



# Montana State Victim Liaison Project

2020 - 2025

## Abstract

Montana Board of Crime Control's State Victim Liaison Project launched in July 2021, aims to enhance victim services across Montana through three primary goals: the implementation of a statewide needs assessment, the creation of a comprehensive map of victim services, and the establishment of a unified victim services network. This project seeks to identify and address the specific needs of crime victims throughout the state, ensuring better access to resources and support, and fostering collaboration among service providers to create an effective and responsive victim assistance framework.

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# State Victim Liaison Project

2020-V3-GX-0007

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the State Victim Liaison Project, detailing its inception, process, strategic recommendations, and future priorities, all with the goal of strengthening Montana's Victim Services Network.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE STATE VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

The State Victim Liaison Project with the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) was a three-year initiative to enhance collaboration, conduct a statewide needs assessment, and build a cohesive network of victim service providers throughout the state of Montana. The project involved close coordination with various stakeholders, including MBCC staff, subgrantees, victim service providers, and the Board itself. Two designated liaisons played a crucial role in communication and collaboration: one liaison focused exclusively on tribal victim service providers, while the other engaged with all other victim service providers in the state. The project placed special emphasis on addressing the needs of victims in rural areas and older adults (aged 60+) who had experienced crime. By identifying and addressing these gaps in victim services, the State Victim Liaison Project aimed to strengthen the overall support system for crime victims in Montana, fostering a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to victim assistance.

### KEY OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE STATE VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

Guided by the mission to strengthen victim services statewide, the liaisons collaborated with victim service providers to achieve three primary objectives. First, they facilitated roundtable discussions with providers around the state, using the feedback to create and deploy a Statewide Needs Assessment. Second, they gathered and analyzed victim service provider data to create a comprehensive map highlighting service needs statewide. This map, developed in collaboration with the Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) unit, enabled MBCC to pinpoint areas most in need of victim services. Third, the liaisons worked to build strong professional relationships between MBCC, all project partners, and victim service providers statewide. This effort aimed to establish the Montana Victim Services Network, a comprehensive statewide system of support for victim service providers.

### SUMMARY OF CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The project encountered several challenges, including a delay due to a federal rescheduling of the start date from October 2020 to January 2021. The State Victim Liaison and Tribal Victim Liaison



positions were officially posted in March 2021, and the State Victim Liaison began in July 2021, followed quickly by the Tribal Victim Liaison in August 2021. Additionally, the departure of the Tribal Victim Liaison in 2022 and various geographic and cultural barriers in rural and tribal areas further complicated the project's progress.

Despite challenges such as implementation delays and staffing transitions, the project remained committed to its goal of fostering collaboration and increasing accessibility for underserved communities. Roundtable discussions were facilitated in 14 communities, enabling the collection of valuable data on gaps and barriers for crime victims in Montana. Additionally, the State and Tribal Victim Liaisons initiated partnerships with victim service providers and allied partners, facilitating the development of a Statewide Needs Assessment. This assessment was deployed regionally beginning in early 2023, providing critical insights into the needs of diverse communities across the state. Despite delays, progress was made in laying the groundwork for the Montana Victim Services Network, with ongoing educational sessions fostering collaboration among stakeholders. However, further efforts were needed to fully realize the project's objectives and address the evolving needs of victims and survivors.

## INTRODUCTION

### MONTANA BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL

The Montana Board of Crime Control, established in 1968, plays a pivotal role in promoting public safety and supporting the criminal justice system in Montana. As an 18-member quasi-judicial board appointed by the Governor, MBCC serves several crucial functions:

1. **Financial Support:** Administers federal and state grants to support local, regional, and statewide projects.
2. **Policy Development:** Develops state policies related to crime prevention and victim assistance.
3. **Technical Assistance:** Provides support to state and local criminal justice agencies.

MBCC has made significant strides in victim services, including:

- Securing \$2 million per year in state funding for victim service providers.
- Administering federal funds from various sources to support victim services.
- Providing training and technical assistance to victim service providers.
- Spearheading the State Victim Liaison Project.
- Taking over the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Grant from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

#### **MBCC Mission Statement**

*The mission of Montana Board of Crime Control is to proactively contribute to public safety, crime prevention, and victim assistance through planning, policy development, and coordination of the justice system in partnership with citizens, government, and communities.*



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## THE INCEPTION OF THE STATE VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

### ORIGINAL PROJECT GOALS

The project was established with several key objectives:

- Address the absence of a comprehensive statewide picture of victim services.
- Establish a unified Montana Victim Services Network to connect service providers statewide.
- Improve access for underserved populations, including rural communities, tribal members, and older adults aged 60+.
- Conduct a formal Needs Assessment to identify service gaps and priorities.
- Create comprehensive data mapping of victim services across the state.

#### **MBCC Strategic Goals (2024-2025)**

##### **Victim's Programs**

**Goal: Provide opportunities and resources to strengthen and sustain victim services at the program and community level.**

- Identify stakeholders and convene stakeholders for bi-annual stakeholder meetings.
- Collect data and produce a comprehensive, annual victim services report, including tribes.
- Establish partnerships to support tribal and state initiatives for sharing victim services data and resources.
- Support strategies to sustain state-level funding for victim services in Montana.

### GEOGRAPHIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Montana, the fourth largest state by land area but ranked 48th in population density, presents unique challenges for victim services, particularly with 40 out of its 56 counties classified as rural. Statistics indicate that there are higher rates of intimate partner violence in rural areas, but there's also a significant shortage of providers, including healthcare and mental health providers. One of the largest challenges Montana faces is a growing elderly population facing increased violent crimes.

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### IMPORTANCE OF VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Victim support services play a crucial role in promoting healing, empowerment, and justice for individuals who have experienced various forms of victimization, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, child abuse, and other crimes. The importance of these services in the community cannot be overstated, as they provide invaluable assistance and resources to survivors during their most vulnerable times. Some key reasons why victim support services are vital:



1. Addressing trauma and facilitating healing: Victimization can have profound psychological, emotional, and physical consequences. Victim support services offer counseling, therapy, and support groups that help survivors process their trauma, develop coping mechanisms, and begin the healing process.
2. Ensuring safety and security: Victim service providers work to ensure the safety and security of survivors, offering emergency shelters, relocation assistance, safety planning, and legal advocacy to protect individuals from further harm or retaliation.
3. Navigating the legal system: The legal system can be daunting and overwhelming for survivors. Victim service providers offer guidance, support, and accompaniment throughout the criminal justice process, ensuring that survivors' rights are protected and their voices are heard.
4. Promoting empowerment and self-sufficiency: Victim support services empower survivors by providing resources for education, job training, and access to essential services, enabling them to regain control over their lives and achieve independence.
5. Raising awareness and prevention: These services play a vital role in raising community awareness about the prevalence and impact of victimization, challenging societal norms and attitudes that perpetuate violence, and promoting prevention efforts to break the cycle of abuse.
6. Fostering a supportive community: Victim support services bring together compassionate individuals and organizations to aid survivors, foster community solidarity, and advocate for systemic change to address the root causes of violence.

By providing comprehensive support services, victim service providers not only assist individuals in their recovery, but also contribute to building safer, more inclusive, and more resilient communities where survivors can thrive.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### SCOPE AND REACH OF THE STATE VICTIM LIAISON PROJECT

The State Victim Liaison Project, designated by project number 2020-V3-GX-0007, was originally a three-year initiative that was extended to five years to address gaps in victim services throughout Montana. Through collaboration with diverse stakeholders and the creation of a cohesive statewide support network, the project seeks to enhance victim services across Montana.



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## COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, COMMUNITY PROVIDERS, AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The project involved convening in-person roundtable discussions with victim service providers, allied partners, and survivors across various communities in Montana. These discussions aimed to identify gaps and barriers hindering access to victim services and to develop solutions to enhance victim support statewide. Through candid conversations and shared insights, stakeholders representing diverse agencies and organizations collaborated to address challenges and improve services for survivors of various forms of victimization.

The State Victim Liaison Project for Montana fostered strong collaborative efforts with law enforcement, community partners, and victim service providers to ensure comprehensive support for crime victims and survivors. The project actively engaged local law enforcement, community organizations, and victim service providers to strengthen coordination, enhance information-sharing, and address service gaps. By leveraging the expertise and resources of various stakeholders, the project aimed to enhance the overall response to victim needs and facilitate access to essential support services across the state.

## OUTREACH

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### ROUNDTABLES

The project has successfully facilitated roundtable discussions in 14 communities across Montana. These discussions have been instrumental in collecting valuable data on gaps and barriers faced by crime victims, while also engaging in conversations about how to best collaborate and support other providers. Discussions have been held in key locations such as Billings, Missoula, Great Falls, Kalispell, and Helena, as well as in rural communities. Many rural communities have only one or two providers serving both their local area and nearby communities, making collaboration critical to ensuring comprehensive victim support. In many cases, these providers and agencies were invited to nearby roundtables, or one-on-one conversations were conducted to learn about their particular gaps and barriers.

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### VIRTUAL OUTREACH

A key element of the initiative's virtual outreach was the transition of Educational Power Hour (EPH), initially launched in March 2020 by the Montana Department of Corrections, Victim Services Bureau in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary aim of EPH was to unite victim service providers and mitigate the feelings of isolation that can lead to burnout among professionals in the field.

In April 2022, the management of Educational Power Hour was transitioned to the Montana Board of Crime Control and the State Victim Liaison Project. EPH has since become a vital platform for highlighting the expertise and experiences of criminal justice professionals and allied partners





across Montana. This initiative has played a crucial role in enhancing awareness of the various programs and services available throughout the state and has provided the State Victim Liaison an opportunity to connect with service providers they may not have otherwise engaged with.

Through this virtual outreach, the project has successfully facilitated educational discussions that foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among service providers. This has been particularly beneficial in bridging gaps in understanding and support for crime victims across Montana, especially in rural areas where service providers are often limited.

By leveraging virtual platforms, the initiative has ensured that even communities with only one or two providers can participate, thereby enriching the dialogue about the unique challenges they face. The virtual format has allowed for broader participation, enabling providers from various locations to join discussions, share insights, and contribute to a collective effort in addressing the needs of crime victims statewide.

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## TRIBAL OUTREACH

The Tribal Outreach component of the State Victim Liaison Project aimed to foster respectful, collaborative relationships with Montana's eight federally recognized tribes, ensuring culturally relevant and trauma-informed victim services. This initiative sought to address gaps in victim services while ensuring that culturally relevant and trauma-informed practices were implemented to meet the unique needs of American Indian communities. One liaison was specifically dedicated to tribal victim service providers and the other engaged with broader victim service providers across the state. Through these efforts, the project worked diligently to build connections, gather insights, and enhance services that honor the sovereignty and cultural values of tribal communities.

In terms of communication efforts, the first tribal victim liaison established connections with representatives from Montana's eight federally recognized tribes and partnered with key organizations like the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council. The tribal victim liaison reached out to each tribe to initiate collaboration. However, one of the primary challenges during this outreach was navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in tribal reservation shutdowns and limited in-person engagement. A key milestone was the tribal victim liaison's facilitation of a dialogue with Indigenous women incarcerated at the Montana Women's Prison, providing valuable insights into the intersection of victimization and the criminal justice system. This conversation allowed the tribal victim liaison to explore the intricate overlap of the criminal justice system and survivors, providing valuable insights into their experiences and informing efforts to improve support services.

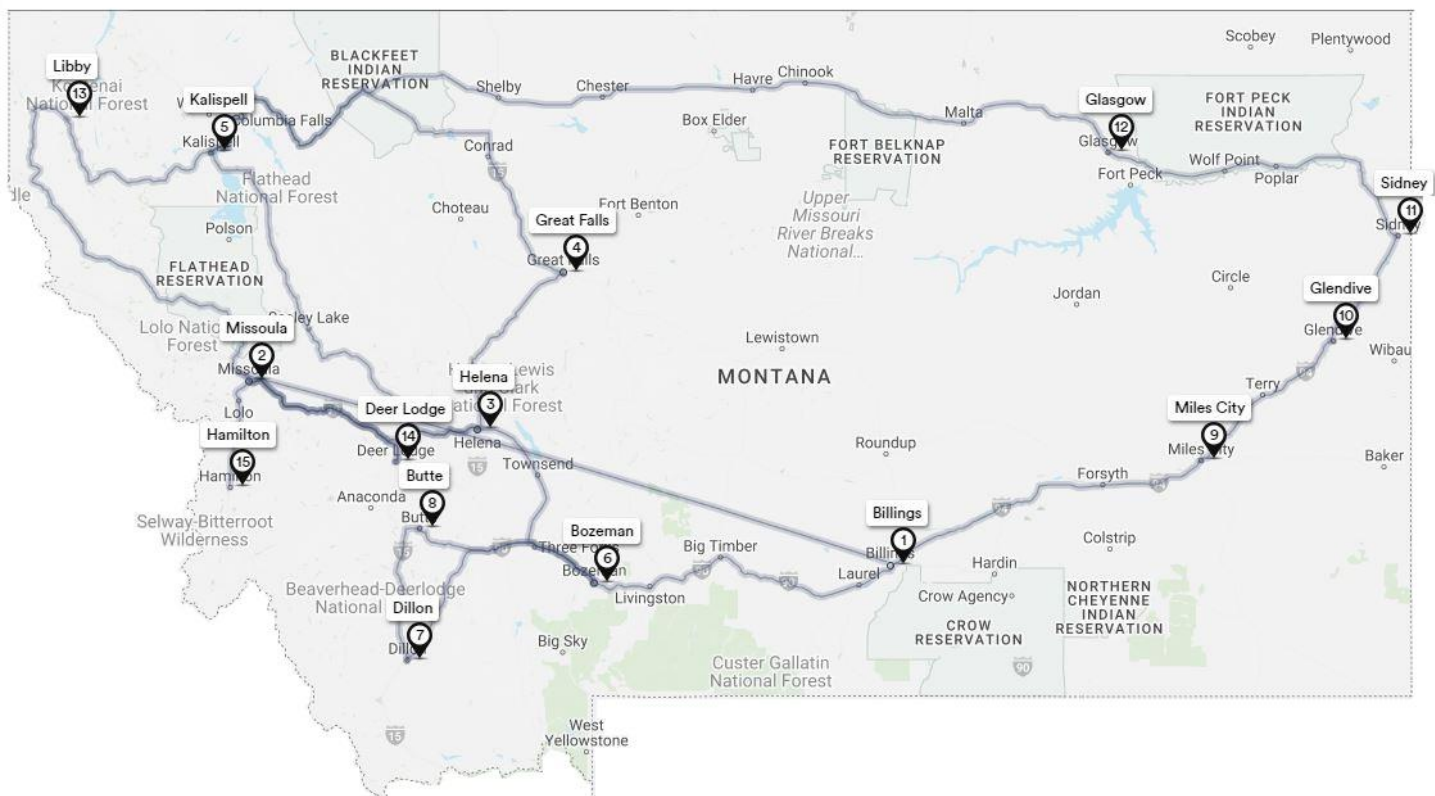
Additionally, the second Tribal Victim Liaison worked directly with tribal communities to complete the Statewide Needs Assessment for victim service providers and allied partners. This assessment was conducted with support from the National Native Children's Trauma Center, ensuring that culturally sensitive approaches tailored to tribal populations were incorporated.





The tribal outreach initiative prioritized forging strong partnerships to expand and enhance victim services within tribal communities across Montana. Key collaborations included working with the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, which facilitated presentations and strengthened connections with tribal partners across Montana. The project also partnered with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), specifically with Stephanie Iron Shooter from the Office of Indian Health Affairs, to align services with tribal needs. Coordination with the Governor’s Office, represented by Misty Kuhl, supported tribal initiatives. Additionally, collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) involved working with Erin Johnson to engage with tribal communities and included partnerships with Devaney Buffalo from the National Parks and Services Victim Witness program. The National Native Children’s Trauma Center played a critical role in ensuring cultural relevancy for the Statewide Needs Assessment and other outreach initiatives. Furthermore, partnerships with the Department of Justice (DOJ) involved working alongside DOJ sexual assault trainers to visit reservations, meet with providers, and learn from tribal approaches to victim services. The project also coordinated listening sessions with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and collaborated with the DOC’s American Indian Liaison and Victim Witness Coordinator from the Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP).

Through these efforts, the Tribal Outreach component has been instrumental in building meaningful relationships, addressing service gaps, and ensuring that victim services reflect the diverse cultural and geographic needs of Native American communities across Montana.



# MONTANA VICTIM SERVICES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## INTRODUCTION

The "Montana Victim Services Needs Assessment" report presents the findings of a statewide needs assessment, methodically developed and deployed to gauge the challenges faced by victim service providers across Montana's diverse counties and reservations. Developed through collaborative roundtable discussions with providers and allied partners, this assessment identifies gaps and barriers affecting effective support for survivors.

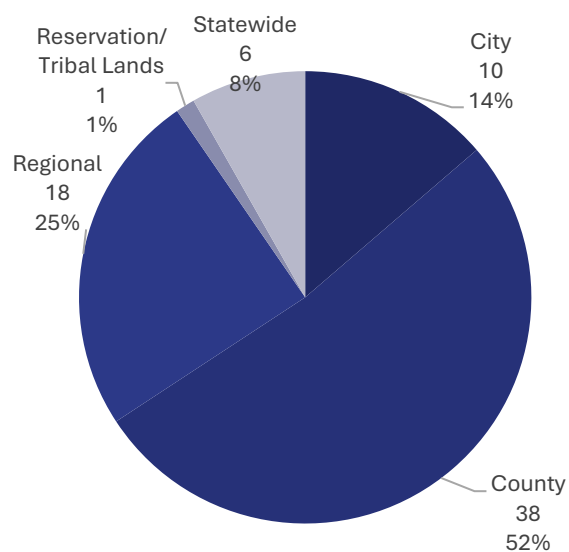
Driven by the recognition that victims of crime require comprehensive and accessible services to navigate the complex aftermath of their experiences, the assessment identifies key gaps in resources, training, and funding. It also illuminates the geographical and cultural barriers that hinder service accessibility, particularly in rural communities.

By providing insights into the current state of victim services in Montana, this report aims to inform policymakers, stakeholders, and community organizations about the pressing needs of victim service providers. It serves as a call to action for collaboration, increased funding, and the implementation of trauma-informed practices that prioritize the well-being of victims. Ultimately, this assessment seeks to foster a more resilient and responsive support system that empowers victims and enhances their recovery journey.

## METHODOLOGY

The assessment employed a mixed-methods approach, including the aforementioned collaborative roundtable discussions with providers and allied partners, followed by a comprehensive needs assessment survey distributed statewide. Data was collected over 12 months and analyzed to identify key themes and trends related to service provision, gaps, and barriers.

Before deploying the 41-question survey, valuable feedback was gathered from key partners, including the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, tribal representatives, and the Montana Department of Corrections Victim Services Bureau. Their insights helped refine the assessment to ensure it accurately captured the complexities of victim service needs across Montana. The finalized survey was then distributed electronically and in print to



*73 organizations and programs were represented by 130 individual respondents. 52% of these organizations provide coverage to the county in which their program resides. There is one program on tribal lands providing tribal-specific services.*

victim service providers, law enforcement, corrections officials, and allied partners statewide. It included both contact and location information for participants and aimed to capture a wide range of perspectives on service gaps, challenges, and priority needs.

## EVALUATION OF SERVICE GAPS AND BARRIERS

Many respondents identified significant gaps in services available to victims, particularly in rural areas. Lack of resources and funding constraints impact approximately 65% of providers, creating a significant barrier to offering comprehensive support. Access to transportation further hinders assistance, with over half of the respondents reporting this as an issue. Furthermore, service providers expressed a need for stable funding and reduced turnover (65%). A notable 75% of respondents underscored the importance of training in trauma-informed care and diversity, while 70% emphasized cultural sensitivity. Addressing this with training and resource efforts that cater to diverse communities, particularly the Montana American Indian population, is crucial. This ties to the needs of survivors and justice system concerns.

Over 80% identified housing, childcare, and mental health services as pressing needs for survivors, while 55% underscored the need for trauma-informed practices in the justice system. Better communication channels and partnerships are needed (60%), and 75% indicated professional development in trauma-informed care, legal issues, and best practices would improve service capabilities.

## PRIORITIZED NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

- Access to Services: 85% of respondents ranked this as the top priority.
- Cultural Competency: 70% highlighted the importance of culturally sensitive services.
- Funding and Resources: 65% indicated that inadequate funding is a significant barrier.

130 Responses

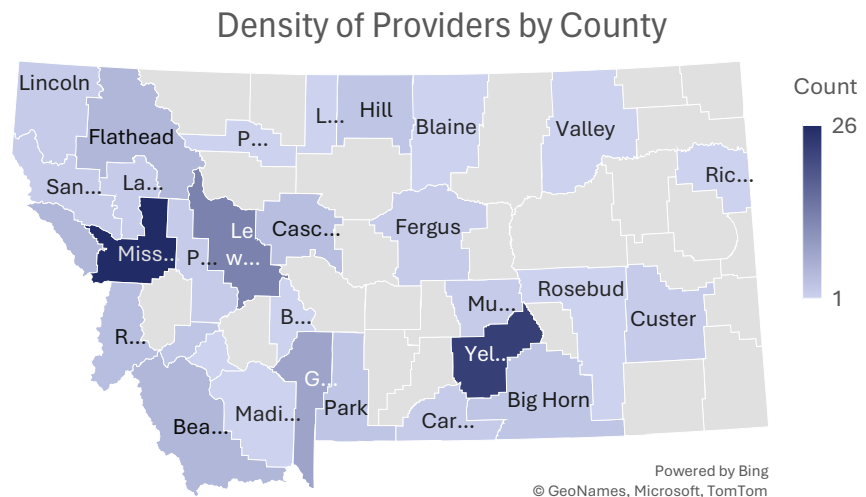


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## FINDINGS

The data reveals significant regional disparities in service availability and access, particularly between urban and rural areas. The strong emphasis on cultural sensitivity, especially for Montana's American Indian population, underscores the need for tailored services that honor and integrate diverse cultural perspectives.

There is a pressing need for increased funding and resources to bridge the service gaps identified. Enhanced financial support could empower service providers to expand outreach, improve accessibility, and offer comprehensive support services.



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## NEEDS ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations emphasize a multi-faceted approach to strengthening victim services in Montana. A core theme focuses on enhancing service accessibility, particularly in rural and underserved areas, through targeted outreach efforts. Parallel to this is the emphasis on culturally tailored programs designed to meet the specific needs of the Montana American Indian population and other marginalized communities. The importance of enhanced collaboration among agencies and organizations is highlighted to streamline services and avoid duplication. Securing stable funding is seen as critical for program sustainability, necessitating the exploration of alternative funding sources beyond federal grants. The report stresses the need for training and education, including a statewide training initiative on trauma-informed care and cultural competency.

Furthermore, empowering communities through grassroots advocacy and tribal victim advocates is seen as integral. To further support service providers, a centralized resource-sharing platform and a Montana Victim Services Network are recommended. Improved communication is also a key goal, with a focus on developing clear protocols between victim service providers and law enforcement agencies. Finally, the report calls for consideration of a formal training program for victim advocates to enhance professionalism, consistency, and credibility, while addressing the challenges of cost and access, especially in rural areas.


## NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

The Montana Victim Services Needs Assessment provides critical insights into the state of victim services in Montana, highlighting significant gaps and barriers that must be addressed. This report emphasizes the importance of enhancing accessibility to services, increasing funding, and improving training for providers. Furthermore, it underscores the need for culturally sensitive approaches that honor the diverse backgrounds of victims in Montana. By working collaboratively to enhance victim services, increase funding, and implement effective training programs, Montana can ensure that all victims of crime receive the support and resources they need to heal and thrive.

## COMPREHENSIVE MAP OF VICTIM SERVICES

### VICTIM RESOURCES MAP

The victim resources map has been a time-intensive project that resulted from a collaborative effort with the Montana Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). This partnership between the SAC unit and the State Victim Liaison led to the development of a clickable, interactive map hosted on the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) website. The map provides a comprehensive listing of victim service providers by county, featuring essential information such as agency names, contact details, crisis lines (if available), email addresses, websites, and the specific services offered. Notably, the map highlights programs that provide services tailored for tribes or American Indians in Montana, ensuring that these critical resources are easily identifiable. Though designed primarily for public use, the map serves as a vital resource for victim service providers, allied partners, and survivors. Recognizing that individuals accessing the map may be in vulnerable situations, an exit button has been included to allow users to quickly leave the page and redirect elsewhere for privacy and safety. The map is accessible on both computers and mobile devices, ensuring ease of use for all audiences.



### Victim Services Resources

Search service providers by county, city, or by services offered with the filters below:

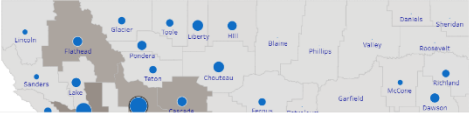
County  
(All)

City  
(All)

Search Bar

How would you like to view the map?  
Map View  
☐ Resources Only  
☐ Population Only  
☒ Resources & Population

Viewing Map with Resources & Population selected:



County	Name Of Organization	Websites	Phone Number
Beaverhead	Galatin County Child Advocacy Center	<a href="https://www.beaverheadhelpcenter.org/child-advocacy-center/">https://www.beaverheadhelpcenter.org/child-advocacy-center/</a>	406-442-6950
	Southwest Montana Community Health Center	<a href="https://swmchc.org/">https://swmchc.org/</a>	406-693-0028
	Victim Assistant with Beaverhead County Attorney's Office	<a href="https://beaverheadcountymt.gov/departments/courty-attorney/">https://beaverheadcountymt.gov/departments/courty-attorney/</a>	406-443-7794
	Women's Resource Center	<a href="https://www.wrcmt.org/">https://www.wrcmt.org/</a>	406-444-0447
Big Horn	Big Horn County Attorney's Office, Victim Witness Assistance Program	<a href="https://www.bighorncountymt.gov/victim-witness-advocates">https://www.bighorncountymt.gov/victim-witness-advocates</a>	406-444-1526
Broadwater	Broadwater County Victim Witness Advocate	<a href="https://www.broadwatercountymt.com/victim-witness-advocates">https://www.broadwatercountymt.com/victim-witness-advocates</a>	(406) 444-3653
	Galatin County Child Advocacy Center	<a href="https://www.beaverheadhelpcenter.org/child-advocacy-center/">https://www.beaverheadhelpcenter.org/child-advocacy-center/</a>	800-666-6899
Carbon	Carbon County Attorney's Office	<a href="https://carbonmt.gov/courty-attorney/">https://carbonmt.gov/courty-attorney/</a>	406-442-6800

EXIT

County: Lewis and Clark	Name Of Organization	Websites	Phone Number
	Florence Crittenton	<a href="https://www.florencecrittenton.org/">https://www.florencecrittenton.org/</a>	406-457-8595
	Helena City Attorney Victim Services	<a href="https://www.helenamt.gov/Departments/City-Attorney">https://www.helenamt.gov/Departments/City-Attorney</a>	406-442-6950
	Lewis and Clark County Children's Advocacy Center at AWARE	<a href="https://www.aware-inc.org/lewis-and-clark-county-child-advocacy-center/">https://www.aware-inc.org/lewis-and-clark-county-child-advocacy-center/</a>	406-442-6950
	Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	<a href="https://www.mcadsv.com/victim-service-programs-by-county/">https://www.mcadsv.com/victim-service-programs-by-county/</a>	406-443-7794
	Montana Department of Corrections - Victim Services Unit	<a href="https://www.cor.mt.gov/Victims/">https://www.cor.mt.gov/Victims/</a>	406-444-0447
	Montana Department of Justice - Montana Missing Person Clearinghouse	<a href="https://www.dojmt.gov/missing-persons/">https://www.dojmt.gov/missing-persons/</a>	406-444-1526
	Montana Department of Justice, Office of Victim Services	<a href="https://dojmt.gov/victim-services/">https://dojmt.gov/victim-services/</a>	(406) 444-3653
	Montana Legal Services Association	<a href="https://www.mtlsa.org/">https://www.mtlsa.org/</a>	800-666-6899
	The Friendship Center of Helena	<a href="https://www.thefriendshipcenter.org/">https://www.thefriendshipcenter.org/</a>	406-442-6800
	YWCA of Helena	<a href="https://www.ywcahelena.org/">https://www.ywcahelena.org/</a>	(406) 442-8774

To maintain accuracy and relevance, the Montana Board of Crime Control Statistical Analysis Center oversees the ongoing updates to the map. This sustainability plan ensures that service provider listings, contact details, and available crisis resources remain current, reinforcing the map's role as a dynamic tool for connecting victims and providers statewide.

## VICTIM SERVICES NETWORK

### BUILDING A NETWORK

The victim services network has emerged as the most impactful aspect of this project, as evidenced by feedback. From the outset, the establishment of roundtable discussions within communities brought service providers together, revealing a surprising number of providers and allied partners who were previously unaware of each other's existence or the services they offered. The State Victim Liaison has played a vital role as a victim services liaison, connecting service providers and partners based on specific requests. By facilitating warm hand-offs between service providers, this approach helps ensure survivors receive seamless support without falling through the cracks.

A crucial component of the victim services network has been the Educational Power Hour (EPH), a platform designed to bring together victim service providers, representatives from courts, corrections, and community programming. Approximately 50% of attendees are victim service providers, allowing for meaningful collaboration and knowledge-sharing among professionals dedicated to supporting survivors.

EPH highlights various programs and individuals across Montana, ensuring that service providers gain valuable insights into available resources while also fostering stronger connections between organizations. To expand accessibility, each session is recorded and made available on the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) website. This ensures that providers who are unable to attend live sessions can still benefit from expert discussions, best practices, and shared experiences. By maintaining a library of past sessions, EPH continues to serve as a dynamic and ongoing educational resource for the victim services network.

## CONCLUSION

### RECAP OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

Throughout the State Victim Liaison Project, several key achievements and milestones have significantly advanced the goal of improving victim services across Montana. One of the most notable accomplishments was the creation of the Victim Resources Map, a collaborative effort with the Montana Statistical Analysis Center. This interactive, accessible tool provides essential information on victim service providers by county, including crisis lines, services offered, and programs tailored for tribes and American Indians in Montana.





Another major milestone was the establishment of the Victim Services Network, which has changed how service providers collaborate statewide. Previously, many providers and allied partners operated in isolation, unaware of available resources beyond their immediate communities. This network bridges those gaps, ensuring that survivors, whether in urban communities or remote tribal lands, receive seamless, well-coordinated support.

For example, if a survivor in Billings wishes to return home to the Blackfeet Reservation, service providers have built direct connections to colleagues in that region, enabling them to arrange safe transitions and continued support. The network fosters warm hand-offs, allowing victims to access consistent services, no matter where they are in Montana. By strengthening these partnerships, the Victim Services Network ensures that no survivor falls through the cracks and that every provider has the tools to connect individuals with the help they need.

Additionally, the Educational Power Hour has been a standout feature of the project, providing a platform for service providers, courts, corrections, and community organizations to learn about available resources and connect with one another. These sessions have highlighted critical programs and individuals across Montana, helping to strengthen the network of support for survivors.

The project also facilitated meaningful tribal engagement, including impactful conversations with Indigenous women incarcerated in the Montana Women's Prison, which explored the intersection of victimization and the criminal justice system.

Despite challenges such as staffing changes and delayed implementation, these achievements mark significant progress in building a stronger, more connected victim services infrastructure in Montana.

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## COMMITMENT TO ONGOING IMPROVEMENT AND DEDICATION TO VICTIM SUPPORT

While the State Victim Liaison Project concludes, the commitment to improving victim services remains ongoing. Recognizing that gaps in service delivery, funding constraints, and access challenges persist, MBCC is actively working to convene a stakeholder group dedicated to addressing these barriers in a sustained manner. This group will bring together victim service providers and allied partners to explore solutions, share expertise, and advocate for necessary resources.

As discussions continue, the focus will remain on identifying emerging needs, securing stable funding, and ensuring that service providers statewide have the connections and tools required to support survivors effectively. By fostering an environment of collaboration and adaptability, MBCC aims to uphold the foundational work of this project and strengthen Montana's victim services infrastructure for years to come.





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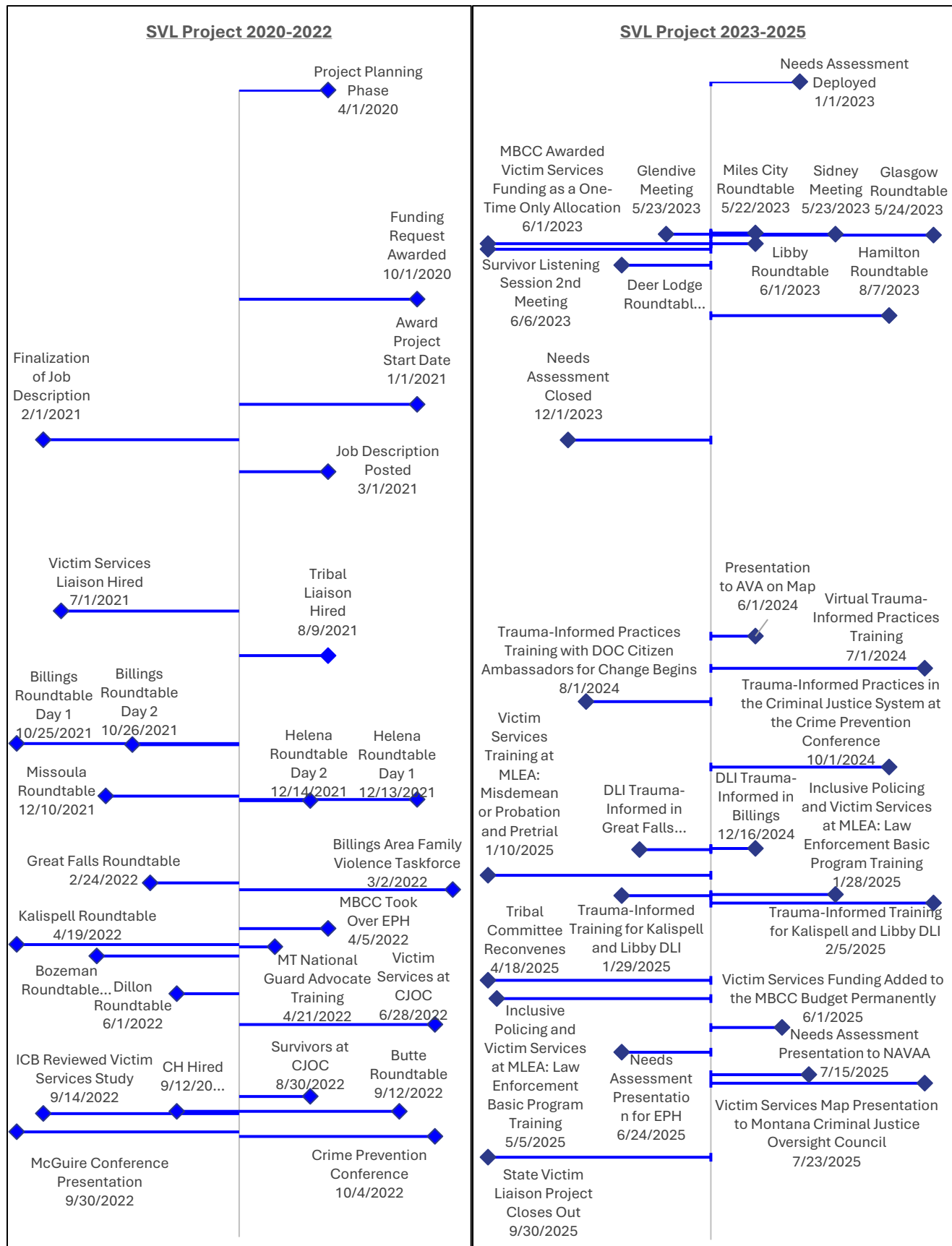
## APPRECIATION FOR THE COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT OF STAKEHOLDERS

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all stakeholders who have collaborated with us throughout the State Victim Liaison Project. Your unwavering support, commitment, and engagement have been instrumental in driving the success of this initiative. The collaborative efforts of victim service providers, allied partners, community organizations, and state agencies have created a robust network that enhances the delivery of vital services to survivors across Montana.

Your willingness to participate in roundtable discussions, share valuable insights, and contribute to initiatives such as the Educational Power Hour has fostered an environment of learning and cooperation. Together, we have identified gaps, strengthened connections, and ensured that survivors receive the comprehensive support they deserve. We are truly grateful for your dedication to this important work and look forward to continuing our partnership in the pursuit of a safer and more supportive community for all. Thank you for being an integral part of this journey.



## TIMELINE OF SVL PROJECT



## VICTIM SERVICES RESOURCES

Future and updated reports for this project can be found on the following webpage:

<https://mbcc.mt.gov/Programs/Victim-Liaison-Project>

Educational Power Hour and the recorded videos can be found at the following webpage:

<https://mbcc.mt.gov/Events/Educational-Power-Hour>

A comprehensive and consistently updated map of victim services in Montana can be found at the following website:

[MBCC Victim Services Resources Map](#)

As identified in the Needs Assessment, victim service providers and allied partners were seeking easily accessible funding opportunities and trainings. MBCC dedicated two webpages to making this information easily available:

<https://mbcc.mt.gov/Events/Training-Opportunities>

<https://mbcc.mt.gov/Funding/Other-Funding-Resources>

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