

Montana Preschool Development Grant

Montana is one of 18 states that have received a federal Preschool Development Grant. Montana was awarded \$10 million a year for up to four years. The Preschool Development Grant competition supports states to: (1) Build or enhance preschool programs for the delivery of high-quality preschool services to children, and (2) Expand access to high-quality preschool programs in targeted communities. These sites will serve as models for preschool to all 4-year-olds from low- and moderate income families. The MPDG will be jointly implemented by the Governor's Office, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS.) More information about the MPDG can be found on the U.S. **Department of Education Website:**

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/preschooldevelopmentgrants/index.html>

Where is high-quality preschool available?

Free preschool is currently available in Anaconda, Belgrade, Boulder, Bozeman, Browning, Crow, East Helena, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Great Falls, Hardin, Harlowton, Helena, Kalispell, Lame Deer, Lewistown, Libby, Livingston, Pablo, Rocky Boy, Ronan, Roundup, and Troy.

[Download poverty guidelines.](#)

Is my child eligible to attend?

If your family is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, or are eligible for special education, your 4-year-old could qualify for attending preschool. For a family of four, 200 percent of the federal poverty level is an annual income of \$48,500.

Connect with the preschool program in your community to learn about availability and registration.

Anaconda School District	406.563.7365
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Head Start	406.563.8445
Bozeman, Belgrade, and Livingston- Human Resource Development Council Head Start	406.586.9652
Bozeman School District	406.522.6000
Browning- Blackfeet Early Childhood Center	406.338.7370

Browning School District	406.338.2715
Butte– Action Inc. Head Start	406.723.4078
Butte School District	406.533.2524
Ronan and Pablo– CSKT	406.747.4509
Crow Head Start	406.679.0729
Fort Belknap Head Start	406.353.2827
Fort Peck Head Start	406.768.2347
Great Falls School District	406.268.6400
Hardin School District– Kindergarten Readiness Center	406.665.9390 406.665.9419
Helena– Rocky Mountain Development Council	406.457.7375
Kalispell School District	406.751.3400 Ext 3434
Lewistown, Harlowton, and Roundup– Central Montana Head Start	406.535.7751
Libby School District	406.293.4502
Libby and Troy– Kootenai Valley Head Start	406.293.4502
Lame Deer– Northern Cheyenne Head Start Program	406.477.8378
Rocky Boy Head Start	406.395.4690

Why is preschool important?

Children who attend preschool learn important skills like how to follow directions, how to get along with others, and how to pay attention. This will set your child up for success by the time he/she is ready for kindergarten.

Data show that...

- Ninety percent of brain development happens before a child is 5-years-old.
- Children who don't attend preschool are 25 percent more likely to drop out of high school.
- The average cost of childcare for a Montana 4-year-old is more than \$7,500.