



## **MCA 41-3-132: OFFICE OF FAITH AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee

**Reporting period:** Initial Report

### **OVERVIEW**

The following statutorily required report is completed by the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPPHS) Office of Faith and Community Based Services (FCBS). The following report includes the requirements set forth in MCA 41-3-132, which states:

41-3-132. Duties of department.

The department shall:

- (1) establish a registration for volunteers interested in supporting child protective services activities, including those related to child abuse and neglect prevention, family support, and reunification;
- (2) develop a process for referring potential volunteers to faith-based and community-based organizations offering volunteer opportunities that support child protective services activities, including those related to child abuse and neglect prevention, family support, and reunification.
- (3) Report to the children, families, health, and human services interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210 on the department's efforts related to this part.

### **Update**

A web-based portal has been developed and is located on the FCBS website ([faithandcommunity.mt.gov](http://faithandcommunity.mt.gov)) for volunteers to register with twenty-seven Montana Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) offices. Organizations can register their organization through the portal for review by the FCBS office; upon approval, they will be added to the list of participating volunteer organizations with CFSD.

The volunteer portal allows a volunteer organization to select one or more CFSD offices to support from a prepopulated list on the portal. The FCBS office evaluates applications to see if the volunteer organization meets the criteria of supporting child protective services activities, including those related to child abuse and neglect prevention, family support, and reunification. Those registering on the volunteer portal can select the desired CFSD office and the organization they would like to connect with. The FCBS office promotes the volunteer portal via an electronic newsletter distributed about six times a year to Montanans via email, vendor shows, and community presentations.

Currently, the volunteer portal has seven organizations supporting twenty-seven CFSD offices and four volunteers. It has also influenced the partnerships and volunteering of corporations, non-profits, and churches to support the activities of CFSD across Montana.