



MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 16 | March 2025



The Board presented the Cascade County Veterans' Treatment Court with the Certificate of Outstanding Program Award during the Quarterly Meeting on March 6, 2025. From left to right: Robert Weber, Kaydee Snipes Ruiz, Andrea Bethel, Denver Cobb, Jason Johnson, Kathy Hanks, Leo Dutton, Rick Kirn, Brian Gootkin, Shantelle Gaynor, Dave McAlpin, and Matt Kuntz.

Funding Opportunities

The MBCC is seeking applications for the following grant programs:

- FY26 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
- FY25 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)
- FY25 John R. Justice (JRJ) Student Loan Repayment Program

Upcoming opportunities include:

- 2025 STOP Violence Against

March Board Meeting

The MBCC Board held its quarterly meeting on March 6, 2025. They reviewed progress on the agency's strategic goals and made funding decisions for the John R. Justice (JRJ) Student Loan Repayment, the Title II Juvenile Justice grant, and the FY25 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant.

The Board also welcomed four new members:

- **Andrea Bethel**, Missoula Probation & Parole
- **Matthew Kuntz**, NAMI Montana
- **Jason Johnson**, DOJ - Gambling Control Division
- **Dave McAlpin**, the Office of the Court Administrator

Kathy Hanke and Denver Cobb, representing the Spring Program Highlights recipient, Cascade County Veterans' Treatment Court, gave a presentation about the important work their program does and the impact it has on veterans and the community.

The agenda, public events, and more can be found on the MBCC Events Calendar.

[Find Out More](#)

Women Act
(VAWA) funding
opportunity opens
April 7, 2025

- FVPSA funding
opportunity opens
April 21, 2025

For funding opportunity links, dates, deadlines, and more information, please visit the Funding Opportunities page on the MBCC website.

[MBCC Funding Opportunities](#)

2025 Spring Program Highlights

Cascade County Veterans' Treatment Court

The Montana Board of Crime Control is pleased to announce the Spring 2025 Program Highlights recipient, the Cascade County Veterans' Treatment Court.

Established in 2013, the Cascade County Veterans' Treatment Court (VTC) in Montana has been a pivotal program addressing the unique challenges faced by veterans within the criminal justice system. Designed for veterans charged with crimes linked to serious treatment issues—often stemming from their military experiences—the VTC offers an outpatient, court-managed program. Participants undergo appropriate treatments, are carefully screened before admission, and are continuously monitored, including drug testing, throughout the program.

Notable Accomplishments

- **High Success Rate:** Of those who exited the program, 86% graduated. This high graduation rate underscores the program's effectiveness in rehabilitating veterans and reintegrating them into society.
- **National Recognition:** In 2025, the Cascade County VTC was named one of only five “Mentor Courts” nationwide by All Rise’s Justice for Vets division and the U.S. Department of Justice. This designation highlights the court’s effectiveness and allows it to serve as a model program for other jurisdictions across the country looking to establish similar courts.
- **Participant Success Stories:** Graduates of the Cascade County VTC have achieved significant personal milestones. Many have secured employment, started businesses, and pursued further education, reflecting the program's positive impact on their lives.

Cascade County’s VTC operates as a voluntary program that provides veterans with an alternative to incarceration. The program lasts 14 to 16 months, during which participants receive mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, and mentorship. Participants are closely supervised and must adhere to a structured plan that includes:

- Regular court appearances
- Frequent drug and alcohol testing
- Case management and treatment
- Mandatory employment and/or education
- Community engagement
- Relapse prevention
- Peer mentorship with fellow veterans

The Cascade County VTC program is based on the Ten.Key.Components.to.Adult.Drug.Court treatment model that embraces collaboration and joint decision making. Their team includes a judge, defense, prosecution, treatment, law enforcement, probation, case management, community providers, peer support, and mentors. This multidisciplinary team allows the VTC to provide complete wrap-around services to participants, addressing their unique needs and guiding them toward a stable and productive future.

Through its commitment to rehabilitation, accountability, and support, the Cascade County VTC continues to provide veterans with the tools they need to rebuild their lives and successfully reintegrate into society.

MBCC Chair Leo Dutton presented Kathy Hanks and Denver Cobb with the Certificate of Outstanding Program Award at the Quarterly Board Meeting on March 6, 2025

For more information about the Cascade County VTC program, please click [here](#).

Read the Full Article

March Youth Justice Council Meeting

The Youth Justice Council met March 5, 2025 to welcome new members, discuss and recommend Title II funding decisions, and approve committee appointments. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2025.

[Find Out More](#)



The deadline to submit student essays for the 2025 Do the Write Thing challenge is **March 27, 2025**. Staff will begin scoring the first week of April and expects to announce the ten state finalists in late April. MBCC will host a state-level celebration **May 3, 2025** and the national ambassador will receive a trip to Washington, D.C. in **mid-July**.

Thank you to all the students and teachers who participated!

[Find Out More](#)

Grant Application Resources

Grant application season is just around the corner. In addition to [MBCC funding opportunities page](#), MBCC wants to make it easier for applicants, subgrantees, and other partners to find available funding sources. To help with this, we created the Other Funding Resources webpage. We will keep this updated with upcoming funding opportunities.

Other Funding Resources Webpage

Training Opportunities Webpage

Please check out our Training Opportunities webpage. We also update this with upcoming trainings, hosted by both MBCC and our partners.

Training Opportunities Webpage

Let Us Know if You Have Suggestions

Please let us know if you know of other federal funding opportunities, grant application resources, or training opportunities not listed on this page. You can email the information to mbcc@mt.gov.



Montana Crime Prevention Conference

October 30-31, 2025 | Billings DoubleTree by Hilton

MBCC is seeking presenters, exhibitors, and sponsors for the 2025 Montana Crime Prevention Conference.

Presenter Opportunities

The deadline to submit presentation proposals is **Friday, May 2, 2025**. Conference presentations must be two hours in length, so they qualify for POST credit. MBCC will review presentations on an ongoing basis. Presenters will be notified in early June 2025.

[**Submit Presentation Proposal**](#)

Exhibitor Opportunities

MBCC has ten exhibitor booth slots available. The last day to apply for an **exhibitor booth is Friday, May 23, 2025**.

[**Apply for Exhibitor Booth**](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities

Support from our sponsors enables the Montana Crime Prevention Conference to continue to provide key educational sessions to law enforcement professionals, state, local and tribal government, probation, victim service providers, educators,

and leaders from public and private sectors across the state. For more information, please view the [Sponsorship Levels](#).

[Become a Sponsor](#)



Join OVC in commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) from April 6-12, 2025. Learn about this year's theme - Connecting < KINSHIP > Healing - and register for NCVRW events.

[Learn More](#)



Stay Connected with:
Montana Board of Crime Control

5 South Last Chance Gulch

P.O. Box 201408

Helena, MT 59620

(406) 444-3604

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions and Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)