

Dear Advocates,

The **2023 Montana Legislative Session** kicked off on Monday, Jan. 2nd. In this session, lawmakers will vote on laws and policies impacting women in every Montana community. Issues including access to health care, childcare affordability, housing, and workers' rights are on the table.

The Women's Foundation of Montana (WFM) will be there, working alongside WFM grantees and partners to advocate for women. WFM grantees are working on a wide variety of critical issues and some of their goals include:

- Protect reproductive rights
- Ensure services to Montana families are adequately funded
- Increase the State Earned Income Tax Credit
- Defend Medicaid Expansion

Throughout the session, WFM will be sending out monthly <u>Advocacy</u> <u>Updates</u> to keep you informed on the issues and the legislative process. And we want you to know that you have the power to influence legislation!

You can reach out to your <u>legislators</u> about the issues you care about, share your story, and speak out for Montana women and girls. Tips for working with legislators:

- Know who your legislators are. You have power as their constituent. Legislators are more likely to listen to and consider the information they receive directly from those who live in their district. You can find your legislator <u>here</u>.
- Know how to contact your legislators. You can call the Capitol Switchboard or write to your legislator. You can find more information <u>here</u>. Or you can find email addresses on the legislator roster <u>here</u>.
- 3. **Personalize your message.** You have something of value to offer decision-makers your experience and story! The most valuable thing you can give your legislator is a compelling story about the impact of policy issues on the people that the legislator represents.

We strive to be a voice of change for women and girls in Montana. The work of WFM is made possible because of you, and we hope to be a resource for you during the <u>68th Montana Legislative Session</u>.

Stay tuned for future Advocacy Updates!

Sincerely,



Kylie Gursky WFM Program Officer kylie@mtcf.org



WFM Program Director, Kylie Gursky, and WFM's lobbyist, Robin Turner, attended the Montana Nonprofit Association's Day at the Capitol.

Together we can empower Montana women and girls to pursue their dreams.

## About the Women's Foundation of Montana

Established in 1999, the Women's Foundation of Montana is a program of Montana Community Foundation and on a mission to advance women's economic independence and create a brighter future for our girls. Learn more at wfmontana.org.





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