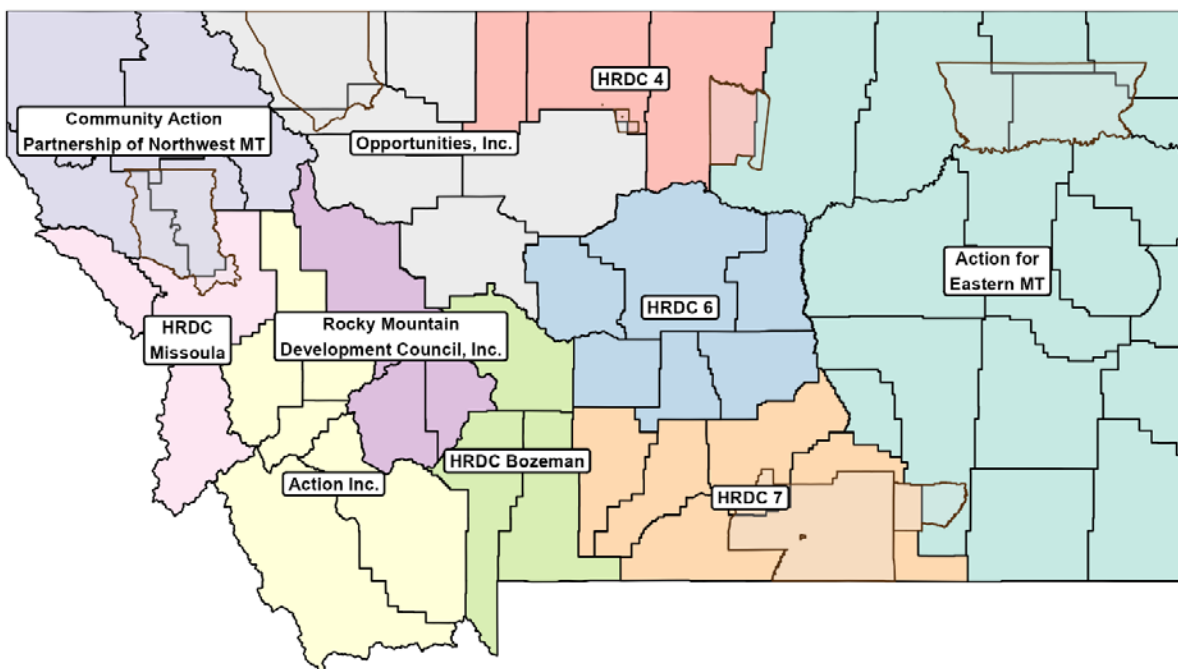


2025 MONTANA COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Montana Community Action Network is doing the first community needs assessment for the state of Montana to learn about community needs. The goal of the survey is to understand poverty in Montana and find ways to help. The answers will help us learn more about the needs of people and families in the areas we serve.

The Montana Community Action Network is made up of 10 groups across Montana. These groups, called Community Action Agencies (CAAs), are non-profit groups that run programs to help families with low incomes reach their goals. They are not part of the State of Montana or the Office of Public Assistance. There are 10 CAAs in different parts of Montana, as shown on the map below.



The results of this survey will help make sure each CAA's services match what communities need. It will also show if there are any services missing. This helps the agencies plan for future programs and ways to help the community. The State of Montana will also use the results to track important needs and issues over time.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to finish. Your answers will be private, and no one reading the overall results of the survey will know they came from you. We will share the overall results with the public. Doing the survey is your choice, and it won't change your ability to have any programs or services you're already using.

Everyone who takes part in the survey will be entered into a drawing to win one of the _____ gift cards. If you have any questions, please contact _____.

Part 1. Geographic location, housing, work status, and household

Which county do you live in? _____

What is your zip code? _____

Do you live within the borders of an American Indian Reservation?

- ☐ No, I do not live within the borders of an American Indian Reservation
- ☐ Yes, I live on this American Indian Reservation:
 - ☐ Blackfeet
 - ☐ Crow
 - ☐ Flathead
 - ☐ Fort Belnap
 - ☐ Fort Peck
 - ☐ Northern Cheyenne
 - ☐ Rocky Boy

Which of these best describes your job situation right now? *Please choose all that apply.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Work full-time in one job (30 hours or more) | ☐ Unemployed |
| ☐ Work full-time at more than one job, (30 hours or more) | ☐ Student |
| ☐ Work part-time (less than 30 hours) | ☐ Retired |
| ☐ Work sometimes | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Homemaker or stay-at-home parent | ☐ Rather not say |

Which of these best describes where you live? *Please choose only one.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ I own my home | ☐ I live with two or more unrelated families in the same house |
| ☐ I rent my home | ☐ I live with multiple generations of my family and help pay some of the bills |
| ☐ I live with family or friends for free | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ I live in a shelter | |
| ☐ I live in my car | |
| ☐ I live in my recreational vehicle (R.V.) | |
| ☐ I live in a nursing home, long-term care, or assisted living | |

How many people live in your home, including you? _____

How many children under age 18 live in your home? _____

How many people in your home, including you, are 60 years old or older? _____

What is your role in the community? *Please choose the one choice that best fits your role for this survey.*

☐ I am a client of an agency (I have received help from a Community Action Agency, like rent or utility help, or my child goes to Head Start, etc.)

☐ I represent a faith-based group

☐ I am a general community member

☐ I volunteer with an agency

☐ I represent a school

☐ I am a board member of an agency

☐ I represent a government group

☐ I represent a private group (like a business)

☐ I represent a community or social service group

☐ Other: (please explain) _____

Part 2. Community assets and environment

On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means a strong *no* and 5 means a strong *yes*, please give your opinion.

Quality of Life Questions					
	1 No	2	3	4	5 Yes
1. Is your community a good place to raise children? (Think about school quality, childcare, after-school programs, and places to have fun, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Are there good job opportunities in your community? (Think about local businesses, jobs that can help you grow in your career, job training, affordable housing, and how far you have to travel for work, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Is your community a safe place to live? (Think about how safe people feel at home, at work, in schools, at playgrounds, and parks. Do neighbors know and trust each other? Do they help each other?)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Are there support networks for people and families (like neighbors, support groups, church outreach, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Are you happy with the quality of life in your community? (Think about how you feel, how involved you are in activities, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with these statements¹:

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
My community has many affordable homes for people to buy	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community has many affordable places to rent	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community has help for people who are unhoused	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community has help available for the behavioral health needs of adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community has help available for the mental health care needs of adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community has help available for physical health care needs of adults	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community has resources available for people who don't have enough food	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community has childcare for individuals and families with different incomes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community has enough public transportation available	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My community is welcoming and friendly at public meetings and events	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public officials in my community work to help people and families with low incomes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

¹ Some questions adapted from Bozeman HRDC's 2019 Community Needs Assessment.

Please rank the five most important needs in your community, with 1 being the most important.

Need	1	2	3	4	5
Access to substance use disorder services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to affordable childcare	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to early childhood education	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to healthcare	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to reliable and fast internet	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to mental health services	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Availability of jobs that pay enough to live on	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Availability of safe and affordable housing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Help for people who are unhoused	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Availability or cost of transportation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Crime and/or public safety	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Diversity and cultural awareness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lack of affordable food or hunger	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Planning for growth and development (like water resources, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Needs of older adults or seniors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Needs or services for youth	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the good things or services that people with low incomes need in your community?

Part 3. Individual/family needs

What are the most important needs that you or your family have right now or have had in the last 12 months? Please check the boxes and circles that apply.

3.1 Employment

- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO NOT have, or have NOT had, any job needs in the last 12 months (skip to 3.2)
- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO have job needs right now. *If so, please choose all that apply below.*

☐ Job training

- ☐ Learning technical skills to find and do work
- ☐ Learning soft skills to keep a job (like good communication skills, etc.)
- ☐ Training for the types of jobs available in the area
- ☐ Knowing where to find job resources

☐ Finding and keeping a job

- ☐ Writing a resume
- ☐ Interviewing for a job
- ☐ Getting the right clothes for a job
- ☐ Having access to the internet for work

☐ Jobs that pay more or have benefits

☐ Background check

- ☐ Criminal background
- ☐ Offender status

☐ Other job needs or comments about job services/programs: _____

3.2 Education & cognitive development

- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO NOT have, or have NOT had, any education needs in the last 12 months (skip to 3.3)
- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO have education needs right now. If so, please choose all that apply below

-
- ☐ Early childhood education programs
 - ☐ Affordable and good childcare
 - ☐ Parenting education and skills
 - ☐ GED classes (General Education Development)/HSE (High School Equivalency)
 - ☐ English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
 - ☐ Literacy classes
 - ☐ Computer skills training
 - ☐ Technical and vocational training
 - ☐ Help paying for college programs or filling out college aid forms (like FAFSA—Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - ☐ Life skills
 - ☐ Character education such as anti-bullying
 - ☐ Other education needs or comments about education services/programs: _____
-
-

3.3 Income, infrastructure & asset-building

- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO NOT have, or have NOT had, any financial needs in the last 12 months (skip to 3.4)
- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO have financial needs right now. *If so, please choose all that apply below.*

-
- ☐ Help with transportation or fixing my car
 - ☐ Free help with income tax preparation
 - ☐ Gambling counseling
 - ☐ Learning about money management, saving, or budgeting
 - ☐ Problems with bankruptcy, foreclosure, or repossession
 - ☐ Financial issues
 - ☐ Money problems with divorce
 - ☐ Problems with getting or paying child support

- ☐ Help with burial or funeral costs
- ☐ Legal help
- ☐ Help getting access to the Internet at my house
- ☐ Help with energy bills
 - ☐ Problems paying the electric bill
 - ☐ Problems paying the gas or other heating bill
- ☐ Help with water bills
- ☐ Help with utility deposits
- ☐ Other financial needs or comments about financial services/programs: _____

3.4 Housing

- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO NOT have, or have NOT had, any housing needs in the last 12 months (skip to 3.5)
- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO have housing needs right now. *If so, please choose all that apply below.*

 - ☐ Good, affordable houses or apartments to rent
 - ☐ Bad rental homes that are unsafe, unlivable, have pests, mold, or lead paint, are overcrowded, or not insulated enough for cold weather
 - ☐ Good, affordable houses or condos to buy
 - ☐ Help with down payments or closing costs to buy a home
 - ☐ Bad houses for sale that are unsafe, unlivable, have pests, mold, or lead paint, overcrowded, or not insulated enough for cold weather
 - ☐ Help with making homes more energy efficient and keeping them warm (like insulation and reducing heat loss)
 - ☐ Home repair
 - ☐ Programs that provide free home repairs
 - ☐ Skills for basic home repairs and maintenance
 - ☐ Home buyer education
 - ☐ Handicap accessible housing or changes to my home for a person with a disability
 - ☐ Senior citizens housing
 - ☐ Income based rental housing for seniors
 - ☐ Not enough affordable nursing homes or long-term care for seniors
 - ☐ Help with rent

- ☐ Help with rent deposits
 - ☐ Help with rent payments
 - ☐ Help with rent back payments
 - ☐ Education about renter/tenant rights and responsibilities
 - ☐ Other housing needs or comments about housing services/programs: _____
-
-

3.5 Health/social & behavioral development

- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO NOT have, or have NOT had, any health needs in the last 12 months (skip to 3.6)
 - ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO have health needs right now. *If so, please choose all that apply below.*
-

- ☐ Affordable health care
 - ☐ Paying for medicine and prescriptions
 - ☐ Long-term health care
 - ☐ Chronic illness
 - ☐ Sexual and reproductive health care
 - ☐ HIV/AIDS care
 - ☐ Paying for or not having health insurance
 - ☐ Substance use disorder counseling and/or treatment
 - ☐ Mental health services
 - ☐ Adult mental health services
 - ☐ Youth mental health services
 - ☐ Teenage pregnancy and/or prenatal care
 - ☐ Affordable dental care
 - ☐ Affordable eye care
 - ☐ Help for people with disabilities or special needs
 - ☐ Help for children with disabilities
 - ☐ Help for children with special needs
 - ☐ Health for adults with disabilities
 - ☐ Prosthesis
 - ☐ Medical equipment (like wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, etc.)
 - ☐ Senior health care
 - ☐ Veteran's services
 - ☐ Child vaccinations
-

- ☐ Access to emergency clothing such as winter coats or hats
 - ☐ Food
 - ☐ Availability and access to fresh and healthy food
 - ☐ Access to emergency food resources, like food banks
 - ☐ Access to services (WIC, SNAP, SSI, etc.)
 - ☐ WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)
 - ☐ SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
 - ☐ SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
 - ☐ Abuse/violence protection
 - ☐ Sexual assault victim services
 - ☐ Protection from domestic violence
 - ☐ Help for physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
 - ☐ Services for runaway youth
 - ☐ Other health or social needs or comments about health services/programs: _____
-
-

3.6 Civic engagement & community involvement

- ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO NOT have, or have NOT had, any civic or community needs in the last 12 months
 - ☐ I, or the family in my house, DO have civic or community needs right now. If so, please choose all that apply below.
-
- ☐ Safe neighborhoods where it's easy to walk, with sidewalks and parks
 - ☐ Additional health care places
 - ☐ More family primary care clinics
 - ☐ More pharmacies
 - ☐ More urgent care clinics
 - ☐ More specialists
 - ☐ Crisis services or emergency housing for unhoused individuals and families
 - ☐ Activities and programs for seniors
 - ☐ Fun activities like playgrounds, biking or hiking trails, or rivers
 - ☐ Youth activities and programs
 - ☐ Crime prevention
 - ☐ Breaking and entering
 - ☐ Violent crime like murder, robbery, sexual assault, or aggravated assault
 - ☐ Gang violence

- ☐ Volunteer opportunities, community boards, neighborhood associations, or other similar groups
 - ☐ Ways to get involved politically and have my voice heard with local politicians
 - ☐ Help with legal issues
 - ☐ Discrimination
 - ☐ Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or tribal identity
 - ☐ Discrimination based on sexual identity
 - ☐ Other needs in your community: _____
-
-

From the list below, identify how each item has made it easier or harder to get help or access to services and programs in your area?

	Easier	More difficult	Neither or Not Applicable
The closure of my local state-run Office of Public Assistance (non-CAA service)	☐	☐	☐
Understanding program eligibility requirements	☐	☐	☐
Applying for services and/or completing paperwork	☐	☐	☐
Uploading application forms online	☐	☐	☐
No local office I can physically go into	☐	☐	☐
Providing documentation such as income	☐	☐	☐
Distance from my house to services	☐	☐	☐
Transportation to/from services or programs	☐	☐	☐
The ability to find childcare	☐	☐	☐
Other (list):	☐	☐	☐

Is there anything you want to share about how to help people with low incomes in your community?

Part 4. Demographics

What is your age? _____ years

What is your gender?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Female | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Male | ☐ Rather not say |
| ☐ Non-binary | |

Are you Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin?

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Yes | ☐ Rather not say |
| ☐ No | |

Which group(s) best represent your race(s)? Choose all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Black or African American | ☐ White |
| ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Asian | ☐ Rather not say |
| ☐ Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian | |

How far did you go in school?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Never attended high school | ☐ 4-year college degree |
| ☐ Attended high school but did not finish | ☐ Completed graduate or professional school |
| ☐ Completed high school, GED, or HSE | ☐ Rather not say |
| ☐ Some college | |
| ☐ Technical, Associates, or 2-year degree | |

What is your estimated monthly household income before taxes? This includes any money from disability payments, social security, or child support.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Less than \$1000/month | ☐ \$5001-\$6000/month |
| ☐ \$1001-\$2000/month | ☐ \$6001-\$7000/month |
| ☐ \$2001-\$3000/month | ☐ \$7001-\$8000/month |
| ☐ \$3001-\$4000/month | ☐ \$8001-\$9000/month |
| ☐ \$4001-\$5000/month | ☐ \$9001 or more/month |

Are you a veteran?

- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but another adult in my house is a veteran
- ☐ Yes

Part 5: Survey gift card drawing

This survey is anonymous, which means your answers will not have your name on them. However, people who take the survey can enter a drawing to win one of _____ \$_____ Visa gift cards. We need to be able to contact the winners. So if you answer “yes” to the next question, you will need to include your name and email address on this page to be contacted as a winner. This information will not be connected to your survey answers. The drawing will happen on _____.

Would you like to go to the contact form and be entered to win a \$_____ Visa gift card?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Name _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

Thank you for filling out this survey! Your answers are very important to us. We will use the results to make sure your agency’s services help people with low incomes and what services might be missing. Your answers will also help us plan for future programs.