



Montana Nonprofit Association

P.O. Box 1744 • Helena, MT 59624

Phone 406-449-3717 • Fax 406-449-3718 • [info@mtnonprofit.org](mailto:info@mtnonprofit.org) • [www.mtnonprofit.org](http://www.mtnonprofit.org)

**Montana Nonprofit Association supports a budget structure, including both revenue and appropriations, that meets the needs of today's Montana.**

The Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA), on behalf of our 600 charitable nonprofit member organizations, is uniquely positioned to understand the impact of budget decisions on the people of Montana and the communities, large and small, served by our state's nonprofits. As the leading voice for Montana's charitable nonprofit sector, MNA urges a balanced approach to the current state budget deficit, an approach that considers all available options, including both revenue and expenditures.

Charitable nonprofits work in every Montana community, making our beautiful home state the place we most want to live, work and play. As a sector, nonprofits are caring for returning soldiers, rebuilding Montana's Main Streets, training our state's workforce, ensuring our children and elders have food, fighting the scourge of meth and opioids, creating a sense of home for individuals with disabilities, offering sanctuary from violence, enriching and elevating the arts, preserving our state's natural beauty, promoting outdoor recreation, nurturing our souls, and much more.

Montana's nonprofits are front-line providers of services, grounded in Montana's communities; we have a stake in the strength and well-being of Montana's economy and government, and in that spirit, we request policymakers employ a balanced approach to the current state budget shortfall. We oppose arbitrary and across-the-board cuts as an approach to the budget problem. We believe the current deficit requires a much more reasoned approach. To do less is a disservice, and disproportionately impacts Montana's elderly, hungry, sick, and other vulnerable populations. To presume cuts alone will sufficiently address the deficit is shortsighted and will put communities under duress to a degree which nonprofits are unable to absorb.

We recognize these are difficult and complex circumstances; we are prepared to be creative, thoughtful partners with the Governor and Legislature to serve Montana's people and communities. We ask for the widest range of available options as quickly as possible to address the budget deficit in a manner that mitigates the disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations. We encourage the broadest possible coalition in the decision-making process. In the longer term, we welcome the opportunity to be of service in how to responsibly plan for and address the ongoing fiscal needs of today's Montana.

***Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA) believes a strong nonprofit sector is essential to Montana's vitality and livability. Our 600 charitable nonprofit members are solving community problems and making life better for Montanans in every corner of the state and points in between.***

**MNA Public Policy Council**

**Geoff Birnbaum** • Youth Homes • Missoula  
**Ned Cooney** • Third Sector Consulting • Big Fork  
**Andrea Davis** • Homeward • Missoula  
**Susan Denson-Guy** • Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture • Bozeman  
**Judy Held** • Diocese of Great Falls/Billings • Great Falls  
**Mary Hernandez** • Invisage • Billings  
**Laura Hoehn** • Trister, Ross, Schadler & Gold • Bozeman  
**Dee Inoronato** • Intermountain • Helena  
**Matt Lundgren** • Friendship House of Christian Service • Billings  
**Liz Moore** • Montana Nonprofit Association Executive Director • Helena  
**Aidan Myhre** • AM Consulting • Helena

**CB Pearson** • M+R Strategic • Missoula;  
**Sheila Rice** • Neighborworks Montana • Great Falls  
**Jason Rittal** • Fallon County • Baker  
**Mary Rutherford** • Montana Community Foundation • Helena  
**Jim Soft** • Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation • Billings  
**Rob Tallon** • Reach • Bozeman  
**Mitch Tropila** • Easter Seals Goodwill of the Northern Rocky Mountains • Great Falls  
**Paul Tuss** • Bear Paw Development • Havre (Co-Chair)  
**Andrea Vernon** • University of Montana • Missoula (Co-Chair)  
**Bob Wilmouth** • Rocky Mountain College • Billings