

## Interagency Coordinating Council

The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), was created by Legislative statute in 1993 to create and sustain a coordinated, comprehensive system of prevention services in the state of Montana. The Interagency Coordinating Council on State Prevention Programs is comprised of ten Montana state agency directors, Children's Trust Fund, the Lt. Governor -- an ex-officio member, and two persons appointed by the Governor who have experiences related to the private or nonprofit provision of prevention programs and services.

Per MCA 2-15-225, the coordinating council shall perform the following duties:

- develop, through interagency planning efforts, a comprehensive and coordinated prevention program delivery system that will strengthen the healthy development, well-being, and safety of children, families, individuals, and communities;
- develop appropriate interagency prevention programs and services that address the problems of at-risk children and families and that can be provided in a flexible manner to meet the needs of those children and families;
- study various financing options for prevention programs and services;
- ensure that a balanced and comprehensive range of prevention services is available to children and families with specific or multiagency needs;
- assist in development of cooperative partnerships among state agencies and community-based public and private providers of prevention programs; and
- develop, maintain, and implement benchmarks for state prevention programs. As used in this subsection, "benchmark" means a specified reference point in the future that is used to measure the state of affairs at that point in time and to determine progress toward or the attainment of an ultimate goal, which is an outcome reflecting the desired state of affairs.

In addition, the coordinating council shall:

- cooperate with and report to any standing or interim legislative committee that is assigned to study the policies and funding for prevention programs or other state programs and policies related to children and families.
- the coordinating council must be compensated, reimbursed, and otherwise governed by the provisions of MCA 2-15-122.
- the coordinating council is attached for administrative purposes only to the governor's office, which may assist the council by providing staff and budgetary, administrative, and clerical services that the council or its presiding officer requests.
- staffing and other resources may be provided to the coordinating council only from state and nonstate resources donated to the council and from direct appropriations by each legislature.

### The ICC has 5 youth risk behavior prevention-related goals and associated benchmarks.

1. Reduce child abuse and neglect by promoting child safety and healthy family functioning.
2. Reduce youth use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs by promoting alternate activities and healthy lifestyles.
3. Reduce youth violence and crime by promoting the safety of all citizens.
4. Reduce school dropout by increasing the percentage of high school students who successfully transition from school to work, postsecondary education, training and/or military.
5. Reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases by promoting the concept that sexual activity, pregnancy and child rearing are serious responsibilities.

*The goals and benchmarks are addressed in conjunction with DPHHS Prevention contractors and collaboration with ICC member agencies.*

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#### RESOURCES:

1. Substance Abuse Prevention Program <https://dphhs.mt.gov/prevention>
2. Interagency Coordinating Council <https://dphhs.mt.gov/prevention/whatisicc>
3. ParentingMontana.org [www.parentingmontana.org](http://www.parentingmontana.org)
4. Montana State Statute 2-15-125  
[https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0020/chapter\\_0150/part\\_0020/section\\_0250/0020-0150-0020-0250.html](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0020/chapter_0150/part_0020/section_0250/0020-0150-0020-0250.html)