



Montana Board of Crime Control

5 S Last Chance Gulch
PO Box 201408
Helena MT 59620
Phone (406)444-3604
Fax (406)444-4722
TTY (406)444-7099
www.mbcc.mt.gov

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Lewis & Clark County
Chairperson

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Community Justice

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Andrew Community Services

TO: Law and Justice Interim Committee

FROM: Natalia Bowser, Director

DATE: June 27, 2022

RE: Restorative Justice report per MCA 44-7-302

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) is directed to actively seek federal grant money to establish restorative justice programs. The purpose of this report is to fulfill the requirements of MCA 44-7-302.

44-7-302. Restorative justice grants.

(1) The purposes of the restorative justice grant programs are to:

- (a) promote the use of restorative justice practices throughout the state; and
- (b) provide technical assistance to local and state jurisdictions and organizations interested in implementing the principles of restorative justice.

Restorative justice is a theory that focuses on repairing the damage caused by criminal behavior through programs focused on transforming people and communities. This practice includes all stakeholders to strengthen relationships and provide positive alternatives for intervention to avoid the criminal justice system.

MBCC seeks grant funding under competitive grant solicitations to support restorative justice initiatives and qualified, evidence-based programs.

The Center for Restorative Youth Justice (CRYJ)

Funded through a Title II grant focused on juvenile justice, MBCC allocates funds to CRYJ in the Flathead Valley. CRYJ provides proactive support for at-risk youth to avoid contact with the juvenile justice system. The program enhances communication between victims, youth offenders, and community members and helps individuals take responsibility for their actions and set goals. Achievements include:

- Facilitate a restorative integration program for youth struggling with school connections, escalating behavior problems and/or chronic absenteeism.
- Reduced suspensions, expulsions, and contact with the criminal justice system for minor school-based offenses.

Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Line/HELP Committee

Funded through a Title II grant focused on juvenile justice, MBCC allocates funds to the Youth Reporting Center that supports supervision, career/life skills training, anger management courses, and a variety of other services for youth referred by Hill County schools, courts, and probation offices.

Butte-Silver Bow Family Drug Court

Funded through a Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant, MBCC allocates funds to the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department. The program provides substance use disorder treatment to incarcerated individuals who have lost custody or are at risk of losing custody of their children to the Department of Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services Division. Individuals typically participate in the Butte-Silver Bow Family Drug Court after release from jail. As part of the continuum of restorative justice, the program aims to reunify families and prevent future crime.

Missoula County Youth Resiliency Project

Funded by the Delinquency Prevention Program (DPP) Grant, the Missoula County Community Justice Department was awarded \$447,094 to implement the Missoula County Youth Resiliency Project over a three-year project period. Missoula County partnered with Inner Roads to provide outdoor behavioral health residential treatment and mentoring services to at-risk and delinquent youth in Missoula County and Mineral County. The program includes restorative interventions, individual/group mentoring during and after expeditions, and coordination of care. Caregivers receive weekly therapy, parent skills training, and family therapy while their child is in the program. Following program completion, Inner Roads provides up to 12 weeks of community mentoring services and case management. By expanding services to Mineral County, The Missoula County Community Justice Department hopes to introduce restorative justice practices and provide additional support to rural youth, families, and communities.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP): TBD

MBCC has \$417,917 in remaining funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's 2020 Delinquency Prevention Program (DPP) grant. MBCC recently released a new funding opportunity for applicants meeting one or more of OJJDP's priority areas: rural communities, high- and persistent-poverty counties, and Qualified Opportunity Zones. Once awards are made, the new program(s) will implement restorative justice practices, mentoring, and case management services to prevent delinquency among at-risk youth. MBCC expects to award the remaining funds by October 1, 2022.