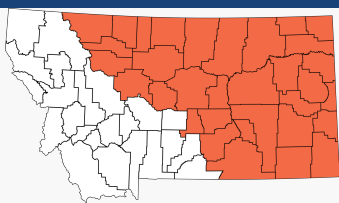


Annual Impact Report 2025



"Before Family Connections, I was unable to work and go to school. I could not afford child care for two children who were still not old enough to go to school. With Family Connections, I have been able to work and go to college. I graduated from the Licensed Addiction Counseling Program from MSU-Great Falls in May! Family Connections made my dreams a possibility! They have been one of my biggest supporters in the community."



2025– A Year of Significant Change

As we reflect on 2025, we are extremely grateful to our families, providers, partners, funders, donors, board members, volunteers, and staff. In the last year, Family Connections, a Montana originated and operated nonprofit, expanded our service area from 23 to 33 Montana counties. Recently, the landscape of early childhood changed dramatically with changes to grants, programming, and funding unlike the previous thirty years of early childhood services in Montana. Family Connections experienced growth, loss, and immense change. The last year has deepened our organizational resilience, while strengthening our resolve to continue the honor of serving children, families, child care providers and Montana communities. We remain resolute in our goal to help them thrive for years to come.



**Access to
Quality Child
Care Matters,
90% of the
Brain Develops
by age 5**

What We Do!

Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarships: Financial assistance to qualifying families for child care expenses. Child Care Scholarships help families access quality child care which enables them to go to work/school knowing their child is in a safe early learning environment while providing a foundation for their future success.

Child Care Scholarships for Children Experiencing Transitional and/or Emergency Care: Financial assistance to support children displaced from biological parents including those with foster families, adoption/guardian subsidy, or working caretaker arrangements. This funding supports those caring for children experiencing a transitional or emergency placement.

Child Care Referral Listing: Free service for all families regardless of income to find and access quality child care programs that meet their families needs. Providing free child care listings to families, and tips to help parents make this important choice. Free marketing for licensed/registered child care providers to help fill program vacancies.

Family Resource Guide & Family Engagement: Referrals to partner agencies and programs to help parents access support, information, and assistance for their family. Our staff focuses additional outreach/support for families experiencing homelessness, have a family member with a disability/special need, limited language proficiency, or are teenage parents.

Ready Resources: Provide emergency resources such as diapers, young children's clothing, hygiene products for families and providers to help with basic needs during an emergency. This program also helps to ensure that children have access to early literacy opportunities with free early childhood aged books.

Helping children, families, and child care providers to THRIVE!

Impacting Lives, Shaping Generations of Montanans

For Every \$1
Invested in Early
Childhood has a
Return of Up to
\$16



In 2025, our organization proudly served Montanans and helped...

- 5,430 children with child care scholarships to ensure access to quality early education programs creating a foundation for future success
- Over 2,000 families per month on our scholarship caseload (*over double 2024's caseload*), allowing parents peace of mind knowing their child is safe in quality early care environments while they are at work, also reducing child care related absenteeism and turnover for MT employers
- 33 Montana Counties including 7 Tribal Nations and hundreds of rural communities in Region 2 with services that support ongoing local economic development efforts
- 406 child care providers serving up to 9,723 children with information, technical assistance and scholarship payments
- 233 families with free child care referral listings to help working parents find quality child care, completed over 400 provider updates to the child care referral system supporting child care providers with free marketing to fill program vacancies
- Distribute 4,000 Resource Guides to families, partner agencies, and communities to refer parents to the information, assistance and access to services they need
- Provide technical assistance and responded to 16,172 inquiries, emails, and questions on programs and services via phone calls, in-person meetings, outreach, community hours or messages
- Families and providers with emergency supplies, books, and other resources.

Family Connections Board & Staff Members



FY2025 Family Connections Financial Operation Information:

Our annual budget is \$1.3 million. The funding, both public and private, supports programs and services that impact over half of Montana's communities and thousands of our local children, families, child care providers, and businesses.

Family Connections spends less than >.1% of our budget on fundraising activities and admin costs. Continuing efforts are made to minimize or eliminate nonservice related costs to ensure that the majority of our financial resources are dedicated to program delivery and impact. Our goal is to make the greatest possible impact to as many Montanans as possible with the funding entrusted to us.

Our agency is locally originated and operated in MT; ensuring that every dollar invested with us benefits the State of Montana, not out-of-state interests or businesses. Our staff is also entirely located in Montana.

Family Connections, Montanans helping Montanans.



*This project is funded in whole or in part under a contract with the Montana DPHHS.
The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.
Any printing of this project was funded with 100% federal funds at a cost of \$.05 per copy.*

