



# Health Advisory Commission

Senator Bob Keenan  
Senator Carl Glimm  
Senator Mary McNally

Representative Frank Garner, Chair  
Representative Matt Regier  
Representative Terry Moore  
Representative Mary Caferro

Adam Meier, DPHHS Director, Vice Chair  
Anita Milanovich, General Counsel  
Charlie Brereton, Policy Advisor

June 3, 2021

Hon. Greg Gianforte  
Governor, State of Montana  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59602-0801

Dear Governor Gianforte,

The Health Advisory Commission met on June 3, 2021 to consider American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Pursuant to HB 632, the Commission offers the following recommendations for your consideration:

- 1. SNAP Temporary Increase:** Approve the 15 percent increase in SNAP benefits for all SNAP households for the period of July through September 2021. The estimated cost of this increase is \$8,092,089.
- 2. SNAP Administration:** Approve the FFY 2021 allocation of \$449,862 in SNAP administration funds. These funds will ultimately permit Montana's participation in the National Accuracy Clearinghouse to identify concurrent SNAP enrollment in other states, as well as cover the costs associated with required SNAP programmatic changes during the pandemic.
- 3. Summer Pandemic EBT:** Approve the allocation of \$28,125,000 for P-EBT to provide a summer P-EBT benefit of \$375 to any child eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch and to any SNAP child ages 0-5.
- 4. Family Violence Prevention and Services Grant:** Approve the allocation of \$376,207 to the Family Violence Prevention and Service grant to provide shelter and supportive services for victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence.
- 5. Community Based Child Abuse Prevention:** Approve the allocation of \$762,432 for the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention funding to be administered by the Children's Trust Fund.
- 6. Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program:** Approve the allocation of \$405,070 to Montana's Maternal, Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for emergency supplies, technology support for families, professional development, and hazard pay or other staff costs, subject to further commission approval of any hazard pay prior to the expenditure for that purpose only.

7. **Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG):** Approve the \$5,640,385 allocated to Montana through the SABG to provide Substance Use Disorder (SUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery services to youth and adults at risk for or with a SUD.
8. **Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG):** Approve the \$4,372,007 allocated to Montana through the MHBG to provide comprehensive community mental health services.
9. **COVID-19 Vaccine Supports:** Approve the allocation of \$12,831,234 in ARPA funding to the DPHHS Immunization Program to ensure equitable COVID-19 vaccine access and support local vaccination efforts, including outreach to vulnerable populations at increased risk of COVID-19 complications with a priority for counties with low vaccination rates, as consistent with federal law.
10. **COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence:** Approve the allocation of \$784,657 for the Department of Public Health and Human Services for COVID-19 vaccine confidence activities which supplement an existing CDC immunization grant.
11. **COVID-19 Variant Testing:** Approve the allocation of \$1,487,165 for testing of COVID-19 variants.
12. **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Cooperative Agreement Funding to Reopen Schools:** Approve the allocation of \$32,191,069 for grant funding to support COVID-19 screening and testing to reopen schools and ensure their safe operation, authorized expenditures shall not exceed 10% of that amount without further approval of the Commission.
13. **COVID-19 Public Health Workforce:** Approve the \$7,250,870 allocated to Montana for public health workforce capacity enhancement.

The Commission certifies that this proposal presently qualifies for funding pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act and all available guidance.

We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,



Representative Frank Garner  
Health Advisory Commission Chair