

Transition Resources

1. Montana PTI: Parent Training and Information Center- September 30, 2020

Phone: 1-877-870-1190

Email: mpti@MontanaPTI.org

Message: www.MontanaPTI.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MontanaParentTrainingandInformation>

Montana PTI provides online resources and individualized assistance to help parents and professionals support and enrich the lives of children with disabilities.

Our goal is to provide support, information and tools to families to help them make informed decisions as equal partners in their child's education.

We are available to help with your questions about special education, school services, and resources.

We can assist by providing you with information and referrals to programs that can meet your child's and family's unique needs. We can also help you brainstorm options and solutions. We do not provide legal advice or legal representation.

2. Disability Rights Montana: Montana Protection and Advocacy Program

Phone: 1-800-245-4743

Email: Advocate@DisabilityRightsMT.org

Website: <https://www.disabilityrightsmt.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DisabilityRightsMT/>

Disability Rights Montana litigates on behalf of individuals with disabilities to insure their rights to employment, education, health care, transportation, housing, and other services. Besides litigation we also engage in a full range of other efforts to promote the rights of individuals with disabilities – such as, information and referral, training and technical assistance to service providers, state legislators and other policy makers, conducting self-advocacy training, and raising public awareness.

Student Rights Handbook: <https://www.disabilityrightsmt.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/05/2016.08.31-Student-Rights-Handbook.pdf>

3. Montana Family to Family Health Information Center

Phone: 406-243-4570

Email: montanaf2f@umontana.edu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MTFamily2Family>

Montana families guiding and supporting each other by sharing information and resources for successful navigation of Montana's health care system.

The Montana Family to Family Health Information Center (MT F2F HIC) is led by families of children with special health care needs. It's hard. Our F2F is all about finding resources in Montana, and sharing those discoveries. We're about lifting each other up, and sparing another family some hardship with tips and information gained through hard-won experience.

4. Circle of Parents

Montana Contact: Heather Stenson

Phone: 406-723-4019

Email: hstenson@butte4-cs.org

Provides a friendly, supportive environment led by parents and other caregivers. It's a place where anyone in a parenting role can openly discuss the successes and challenges of raising children. It's a place where they can find and share support. Currently in: Butte, Missoula, Billings, Polson, Big Arm, Ronan, and St. Ignatius

5. Montana Parent Partner Project

Montana State Coordinator: Tarra Thomas

Phone: (406) 281-8751

Email: tarrathomasfa@outlook.com

Parent Partners serve as the "hub" in primary care practices for coordination of health services and family support, and to ensure that all available services are fully integrated into a patient's primary preventive health care program. The Mission of the HALI Project is to inspire people with special needs and their families to dream new dreams through teaching and encouragement; and to improve the quality of medical and non-medical care these families receive by providing support to those who serve them. Currently in: Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Missoula, Bozeman

6. Montana Hands and Voices

Phone: 406-239-3076

Email: mthandsandvoices@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.mthandsandvoices.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mthandsandvoices/>

Hands & Voices is dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. We're a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks, and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children. Our outreach activities, parent/professional collaboration, and advocacy efforts are focused on enabling Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children to reach their highest potential.

7. Montana Vocational Rehabilitation

Phone: 1-877-296-1197 customer line

Email: vrinfo@mt.gov

Website: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/detd/vocrehab>

To maximize access to in-demand and high-quality careers by Montanans with disabilities seeking dignity through choice, integration, and self-reliance. Youth and adults with disabilities face many disadvantages in employment, including when working for others or in self-employment. VRBS reverses those disadvantages with high quality and timely employment services. VRBS believes that disability is natural, that society should maintain high expectations for people with disabilities, and that our services change lives and systems.

8. Developmental Disability Services

Website: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities>

Regional Offices:

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities/DevelopmentalDisabilitiesRegionalOffices>

Guide to DD Services: <https://sites.google.com/a/pluk.org/ddpguide/guide-downloads>

Persons with developmental disabilities are much the same as everyone else and able to do the things that others can - they just may need extra help to get things done.

It is important for everyone to live and work within their home communities and the assistance and support of their families and friends, but sometimes more assistance and training is needed than family friends, communities or other natural supports can provide on their own. There may be a need for additional help from services through the Montana Developmental Disabilities Program.

We are located throughout the State of Montana with the DDP Central Office in the Capital Complex Helena and Regional Offices. in Glasgow, Great Falls, Billings, Helena, and Missoula as well as satellite offices in Miles City, Bozeman, and Kalispell.

9. Tiffany Costa, MHA- Community Work Incentives Coordinator

Phone: 866-968-7842

Email: tiffany.costa1@msubillings.edu

Website: <https://www.msubillings.edu/socialsecurity/>

For Teens Only: <https://www.msubillings.edu/socialsecurity/forteenonly.htm>

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program. The goal of the WIPA program is to assist Social Security Disability beneficiaries to make informed choices about work and to support working beneficiaries to make a successful transition to self-sufficiency.

10. Centers for Independent Living

Website: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/detd/independentliving/centers>

Montana has four Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that provide IL services throughout the state. These CILs don't offer places to live at the centers, however, they provide services to anyone with a disability including children, students, middle-aged adults and people who are elderly. The centers are private non-profit organizations primarily managed by people with disabilities. Each CIL provides an array of services, including the five IL core areas and other services that reflect the needs of its service area.

Transitions - There are three components to transition services; 3. Facilitate the transition of youth who are individuals with significant disabilities who are eligible for individualized programs under IDEA and who have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school to post-secondary life.

11. ABLE- Achieving a Better Life Experience

Montana ABLE oversight committee: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities/ABLE>

Montana ABLE program: <https://savewithable.com/mt/home.html>

Phone: (888) 609-3461

Email: mt.clientservice@savewithable.com

Montana ABLE helps MT residents with disabilities save for qualified disability expenses without the risk of losing their benefits from assistance programs. The Montana ABLE Program is established under the Enabling Legislation and Section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529A, to encourage and assist individuals and families in saving private funds for the purpose of supporting individuals with

disabilities to maintain health, independence, and quality of life and to provide secure funding for disability-related expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries with disabilities that will supplement, but not supplant, benefits provided through private insurance, federal and state medical and disability insurance, a beneficiary's employment and other sources.

ABLE National Resource Center: <https://www.ablenrc.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theABLENRC>

12. MYT- Montana Youth Transitions

Website: <http://montanayouthtransitions.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MontanaYouthTransitions/>

Their goal is to improve transition services and increase the number of youth with disabilities who achieve their desired post-school outcomes. The website is a repository for everything transition. Check the calendar regularly for activities happening around the state.

13. Rural Institute Transition and Employment Projects

Website: <http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/default.asp>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TransitionandEmployment.RuralInstitute/>

Since 2000, we've focused several of our projects on customized community employment for youth with significant disabilities. We have developed and implemented unique models of transition planning that continue to evolve as we learn more from the youth and families with whom we work. Areas of focus include transition, health, employment, and alternatives to guardianship. Online trainings available annually and achieved.

Alternatives to Guardianship: <http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/atg.asp>

14. Think College

Website: <https://thinkcollege.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thinkcollege/>

Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with intellectual disability. With a commitment to equity and excellence, Think College supports evidence-based and student-centered research and practice by generating and sharing knowledge, guiding institutional change, informing public policy, and engaging with students, professionals and families.

Montana State University Life Scholars: <http://www.montana.edu/ehhd/lifescholars/>

Movin On Montana Missoula UM: <https://www.umt.edu/dss/Transition/default.php>

Moving On Montana Billings MSUB: <https://msubillings.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ca7019952c06a5b06874a4838&id=14f3d5c443&e=6b83f0eab9>

15. Got Transitions

Website: <https://www.gottransition.org/index.cfm>

Got Transition/Center for Health Care Transition Improvement is a cooperative agreement between the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health. Our aim is to improve transition from pediatric to adult health care through the use of new and innovative strategies for health professionals and youth and families.

16. MonTECH

Website: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>

Phone: 1-877-243-5511, toll free within the state

Email: montech@ruralinstitute.umt.edu

Provides assistive technology (AT) information and services in the areas of education, employment, community living, and telecommunications. MonTECH provides free, confidential information about assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Montanans. Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software, or product system used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. We use our professional staff, our network of AT resources, and our database of AT manufacturers and service providers to provide you with up-to-date information on AT-related issues.

Financial Loan Program, Rural Dynamics: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/financial-assistance/>

17. Medical Home Portal

Website: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cshs/medicalhomeportal>

The Medical Home Portal is a unique source of reliable information about children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN), offering a “one-stop shop” for their; Families, Physicians and Medical Home teams.

18. Informing Families Today and Tomorrow

Website: <https://informingfamilies.org/>

Video: <https://informingfamilies.org/ages/ages-14-21/>

Transition Toolkit: <https://informingfamilies.org/transition-toolkit/>

19. Montana Youth Leadership Forum – MYLF

Contact: Jennifer Hermanson: jkhermanson@ncils.org

Website: www.montanaylf.org

Phone: 406-442-2576

The Montana Youth Leadership Forum is available to any student between 14-21 years of age and have any type of disability. This unique leadership training program and is entirely free to participants. Youth learn self-advocate skills, disability awareness and acceptance, and goals setting for the future. Youth are trained by others with disabilities who have experienced the same issues. MYLF has the annual Forum, rural MYLF Mini’s, and MYLF Step II.