

## Montana Early Childhood Project

### The Montana Early Childhood Project:

- Provides verified online Professional Development Records for over 6,000 individuals which are used by state child care licensors and Stars to Quality child care administrators to verify required training and education.<sup>1</sup>
- In July 2018 began the transition process for all early childhood education providers working in state licensed programs to join the *Practitioner Registry*. Currently over 2,600 early care and education practitioners are certified through the *Practitioner Registry* from entry level through post-secondary degrees.<sup>1</sup>
- Approved more than 1,100 training events comprising a total of over 6,100 hours last year on such topics as child guidance, child growth and development, curriculum, and family and community partnerships offered through a variety of community-based and state agencies and organizations.<sup>1</sup> This allowed more than 5,500 unduplicated individuals to complete over 100,000 hours of training last year.<sup>1</sup>
- Certifies more than 100 Early Childhood Professional Development Specialists who meet specific qualifications and provide training on approved specific courses based upon the *Early Care and Education Knowledge Base* and the *Montana Early Learning Standards*.<sup>1</sup> There are also currently 32 certified Technical Assistance Specialists with a specific set of skills, qualifications and competencies.
- Awarded more than 1.3 million dollars since fall 2015 to teachers pursuing the Preschool-Grade 3 MT Teacher License Endorsement or Early Childhood master's degrees with funding from the Montana Preschool Development Grant.<sup>1</sup> The Early Childhood Project is currently working with DPHHS Early Childhood Services Bureau to restore Higher Education Professional Development Incentive Awards to support increasing the knowledge and skills of the workforce.
- The Early Childhood Project's mission and goals are supported by research showing that a well-trained and educated work force is an indicator for high-quality child care and preschool programs.<sup>2</sup> Scientific evidence demonstrates that children who participate in high-quality programs have increased high school graduation rates, reduced crime, increased employment and earning power, and reduced special education costs.<sup>3</sup>

#### CONTACT

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#### RESOURCES :

1. Early Childhood Project. (1999). *Practitioner Registry* [database]. Retrieved 2019 from <http://mtecp.org/>
2. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). *Encouraging Quality in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)*. OECD, Paris. Retrieved from <https://www.oecd.org/education/school/49322232.pdf>
3. Council for Strong America. (2016). Retrieved from <https://www.strongnation.org/>