

MONTANA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

HRSA: State Office of Rural Health

The Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) works with federal, state and local partners to offer services and resources to rural healthcare providers, facilities and communities. The MORH is proud to collaborate with various organizations, health departments, hospitals, government and academia. MORH provides rural health leadership for a broad network of stakeholders throughout the state.

PROGRAM GOAL

The MORH helps to develop and maintain infrastructure to address the unique challenges of rural healthcare, such as provider shortages, geographic isolation, and limited access to services. This goal is achieved through coordination of state level rural health care efforts, collecting and disseminating information, providing technical assistance to rural health providers and organizations, building partnerships, supporting workforce development and improving healthcare delivery.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2026

Established 1991



"The Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) has been an outstanding support and collaborative partner to Sidney Health Center, providing us with valuable education and funding for innovative projects that would otherwise be out of reach for us as a critical access hospital. Their support has been instrumental in our ability to build and train Community Health Workers, launch Telehealth initiatives such as Remote Patient Monitoring, and participate in Rural Health Training and Conferences for opportunities we may not have accessed without their partnership. Our collaboration with MORH continues to be a guiding force in advancing and sustaining our strategic growth efforts."

-Becky Cassidy, Senior Executive Community Services | Sidney Health Center- Sidney, MT

PROGRAM IMPACT

Technical assistance and community outreach is a pillar for the MORH. The Community Health Services Development (CHSD) program supports hospital and community partnership in conducting a community health needs assessment. Through CHSD, the MORH has worked with 35/46 Hospitals in MT at least once and in this grant cycle, it has worked with 42 hospitals. Focus groups and interviews have been conducted with nearly 300 community members and over 6,000 Montanans were surveyed on their healthcare needs.

Why This Program Matters:

- Assists hospitals in meeting IRS 990 community benefit requirements.
- Facilitated hospital engagement with community members to drive local solutions.
- Supports service line development and health system planning.
- Accountability and responsiveness to community identified needs.

