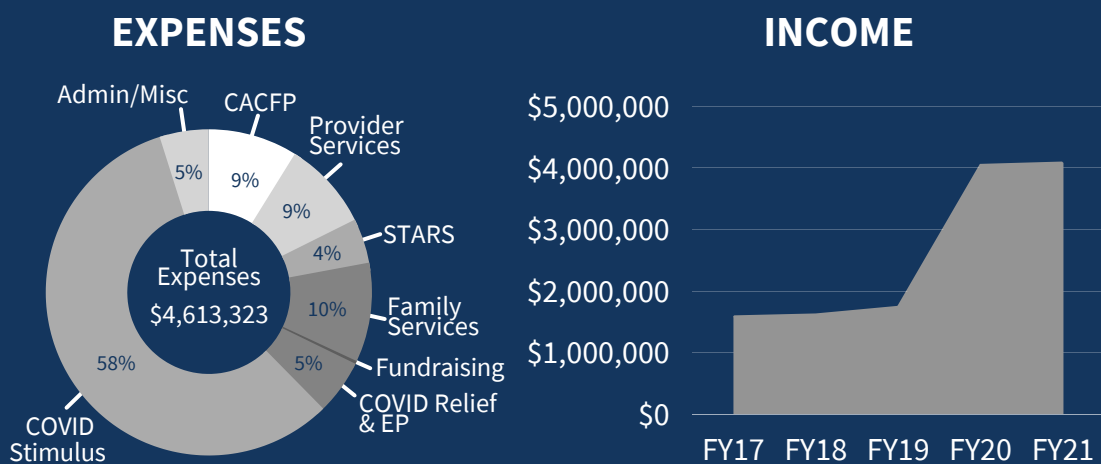


# FINANCIALS



**21¢** Our cost to raise \$1 in 2021

**60%** Of our total expenses were pass through funding including COVID support to providers and families

**30%** Increase in revenue over 2020



# OUR STAFF & BOARD



**CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS**

*Advocating for the well-being and quality care of children since 1978.*



## THE STAFF BEHIND IT ALL

\*Indicates staff in our Helena Office

### Leadership Team

- Jane Arntzen Schumacher, M.Ed. - Executive Director
- Kami Ryles - Assistant Director & Family Services Coordinator
- Brandi Thomas - Operations Manager & Provider Services Coordinator\*
- Tori Sproles, M.Ed. - Provider Services Coordinator
- Gaby Loeza - Executive Assistant

### Provider Services Team

- Katy Reasoner - CACFP Coordinator
- Kristin Horn, M.Ed. - Outreach Coordinator
- Heather Hildreth - Professional Development Specialist
- Judith Ehret - STARS Coach
- Sara Silva - STARS Coach\*
- Larisa Moe - Professional Development Specialist\*
- Tammy Christofferson - New Provider Support Specialist

### Family Services Team

- Sarah Peterson - Family Engagement Coordinator
- Kristy Farriester - Eligibility Specialist
- Cassidy Leonard - Eligibility Specialist
- Missy Bell - Eligibility Specialist

### Administrative Team

- Rose Heider - Development Coordinator
- Priya Telang - AmeriCorps VISTA
- Kenzi Clark - Administrative Assistant
- Kemery Smith - Administrative Assistant\*



## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jen Vero - Chair
- Lindsay Dodge - Vice Chair
- Zach Dorow - Secretary
- Carissa Haas - Treasurer
- Sandy Osborne, Ph.D., CFLE
- George Haynes, Ph.D.
- Angie Mallory, Ph.D.
- Frank Smith
- Heather Grenier
- Mary Bolick
- Molly Litzen

Our volunteer BOD meets nine times each year.



**CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS**

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BOZEMAN, MT 59718 &  
901 N BENTON AVE  
HELENA, MT 59601

(406) 587-7786  
(800) 962-0418  
EIN: 36-3779018

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Fiscal Year 2021

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021



## CHILD CARE CONNECTIONS' 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Child care is essential. In a rapidly changing world, the residual effects of the pandemic have left the country eager to discuss the child care crisis.

In Montana, licensed child care only meets approximately 47% of demand. But that's not all. Local families are spending around 16.5% of their income on the care of just one child. As the cost of living in Montana rapidly rises, many families fall into a gap where they make too much to qualify for child care assistance, but not enough to make ends meet. The workforce around the state suffers the impact of the child care crisis as parents are forced to stay out of the workforce to care for their children, leaving a deep impact that is felt in waves throughout our local economies. Additionally, child care continues to be one of the lowest-paid industries in the country, and this workforce shortage has exasperated the current shortage in care, adding to the chain of challenges faced by early education.

Fortunately, 2021 was a monumental year for innovative conversations and the expansion of our partnerships throughout the six counties we serve.

Child Care Connections (CCC) helped to develop workgroups including manufacturers, city and county officials, non-profit organizations, businesses, and public schools to create a community-wide approach to address the child care shortage within our communities. We had the honor of bringing these constituents to the table for conversations around barriers for employer-supported child care, child care licensing, child care operations, and HOA restrictions. Administering unique funding opportunities, CCC also helped families with young children through scholarships and additional resources.

In addition to all the happenings within the child care sector, at CCC we experienced a major transition when our Executive Director, Jane Arntzen Schumacher, resigned from her position after 14 years of service. Since 2007, Jane played a critical role in the development and success of the organization. From growing the agency budget and doubling the number of staff at CCC to piloting new child care initiatives, Jane was a valuable member of the CCC team, and we wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

Although we still have challenges ahead of us, we are very proud of the work we have accomplished this past year. As the new Executive Director of Child Care Connections, I am dedicated to not only continuing the conversation about the importance of high-quality child care, but also building on the momentum that child care is in fact essential.



Sincerely,  
*Tori Sproles*  
Tori Sproles, M.Ed.  
Executive Director

## THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS

- Montana Department of Health and Human Services
- Montana Child and Adult Care Food Program
- First Presbyterian Church of Bozeman
- Park County Community Foundation
- Helena Area Community Foundation
- One Valley Community Foundation
- Community First Fund of Montana
- Kenyon Noble Lumber & Hardware
- OP WE Edwards Foundation
- Mysun Charitable Foundation
- Neptune's Taphouse and Eatery
- AMB West Philanthropies
- Jane Arntzen Schumacher
- First Security Bank
- Whistler Towing
- Williams Companies
- Yellowstone Sporting Goods
- Landon's Lookout
- Live Well 49
- Livingston Healthcare
- Michael & Andrea Manship
- Flora McCormick
- Vickie Sheppard
- Skofield Insurance Inc
- Spectators Sports Bar & Grill
- Tim Speyer
- Theresa Stetter
- Round House Ski & Sports Center
- TMC Inc.
- FoodWorks
- Harrington Pepsi-Cola
- Imerys Talc America
- L'esprit
- PFL
- MT Radio Co
- Bozeman Health
- Buffalo Restoration

AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS. YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORK!

**CCCMONTANA.ORG**

MORE THAN **14,000** COMMUNITY MEMBERS IMPACTED

# FAMILY IMPACT

## BEST BEGINNINGS CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP

Funded by MT DPHHS, and administered by Child Care Connections (CCC), this scholarship helps families in need afford safe, licensed child care while caretakers are working or in school.

This project is funded (in part) under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department. CCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Lewis & Clark counties.

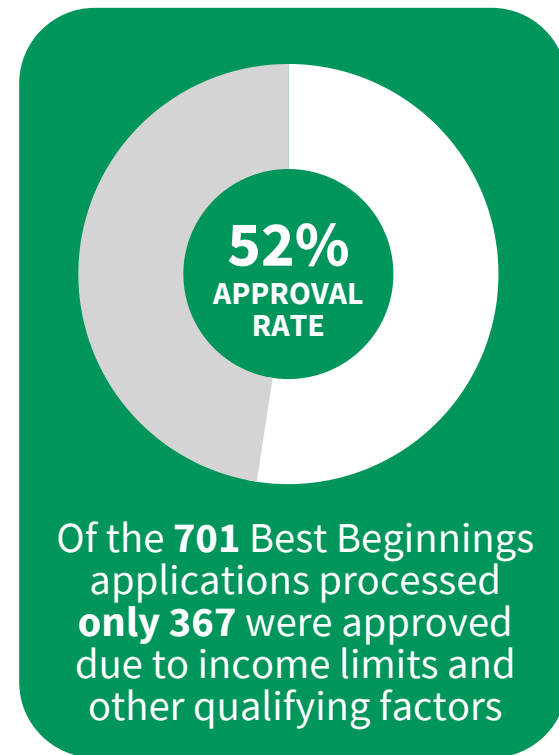


496

Referrals were given to families looking for licensed child care

750

Children attended care each month because of the scholarship



## SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORTS



10 children received the Special Needs Subsidy through the Best Beginnings Scholarship

6 MONTANA COUNTIES

CCC serves Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater

539

Sets of fingerprints were done at CCC facilities to provide FBI background checks for child care providers

# PROVIDER IMPACT



5,175

Children received quality care from licensed providers



1,184

Hours of coaching and technical assistance with child care providers enhancing quality of care given to children and families



186

Licensed programs were supported by CCC's services

48 STARS PROVIDERS! The more STARS, the higher the quality of care!



# COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## CHILD SAFETY

This program is fully funded by community support and offers free resource and education around bike safety and head trauma. In 2021, we hosted the **First Annual Cayden James Leonard Bike Rodeo** in Livingston, MT.

376 BIKE HELMETS

Bike Helmets were given out, free of charge, to community children. 246 were given during Cayden's Bike Rodeo.

\$15,928

Were raised in sponsorship for Cayden's Bike Rodeo, with support from 20 local businesses

## \$8,250 IN EMERGENCY CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

paid for the child care of 11 families who did not qualify for the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship yet needed assistance.

Previously awarded by referral only, this program is now open to any family experiencing hardship. In FY22, CCC will expand this program to better serve the needs of families in our community.

*"The scholarship allowed us to afford child care while in between jobs. This was a HUGE help and a blessing that got us back on our feet and self-sufficient again."*  
M.H., local parent

\$4,000

in support for outdoor area improvements was given

Child Care Programs awarded

4



According to the MT Department of Labor and Industry, there is a shortage of safe licensed child care in Montana that leaves more than **20,000 children** without access to the care they need.

Supported by area community foundations and MT DPHHS, our **Provider Financial Assistance Program** helps new and expanding child care providers with costs associated with licensing.

## NEW PROGRAMS



11 new child care programs enrolled in the CACFP

## COMING UP

All CACFP providers will receive the highest reimbursement rate, Tier 1, through June 202222 thanks to a waiver from the USDA.

423 Families received \$300 gift cards to help with household expenses during the pandemic



39 families participated in CCC's Family Engagement Activity each quarter

\$2,700

in \$300 scholarships were awarded to 9 child care providers working toward their Child Development Associates (CDA)

\$30,522

Allowed CCC to offer Creative Curriculum

CCC provided a national training on Creative Curriculum to 32 local child care providers and gave 17 programs a complete Creative Curriculum Kit at no cost

\$56,872

IN MINI-GRANTS TO SUPPORT NEW AND EXPANDING LICENSED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS.

\$11,952 TO EXPAND EXISTING PROGRAMS

\$44,920 TO HELP OPEN NEW PROGRAMS

# CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM IMPACT

\$333,861

in reimbursement went to our area Child and Adult Care Food Program providers for the cost of serving nutritious meals to children in their care.



241,285

nutritious meals were served in CACFP child care programs.

