

MONTANA FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

HRSA: Opioid-Impacted Family Support Program

The Montana Family Support Program trains paraprofessionals to support youth and families affected by substance use and behavioral health challenges in rural communities. It provides training and resources to Community Health Workers (CHWs), Recovery Doulas, Community Paramedics (CIHs), and Behavioral Health Technicians (BH Techs).

PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the Montana Family Support Program is to increase the number of behavioral health-related paraprofessionals throughout Montana who are prepared to work with youth and families feeling the impact of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

PROGRAM TIMELINE

September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2028

CORE TOPIC AREAS

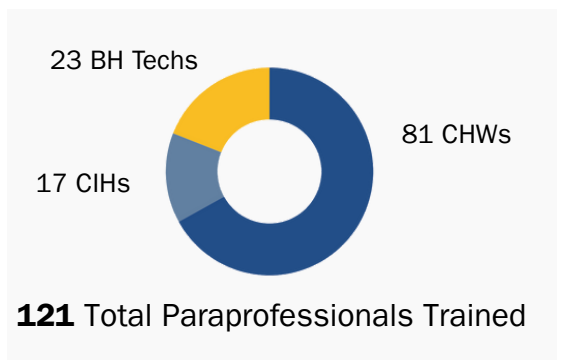
Through foundational courses, participants gain the skills needed to serve in roles such as Community Health Workers, Community Paramedics, Behavioral Health Technicians, and Recovery Doulas. The program also includes required developmental trainings focused on trauma-informed care, adolescent support, stigma reduction, and crisis intervention. This comprehensive approach builds a qualified, community-based workforce equipped to meet Montana's urgent behavioral health needs.



A Community Health Worker trained by MT FSP providing Food Rx services to rural communities in the Flathead Valley.

"I've always wanted to go to school for social work, but it's a huge financial barrier. This program has been a good fit for me to get continuing education and move into a behavioral health role. This program has given me the confidence to continue my education, and give back to my community."

-2025 OIFSP Behavioral Health Tech Participant



IMPACT & RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Why This Program Matters:

- **Addresses Workforce Shortages:** Builds a pipeline of trained paraprofessionals to meet the growing demand for behavioral health services in rural and underserved areas.
- **Improves Access to Care:** Increases availability of human-centered, community-based care across Montana, especially in areas lacking licensed providers.
- **Enhances Crisis Response:** Prepares workers to respond to behavioral health crises through specialized training in de-escalation and suicide prevention.
- **Cost-Effective Intervention:** Strengthens local capacity with paraprofessionals, reducing long-term healthcare costs by preventing crises and connecting individuals to care early.

