

# Montana Department of Commerce Funding Resources

HB 881 – Montana Growth Fund. Currently going through ARM’s process. Low-interest participation loans and grants.

CDBG and Main Street Programs

## Partner Innovative Community Funding

### Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation:

Ekalaka

- Ekalaka faced the challenge of losing its only daycare, prompting a focus on childcare for teachers. Leveraging ARPA funding and the support of EPEDC, the school explored options and secured an innovations grant. With these resources, they successfully renovated and launched a facility with 11 slots exclusively designated for teachers. The initiative was so successful that there are plans to expand to the old grocery store, opening it to the general public. Montana Childcare Innovation Grant from DPHHS (ARPA funding) of \$163,000.

Baker

- In Baker, the closure of the only licensed childcare facility in 2018 prompted action. EMEDA, with support from SMART, undertook feasibility studies and secured a PAR grant. However, faced with a \$7 million project and limited funding options, creativity became essential. In 2021, they joined the Childcare Innovations Pilot Project with Zero to Five MT, leading to a smaller-scale project—installing two modular homes on donated land. Using entirely local funds, they anticipate opening by the end of this school year. Additionally, Head Start has committed to expanding to Baker, marking a significant development for Eastern Montana.

### PROSPERA:

Bozeman

- Bozeman High School is expanding their in-house childcare significantly, with 1<sup>st</sup> dibs for school staff/teachers. They awarded a contract approx. 2 weeks ago, for private management to run it.

### HEADWATERS RC&D:

Sidney/Bozeman

- The ARPA WTG Program provided training funds to assist Boys & Girls Club of Richland County and Great Beginnings Montessori School. The awards were \$9,100 and \$2,335 respectively.

Montana City/Helena

- The BSTF Program provided a planning grant to Headwaters RC&D to assist Nature Story Montessori LLC with a building evaluation to make modifications to their building which would allow them to expand the number of children serviced. The total BSTF award was \$6,995.

## Montana Business Assistance Corporation:

### Philipsburg

- Flint Creek Childcare Company in Philipsburg is seems like one of the best models. Their local Rotary club bought and renovated an old building next to one of their parks. They then leased the building to Flint Creek Childcare Company at a lower lease rate. They then received additional funding through the Childcare Innovation and Infrastructure Grant program to expand the facility.

### Helena

- MBAC is working with Florence Crittenton Home on the expansion of their childcare facility from 26 to 48 students. This is renovating an old structure in Helena combining money from the Childcare Innovation and Infrastructure Grant and a CDBG-ED award to Lewis and Clark County. The funds are tied to the hiring of new employees to support the expanded childcare facility. Florence Crittenton is a not for profit, so the CDBG-ED money is a grant.

### Townsend

- In Townsend, Brownfield grant funding and Petroleum Board funds were used to demo an old Texaco building on Main Street. A local developer purchased the two-story brick building next door being assured that there was no petroleum contamination. The developer put 4 residential condo's upstairs and opened the first floor to a pizza place and an expansion of the local pre-school. A local store front grant was utilized for the pre-school and the local civic groups covered some costs of the outside play area. The provider is struggling to cover the lease holder improvements and keep costs down to the parents at the same time. While other Main Street Grants are being utilized to support the endeavor it is a struggle to keep fixed costs where the business can succeed, and the parents can afford the seats.

## Southeastern Montana Development Corporation:

### COLSTRIP

- A Participation Format Loan with a regional bank was used to assist with the funding on a building to house a new daycare facility in Colstrip. Funding needed to be flexible with the ability to also leverage other funds to make it affordable and to cash-flow. Both a local foundation and a large corporate power company foundation were used to grant Community Impact Funds to the daycare as it was such an important need in the community.
- SEMDC also created and conducted a Community Survey to test the actual need, last year.
- The Daycare Apprenticeship opportunity with the MT DL&I also helped out with this.

### FORSYTH

- A local community group leased space in a surplus elementary building from the school district – huge success story now.

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