



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
*all about Montana's future*

## **Montana Mental Health Access Fund for Indigenous Communities**

### ***Increasing access to mental health for Indigenous communities in Montana***

The Montana Mental Health Access Fund was created to help increase access to mental health services across Montana, with a particular focus on tribal communities. The fund supports innovative ideas for improving mental health and well-being on Reservations in Montana, including leveraging technology and other resources to provide mental health services in even the hardest to reach areas and populations.

Montana has one of the highest suicide rates in the Country, while accessing mental health services across the State remains a challenge for many. Historically, there has been a lack of mental health services, especially in tribal communities. Supporting a health system that focuses on mental health and provides access to prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services is essential to improving the health of all Montanans.

The goal of the fund is to help make mental health services available to all Montanans by 2025.

### **Eligibility Criteria and Application Guidelines**

The Montana Mental Health Access Fund will fund mental health service providers including health clinics, mental health centers, hospitals, social service agencies, nonprofits, schools, and for-profit licensed providers to provide mental health services on Reservations in Montana, including the members of Little Shell Chippewa Tribe. The purpose of the funds is to increase access to mental health services and provide services to those who might otherwise not have access.

#### **Eligible Applicants:**

- Those working on the seven Reservations located in Montana, including Flathead Reservation, Blackfeet Reservation, Rocky Boy's Reservation, Fort Belknap Reservation, Fort Peck Reservation, and the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, as well as the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe.
- Applicants must be licensed to provide mental health services, or work with a licensed provider.
- Applications from for-profit organizations must demonstrate considerable benefit to the community and how the funds will not solely benefit the business and its operations. Additionally, the program will not make grants for services already covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or other insurance.

#### **The Fund will grant to projects that:**

- Improve or increase access to mental health services, including leveraging technology (i.e. telehealth) and other resources to meet the need those

represented on the seven Indian Reservations in Montana or the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe.

- Reduce barriers to accessing mental health services including geographic, demographic, and economic barriers.
- Provide mental health services associated with the grant at no cost to the patient.
- Are long-term and sustainable solutions to increasing access to mental health.
- Projects must be evidence based and demonstrate measurable outcomes.
- Projects must fill a need that other available resources in the community cannot meet. Organizations requesting funds for serving an existing client-base with a new type of mental health service (i.e. new technology serving an already served population/community) will not be ranked highly.
- We encourage projects that create or advance new and substantive partnerships that result in the more efficient and effective use of resources.

**Grant Amounts:** Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

### **Application Process & Deadline**

Only online applications will be accepted and can be accessed here-  
<https://mtcf.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant>.

Grants will open annually on July 1 and close November 1.

All applications are reviewed by the Montana Mental Health Access Fund Committee, which is made up of mental health experts. The Montana Community Foundation will notify you of the Committee's decision as soon as possible. We cannot guarantee that every proposal will be funded, or that you will receive the full amount you requested.

**Reporting:** A project report will be due within one year of receiving funds. Project reports must be received before additional grants are made.

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For questions about the fund or application please contact Elisa Fiaschetti at [elisa@mtcf.org](mailto:elisa@mtcf.org).