

Good morning Madam Chair and committee members. For the record, my name is Allison Judnich and I am the President of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana. As the president, I represent all nine Montana Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies.

Before I begin, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to speak to you today about Big Brothers Big Sisters and the key role state funding will have in our ability to serve more children.

For nearly forty years, Big Brothers Big Sisters has provided positive one-to-one mentoring relationships to Montana's children. Primarily a prevention program, Big Brothers Big Sisters is designed to meet the needs of at-risk youth through the provision of a Big Brother or Big Sister. These volunteers provide children with the individualized time and attention they need to increase their self-confidence, social competence and ability to care. By increasing these assets, we decrease their delinquency and other problem behaviors such as alcohol and drug use, school dropout/failure, violent behavior and early teenage pregnancy. Thus, enabling them to reach their full potential. As they reach their full potential, they break many destructive family cycles that held generations before them back. Through our programs, children become better students, better workers, better spouses, better parents and better citizens.

Because we know this, it is our mission is to bring a one-to-one mentoring relationship to every child who wants or can benefit from it. That is why we are here today to ensure that Big Brothers Big Sisters statewide funding remains in the budget. When we lost our state funding several years ago, the impact was devastating. The funding cut created an environment in which our agencies had focus on sustaining their programs and maintaining the current matches that had, instead of focusing their efforts on serving more children in their communities. What was and is the most frustrating aspect of our state funding loss, was that we had a proven, cost effective, prevention program that but we could not serve all of the children who needed it. However, with this funding, we have the opportunity to reach these children. This funding will enable us to impact more children's lives which will contribute to brighter futures and stronger communities for all.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we know the impact that our program makes. Statistics that show that last year in our community program, children that had a Big Brother or Big Sister improved their self-confidence 88%, 55% improved their academic performance, 47% improved their ability to avoid delinquency, and 51% improved their relationship with their family. And these are just a few examples.

- Child safety
- best-practice approach
- outcome-based performance measures
- Performance management system (quality, expansion, sustainability, efficiency)
- stories

Big Brothers Big Sisters



Program Impact

Compared to other mentoring programs, Big Brothers Big Sisters has proven success in creating and nurturing relationships between volunteers and children. Big Brothers Big Sisters programs increase children's confidence, social competence and ability to care. By increasing these assets, we decrease children's delinquency and other problem behaviors, such as alcohol and drug use, school drop-out/failure, violent behavior, and early pregnancy. Through our programs, children become more responsible and functional citizens.

Children & Areas Served

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana served over 2,876 children in 2004. Programs were located in 69 schools and 50 communities across the state.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is considered a "best-practice approach" to mentoring, which means it has been independently evaluated and proven effective (Public/Private Ventures).



The following statistics illustrate the accomplishments Big Brothers Big Sisters Community-Based and School-Based Programs have made this past year in the lives of children in Montana.

Program Based Outcome Evaluation

Community-Based Mentoring	% Improvement	School-Based Mentoring	% Improvement
Self-confidence	88%	Self-confidence	89%
Able to express feelings	79%	Able to express feelings	76%
Can make decisions	70%	Can make decisions	72%
Has interests or hobbies	71%	Has interests or hobbies	65%
Personal hygiene and appearance	50%	Personal hygiene and appearance	41%
Sense of future	72%	Sense of future	55%
Uses community resources	52%	Uses community resources	46%
Uses school resources	48%	Uses school resources	64%
Academic Performance	55%	Academic Performance	77%
Attitude toward school	59%	Attitude toward school	79%
School preparedness	56%	School preparedness	49%
Class participation	42%	Class participation	75%
Classroom behavior	46%	Classroom behavior	66%
Able to avoid delinquency	47%	Able to avoid delinquency	49%
Able to avoid substance abuse	42%	Able to avoid substance abuse	39%
Able to avoid early parenting	33%	Able to avoid early parenting	45%
Shows trust toward you.	86%	Shows trust toward you.	83%
Respects other cultures	49%	Respects other cultures	40%
Relationship with family	51%	Relationship with family	53%
Relationship with peers	54%	Relationship with peers	74%
Relationship with other adults	64%	Relationship with other adults	73%

Big Brothers Big Sisters



History

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the leader in one-to-one mentoring, celebrating 100 years of proven success in creating positive friendships that benefit children, volunteers, families, neighborhoods, and the community. In Montana, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been serving children for nearly forty years. Primarily a prevention program, Big Brothers Big Sisters is designed to meet the needs of youth through the provision of a Big Brother or Big Sister.

Mission & Vision

To help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships.
 To provide successful mentoring relationships for all children who want or need one.

Programs

Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs are effective through reliance on trained, educated and professional Case Managers, carefully screened and oriented volunteers, ongoing match support and supervision and uniform case management standards and procedures. Programs

throughout Montana include site and community based programs, and partner with various community agencies, schools, and programs. At BBBS, we assess and evaluate outcomes for our children, our matches, and our programs. All BBBS agencies utilize a new service delivery model designed to provide the highest level of child safety, quality match service, and process efficiencies. Additionally, all BBBS agencies utilize a system of performance measures to determine yield rates, processing time, and volunteer and family satisfaction. This system allows BBBS agencies to evaluate and improve on service delivery, reduce match closures, and provide for high quality service.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is Cost Effective

Annual Cost / Child/Year	Program
\$114,063	Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch
\$60,225	Riverside Youth Correctional Facility
\$57,177	Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility
\$56,028	Therapeutic Group Homes for Youth
\$39,827	Group Home Shelter Care for Youth
\$39,420	Montana Women's Prison
\$23,360	Montana State Prison Average
\$6,044	Family Foster Care for Youth
\$800	Big Brothers Big Sisters

2002 Figures from Montana DHHS, Montana Department of Justice, & Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch

- ### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana Agencies
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Butte
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flathead County
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Great Falls
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Helena
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lake County/ Flathead Reservation
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Missoula
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Park and Sweet Grass County
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County

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