Montana Mental Health Access Fund

The Montana Mental Health Access Fund was created to help increase access to mental health services across Montana, with a particular focus on rural and tribal communities. The fund supports innovative ideas for improving mental health and well-being in Montana, including leveraging technology and other resources to provide mental health services in even the hardest to reach areas and populations.

Montana has one of the highest suicide rates in the Country, while accessing mental health services across the State remains a challenge for many. Historically, there has been a lack of mental health services, especially in remote, rural areas, as well as tribal communities. Supporting a health system that focuses on mental health and provides access to prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services is essential to improving the health of all Montanans.

The goal of the fund is to help make mental health services available to all Montanans by 2025.

Eligibility Criteria and Application Guidelines

The Montana Mental Health Access Fund will fund Montana-based, mental health service providers including health clinics, mental health centers, hospitals, social service agencies and nonprofits, schools, and licensed individuals to provide mental health services in their respective communities. The purpose of the funds is to increase access to mental health services and provide services to those who might otherwise not have access.

Applicants must be licensed to provide mental health services.

The Fund will grant to projects that:

- Improve or increase access to mental health services, including leveraging technology (i.e. telehealth) and other resources to meet the need in their community.
- Reduce barriers to accessing mental health services including geographic, demographic, and economic barriers.
- Provide mental health services associated with the grant at no cost to the patient.
- Are long-term and sustainable solutions to increasing access to mental health.
- Fill a need that other available resources in the community cannot meet.
- Serves a region or population of high need, as measured by the existence of health disparities, poor access to mental health services, economic hardship, and geographic remoteness.
- We encourage projects that create or advance new and substantive partnerships that result in the more efficient and effective use of resources.
This fund prioritizes rural and tribal communities. Funding must be focused on assisting vulnerable populations within the community. Vulnerable communities are defined as: “children, older adults, communities of color, low-income households, the uninsured and people with disabilities.” (Center for Disaster Philanthropy).

There is no funding limit, however, the minimum grant request is $1,000.

**Application Process & Deadline**

Only online applications will be accepted and can be accessed here- https://mtcf.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant.

There are two application rounds per year. The first application deadline is **April 30th**, and the second deadline is **October 31st**.

All applications are reviewed by the Montana Mental Health Access Fund Committee, which is made up of mental health experts. The Montana Community Foundation will notify you of the Committees decision as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee that every proposal will be funded, or that you will receive the full amount you requested.

Applicants can apply once per year and can reapply for funding each year.

**Reporting**

All grant recipients will be required to submit a final status report that details project results within 60 days of the completion of the project or program.

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For questions about the fund or application please contact Elisa Fiaschetti at elisa@mtcf.org.