

Montana Budget Cuts: Update November 9, 2017

The Governor has proposed a budget solution that includes some new revenue and some budget transfers in addition to cuts. According to our sources, the cuts in his November 6th budget are NOT up for discussion in the special session.

- The Governor's revenue and fund transfers offset the deep cuts that were proposed in October.
- If the revenue and budget transfers are not passed by the legislators, or alternatives found, the original cuts will have to be reconsidered.
- Even if the new revenue and fund transfers pass (or alternatives are found) local programs will still be cut.

SOME LOCAL ITEMS THAT ARE STILL ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK (even if all the Governor's revenue and fund transfers pass)

- The Center for Children and Families loses critical funding for their Second Chance Homes, which result in closure. This program diverts families from foster care and provides intensive treatment for parents and children. The outcomes from the program include high rates of families transitioning to health. Without this program, these families will enter the foster care system. It costs MORE to put the families in the foster care system than to keep them in Second Chance Homes. Cutting this program will result in increased costs for the state as they try to address the needs of these families through traditional foster care.
- Early Childhood Intervention, which was initially on the chopping block, has been spared; but a corresponding program for youth age 3-21 will be eliminated.
- Room and Board for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children is eliminated. Mental Health Outpatient Children's Mental Health sessions are reduced.
- The amount of money for targeted case management is still significantly reduced. Case management are the cheaper services that help vulnerable populations to function in society, to hold down jobs, to get to the appointments that keep them healthy etc. Without case management, many of these individuals who are stabilized through case management will falter and need higher levels of care. Some will become homeless; some will be arrested; some will frequent emergency rooms etc.
- HRDC will lose funding for Harmony House which provides housing for teen moms. Without this home, these teens would be homeless. The cost of caring for these moms will be diverted to the community.

For more impacts please contact the experts who spoke at our United Way

Forum on October 3: [Forum Panelists](#)