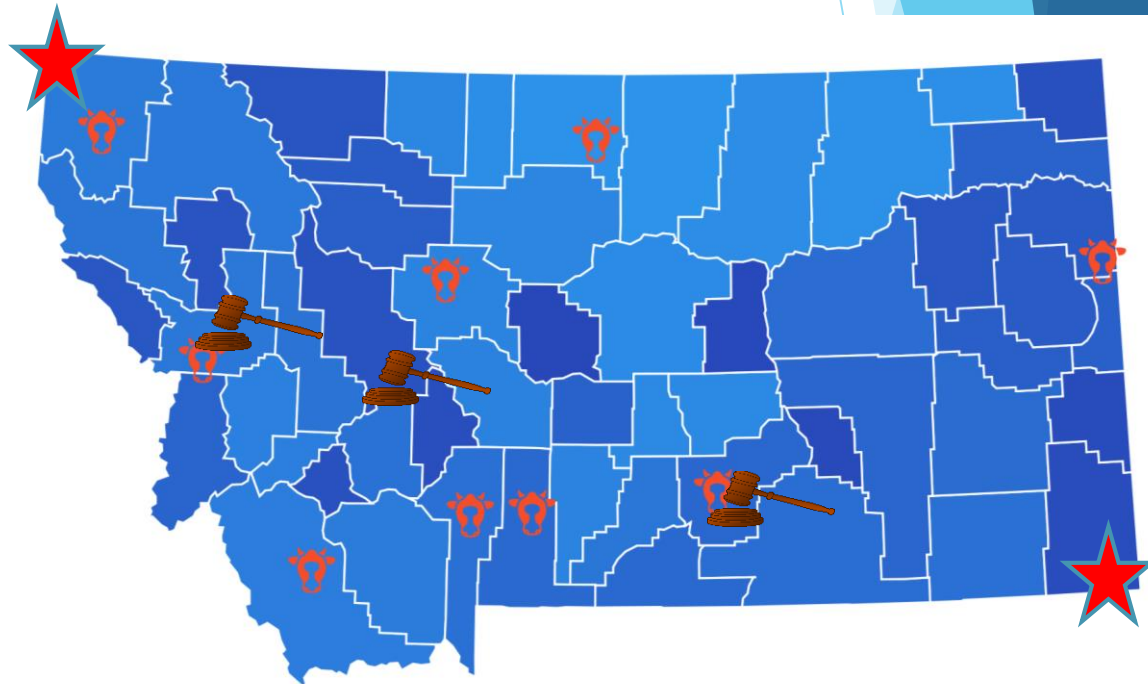
MONTANA
HEALTHCARE
FOUNDATION

Montana Health Justice Partnership

Montana Primary
Care Association

- Bullhook Community Health Center, HAVRE, MT
- Community Health Care Center, GREAT FALLS, MT
- AG Worker Health & Services, BILLINGS, DILLION, FAIRVIEW, LOLO, MT
- Northwest Community Health Center, LIBBY, MT

Montana Legal
Services Association,
HELENA, MISSOULA,
BILLINGS, MT



Legal Need in Montana

1 : 12,133

One legal services attorney for every 12,133 Montanans living in poverty

1 : 274

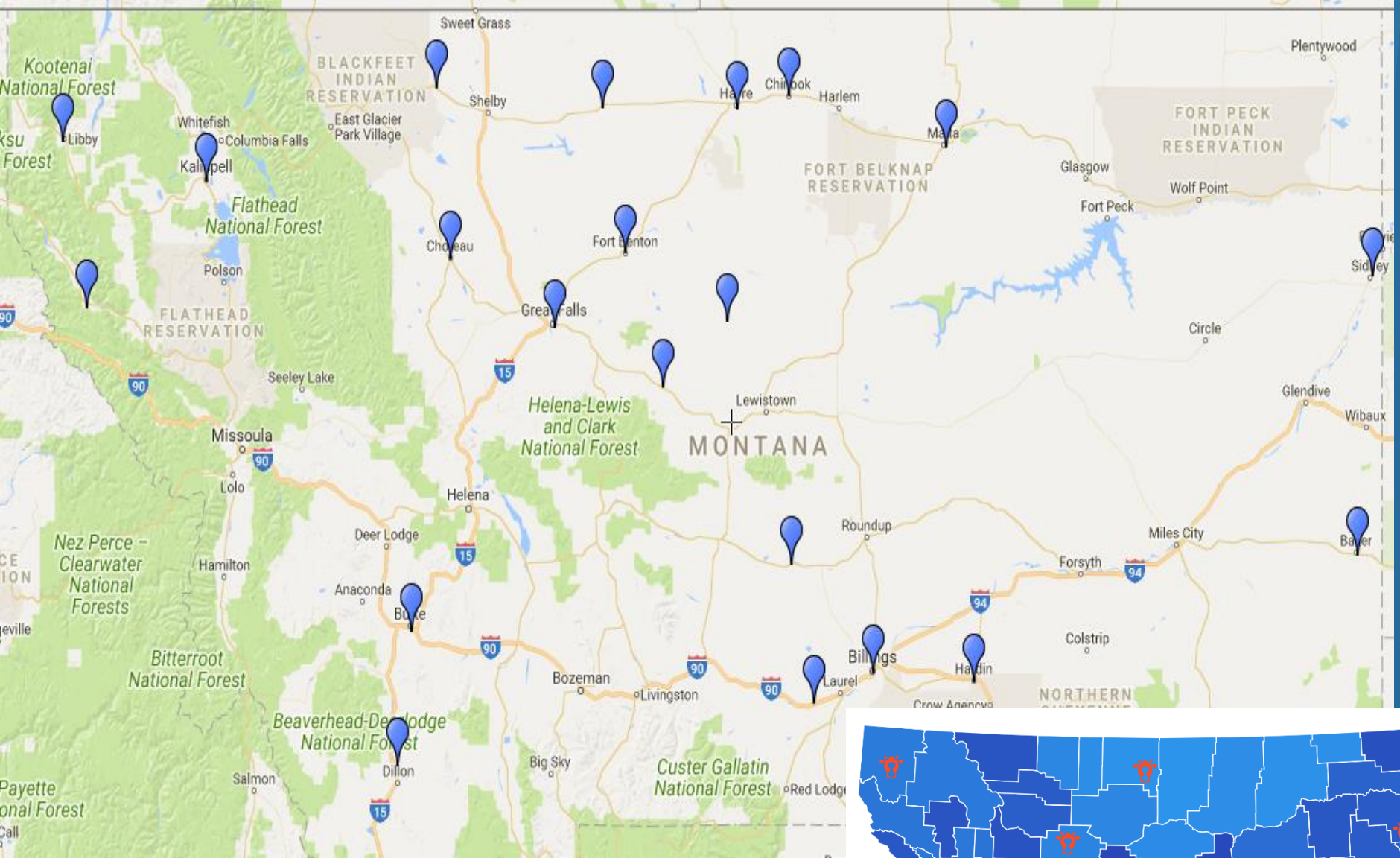
One private attorney for every 274 Montanans over 125% of federal poverty line

- ▶ MLSA received over 6,300 requests for assistance in 2015.
- ▶ MLSA was forced to turn away 45% due to lack of resources.
- ▶ Advocates handled 3,114 cases, helping 7,868 people.
- ▶ Approximately 182,000 people living in poverty in 2015.
- ▶ One in five Montanans is eligible for MLSA services.

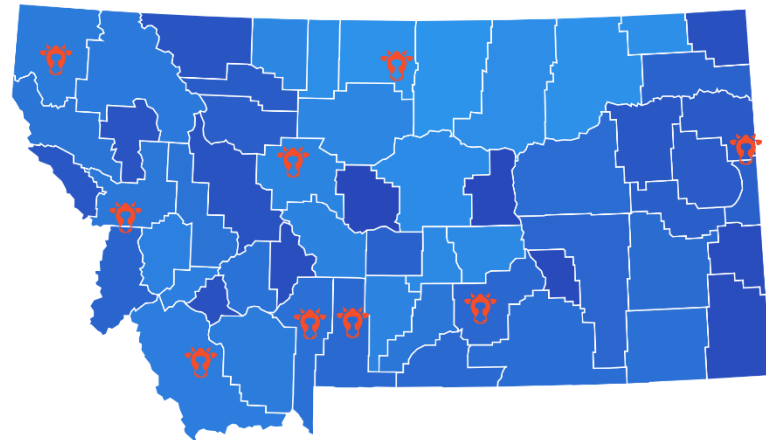
In the past year, have you or any family members you live with been unable to get any of the following when it was really needed? Check all that apply.	<input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities <input type="checkbox"/> Child care <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine or any health care (medical, dental, mental health, vision) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please write) _____
Do you have a problem with your housing? (e.g. pests, mold, lead, having utilities shut off, landlord disputes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
Are you worried about losing your housing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
Are your wages being garnished or are you being harassed by collection companies?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
Are you having any problems receiving child support? Have your circumstances changed so that the amount of support you are getting should be adjusted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
Do your children get the services they need from their school?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
Do you feel physically and emotionally safe where you currently live?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
In the past year, have you been afraid of your partner or ex-partner?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<input type="checkbox"/> I have not had a partner in the past year <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question
Have you applied for and been denied unemployment or disability benefits?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
Are you having any federal tax problems and/or have you received any notices from the IRS?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
Would you like to speak with a legal advocate about these or other civil legal issues?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Developing Screening Questions & Procedures

- ▶ We utilized resources from NMLP.
- ▶ We worked with MPCA and CHC staff who are experts on data, informatics, and electronic medical records (eCW).
- ▶ Questions we asked:
 - ▶ What are CHCs already screening?
 - ▶ What is MLSA already screening?
 - ▶ At what point do we overwhelm the legal team?
 - ▶ What is happening with tracking social determinants of health that have some overlap with the MLP?
 - ▶ PRAPARE
 - ▶ Who do we screen?
 - ▶ How often do we screen?
 - ▶ How do we develop a uniform process for tracking the screening data?



Counties that the MLP has received referrals



Advice for similar projects

- ▶ Have all partners at the table to make decisions, even when they are just listening.
- ▶ Ground your project in shared values. Come back to those values when you are struggling with decisions.
- ▶ Be ambitious.
- ▶ Be flexible.