

#### 4. Option: Eliminate Funding for Big Brothers and Big Sisters

DPHHS Program: Child and Family Services Division

General Fund: \$180,012

State Special Revenue: \$0

Federal Special Revenue: \$0

For further information see [Reference Book](#) page 9

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1. Big Brothers Big Sisters has a decades long partnership with the Child and Family Services Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Since the late 1970s, Big Brothers Big Sisters has received state funding to create one-to-one mentoring relationships for at-risk youth. Tue, Sep 7, 2010 3:43 PM

Currently Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana receives \$180,000 per biennium from the Child and Family Services Division to match at-risk youth with an adult mentor. Frankly, without state funding, the nine Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies who share this funding will suffer greatly. As the state continues to struggle economically, so does Big Brothers Big Sisters. We have turned every rock and maxed out our funding options. A loss of state funding would mean a loss of services to children in the foster care system or those at risk of becoming involved in the system.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the ONLY Best Practice prevention program in Montana proven to impact a broad spectrum of risk factors, including delinquency, alcohol, tobacco and drug use, teen pregnancy, and school dropout. Big Brothers Big Sisters helps at-risk kids reach their highest potential and become productive adults. BBBS focuses less on specific problems after they occur and more on meeting the basic developmental needs of young people.

Big Brothers Big Sisters costs \$1000.00 per match per year and the return on the investment is higher across the board than dollars invested in single issue prevention programs. Residential treatment programs can cost over \$100,000.00 per year, correctional facilities cost between \$30,00.00 and \$100,00.00 per year, and family foster care for youth is over \$7000.00 per year. Big Brothers Big Sisters intervenes early and targets the youth that are most likely to end up in the system in their teenage and adult years. Early prevention has a small price tag compared to intervention once problem behaviors have started.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a leading prevention program in Montana and as such a critical partner to the State. BBBS is accountable for the State funding we receive and submit reports detailing the number of children served and the outcomes achieved.

As Montana faces an excruciating budget process in the next session, I ask that you maintain Big Brother Big Sister funding.

25 responses per page

answered question

skipped question

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It is my sincere hope that the legislature will not try to cut their way out of the revenue shortfall, but should consider a balanced approach of finding more revenue. To create and sustain jobs that make Montana a great place to work and live for generations to come, we need to look at both sides of the budget - spending and revenue.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Tina Cubbage  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Great Falls

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- |       |  |                           |
|-------|--|---------------------------|
| 2.    | This has been a very special deal for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. It is time for that organization to raise its own money the way most charitable organizations have to do.  | Tue, Sep 7, 2010 10:41 AM |
| <hr/> |  |                           |
| 3.    | Big Brothers Big Sisters is the ONLY Best Practice prevention program in Montana proven to impact a broad spectrum of risk factors, including delinquency, alcohol, tobacco and drug use, teen pregnancy, and school dropout. Big Brothers Big Sisters helps at-risk kids reach their highest potential and become productive adults. BBBS focuses less on specific problems after they occur and more on meeting the basic developmental needs of young people.<br><br>Big Brothers Big Sisters costs \$1000.00 per match per year and the return on the investment is higher across the board than dollars invested in single issue prevention programs. Residential treatment programs can cost over \$100,000.00 per year, correctional facilities cost between \$30,00.00 and \$100,00.00 per year, and family foster care for youth is over \$7000.00 per year. Big Brothers Big Sisters intervenes early and targets the youth that are most likely to end up in the system in their teenage and adult years. Early prevention has a small price tag compared to intervention once problem behaviors have started.<br><br>Big Brothers Big Sisters is a leading prevention program in Montana and as such a critical partner to the State. BBBS is accountable for the State funding we receive and submit reports detailing the number of children served and the outcomes achieved. | Tue, Sep 7, 2010 8:56 AM  |
| <hr/> |  |                           |
| 4.    | These create dependencies in programs an reduce their efforts to fund their own programs, so I am favorably disposed on this one.  | Sat, Sep 4, 2010 12:02 PM |
| <hr/> |  |                           |
| 5.    | NO   | Fri, Sep 3, 2010 3:06 PM  |
| <hr/> |  |                           |
| 6.    | I thought the governer was not going to cut social programs ?  | Fri, Sep 3, 2010 11:03 AM |
| <hr/> |  |                           |
| 7.    | Does anyone doubt the utility of providing role models to young people who need them? Ask yourself how many days of incarceration have to be prevented for this to be cost-effective before you say tough luck to BBBS.  | Thu, Sep 2, 2010 5:10 PM  |

25 responses per p

**answered question**  
**skipped question**

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<b>8.</b> No	Thu, Sep 2, 2010 4:07 PM
<b>9.</b> This program has been proven effective at keeping kids out of trouble, reducing the stress in their lives and their homes, and introducing them to healthy ways of communicating and thinking about the future. This small cost savings comes at a big cost.	Wed, Sep 1, 2010 9:32 PM
<b>10.</b> The best program for reducing child abuse-	Tue, Aug 31, 2010 7:49 AM
<b>11.</b> Agree	Sun, Aug 22, 2010 5:08 PM
<b>12.</b> yes	Tue, Aug 10, 2010 1:07 PM
<b>13.</b> Drop	

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25 responses per p

answered question

skipped question