

STAFF

Jane Arntzen Schumacher,
Executive Director

Kami Ryles,
Assistant Director

Brandi Thomas*,
Helena Operations Manager,
Provider Services Coordinator

Tori Sproles,
Provider Services Coordinator

Rose Heider,
Development and
Communications Coordinator

Gaby Loeza,
Executive Assistant

Tammy Christofferson,
CACFP Coordinator, New
Provider Support Specialist

Britta Sekora*,
CACFP Monitor,
Office Administrative Assistant

2018 PROGRAM YEAR STAFF

Lakyn Smith*,
Referral & Intake Specialist

Taylor Boylan,
Lead Eligibility Specialist

Kristy Farriester
Eligibility Specialist

Adrianna Poff,
Eligibility Specialist

Ashley Callison*,
Pyramid Model Coach

Ashley Schools*,
Pyramid Model Coach

Sara Silva,
Pyramid Model Coach,
Special Needs Specialist

Kristin Horn,
Pyramid Model Coach,
MT Project LAUNCH

Nicole Edmonson,
Administrative Assistant

*Staff based in our
Helena Office.



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MT Department of Health & Human Services
Montana CACFP
Project LAUNCH
OP & WE Edwards Foundation
Greater Gallatin United Way
Elizabeth Wakeman Charitable Foundation
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Greater Gallatin United Way
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First Security Bank

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1/18/18, 2/15/18
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6/21/18, 7/19/18
8/16/18, 9/20/18

Child Care
Connections is a
501(c)(3) nonprofit
Child Care Resource
and Referral Agency
serving Gallatin, Park,
Meagher, Lewis &
Clark, Broadwater,
and Jefferson
counties.

1143 Stoneridge Dr, Ste 1
Bozeman, MT 59718

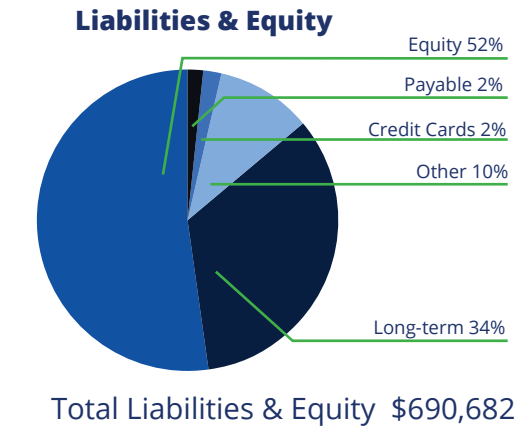
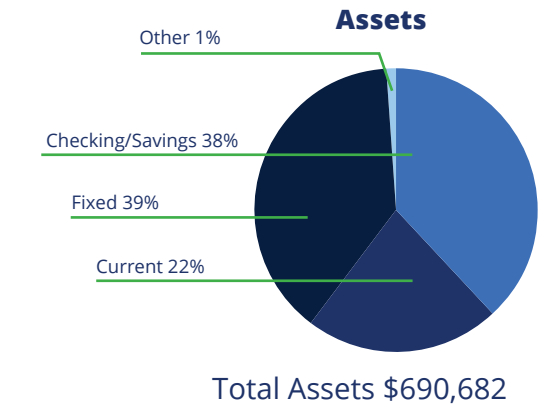
901 N Benton Ave
Helena, MT 59601

(406) 587-7786
(800) 962-0418
(406) 587-1682 fax
cccmontana.org
EIN# 36-3779018

ANNUAL REPORT



Child Care Connections advocates
for the well-being and quality care
of children by supporting early
childhood professionals, families
and the communities we serve.



Testimonial

“As a parent, finding compassionate, safe, and engaging child care for my infant and then for my toddler was one of the most vulnerable and challenging experiences so far, of raising our son. My family's cost to send our child to pre-school was more than my husband's college tuition at MSU!

As the CEO of Greater Gallatin United Way (GGUW), I know my family's experience was not unique. We are facing a child care crisis in our county, state, and country. It is a crisis because it is so expensive for families, because there are not enough quality childcare slots, and the well-being of young children is impacted greatly by their access and participation in quality early care and education.

I am grateful for all the many ways Child Care Connections (CCC) supports young children and their families. They are our community's most important advocate and change-maker for early childhood. GGUW is proud to work with CCC to offer mini-grants to new child care providers and to co-advocate with CCC for increased quality childcare opportunities in our community.

-Danica Jamison
Greater Gallatin United Way

FINANCIAL POSITION



Visit our GuideStar.com
profile to view our full
financial details.

LOCAL IMPACT:



360

Bike helmets were fitted and given to area children, free of charge.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

At CCC, we work diligently to reduce the likelihood of serious injury or death by educating children, their families, and child care providers on critical safety measures. We offer on and off-site trainings to child care providers to prevent the leading causes of injury and death of children in care: drowning, and sleep safety. By offering bike helmets and child safety seat checks, we are encouraging our communities to make safety a priority for children. Additionally, we work with child care providers to develop disaster plans and drills. CCC works with other agencies to identify "Guardian Providers" who can assist first responders and care for their children in the event of a major community disaster.



8 bike helmet events were hosted by CCC, between all six counties we serve.

4 child safety seats were given to area families who could not afford to make this purchase.

4 certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians were available by appointment to inspect and correct child safety seat installations in Bozeman.

23 child safety seat installations were inspected and corrected by CCC offices.

18 child care providers were assisted with disaster plans and/or drills.

LOCAL IMPACT:



336,071

Nutritious meals served in child care programs. Healthy eating habits are important to teach.

NUTRITION PROGRAM



CCC is a USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Sponsor. With a goal to improve nutrition for children in Montana, this program offers financial reimbursement and nutrition education to child care providers who become registered participants.

\$422,790 in meal reimbursements to **69** child care programs to assist them with the costs of purchasing healthy and nutritious foods.

171 on-site coaching visits were completed as a strategy to support the application of teaching/care-giving practices and overall quality improvement in early care and education settings.

15 new child care programs enrolled in the CACFP program

“ Child Care Connections has helped me as a single mom go back to school and get my degree, otherwise I would not have been able to do so. I am truly thankful for this program! ”

- Helena Area Best Beginnings Recipient



MINI-

We understand that it takes a lot to maintain and improve child care environments so we're here to help child care providers through the process. The Mini-Grant Program allows CCC to help child care providers maintain their licensing through professional and monetary support. Awards are granted to providers on a first come, first serve basis and are intended to offset the cost of major expenses such as egress windows, fences, or play equipment.



LOCAL IMPACT:

565

Families received scholarships each month which helped them afford child care while they worked or attended school.

FAMILY SERVICES



The average cost of child care in Montana, per child age 0-4, was approximately \$8,500 in 2018.¹ Montana's Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship subsidizes the cost of child care and enables parents to work and attend school. Our Eligibility Specialists process required paperwork and administer this program to CCC's six-county region. Each specialist averages a caseload of 110 applicants, monthly.

1,034 children benefited from licensed, quality child care due to scholarship assistance.

636 families received scholarships each month which helped them afford child care while at work or school

7 children with special needs received assessments and accommodations which helped their child care providers afford therapeutic equipment and support.

¹ <https://lmi.mt.gov/Portals/193/Publications/LMI-Pubs/Articles/2018/0918-ChildcareInMontana.pdf>



STARS to Quality is a 5-STAR quality rating improvement system. Child care programs receive support, training, and incentives to provide and maintain quality early childhood experiences and environments. CCC provided active coaching and/or consulting to 57 programs in 2018, to achieve STAR levels.

LOCAL IMPACT:



2,307

Coaching hours spent with child care providers focused on enhancing the quality of services child care programs are providing to children and families.

PROVIDER SERVICES

Our team of seven experienced professionals offer classroom trainings, on-site coaching and learning opportunities for child care providers. These offerings are held during and after business hours to accommodate child care providers and their busy schedules. The trainings conducted by CCC are state approved and fulfill licensing requirements which improve the quality of child care available to children in our six-county region.

5,052 children received quality care from licensed child care providers.

186 active child care programs benefited from CCC services and support.



111 classroom training events, or **674** hours, available to area child care providers to ensure they meet minimum health and safety standards.

17 new child care providers attended New Provider Orientations. CCC recruits and trains child care providers to fill the critical shortage of child care in Montana.

“ [CCC] is truly a network of professional early childhood advocates that work together to provide care and education to teachers, families and children. ”

- Judith Ehret, Director PFL Early Learning Center

