

**Department New Request Form
Fiscal Year 2025**

Program	Central Services	Title of New Request:	Rank: 2
Department	City-County Health Dept.	Foster Child Health Program	
Request Category	New Request/Service/Feature		
Request Rating	Maintain Level of Service		
Department Goal	to build conditions that support the health of people, environments and communities.	# of FTE's in this request	0.00

1. How will request assist in achieving Department Goal and benefit the customer

Montana is ranked 3rd in number of kids in foster care (1,112 per 100,000), coming only behind West Virginia (1,710) and Alaska (1,413) (US Department of Health and Human Services, Nov 1, 2022). Native American children continue to be disproportionately represented in Montana. Missoula Public Health's Foster Child Health (FCH) is a home visiting program that serves Missoula County foster children who are referred by the Montana Child and Family Services. Many foster children have chronic physical and behavioral conditions, which are often preceded by maltreatment. These children face significant health care barriers, such as lack of medical and dental homes, incomplete or missing medical histories, multiple conditions requiring specialized care providers and disjointed or uncoordinated treatment. This program improves stability of out-of-home placements and reduces foster child health disparities: the public health nurse summarizes the child's medical history, provides support, education, and guidance to the foster family so that they understand and can address the child's needs and health conditions, assists in coordinating referrals for specialized medical services and continuously monitors the child's care plan. The MPH Foster Child Health program has served the following number of children: FY20 - 75; FY21 - 80; FY22 - 92; FY23 - 122, FY24 (midyear) - 64. The program has been supported by two funding sources - The Community Assistance Fund (CAF) and a fee-for-service contract with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Last year, MPH was notified by the CAF grant committee that they wanted the funding to go to external partners, and that we would not receive funding in FY25. We have previously reduced this program to 0.8 FTE, and we have investigated other possible funding sources.

2. What specifically is needed to achieve this goal?

This request is to fund 0.5 FTE in this vital program that supports and improves outcomes for foster children, their foster families, and their caseworkers. The remaining money will come from a fee-for-service contract with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Total amount requested is \$53,810.43, with the city's 60% share being \$32,286.23 7/9/24 Update: Missoula Public Health was awarded \$38,480 from the Community Assistance Fund for the Foster Child Health Program for FY25. That amount covers the base (FY24) salary for 0.5 FTE. The remaining amount needed is reduced to \$17,082, which covers fringe and a salary increase for FY25. Of that, we are asking the City to cover 60% of that cost (in alignment with the cooperative agreement) which comes to \$10,249. The original ask was for \$32,286.

3. Cost Impact of New Program:

Account #	Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Requested One-Time	Requested Ongoing	2025 Unfunded	2025 Funded	Proposed 2026 Ongoing
Ongoing Expenses								
1000.390.440190.700	0.5 FTE for Foster Child Health	1	10249		10,249	10,249	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
					—	—	—	
Expense Sub-Total				—	10,249	10,249	—	—
One-time Expenses								
				—		—	—	
				—		—	—	
				—		—	—	
				—		—	—	
				—		—	—	

Revenue Offset:

Account #	Revenue Description	Proposed Onetime Revenue	Proposed Ongoing Revenue
1000	T Tax Funded	-	10,249
Revenue Sub-Total		-	10,249

4. What sort of data will be used to report results and outcomes of request?

MPH has completed two formal program evaluations, first in 2016 by Dr. Klika and then in 2020 by Dr. Miller. Both studies demonstrated improved stability with the foster child's medical and dental homes. The program was awarded a Promising Practice Award and the MT DPPH has used the MPH model to implement similar programs in Cascade, Yellowstone and Dawson counties.

Requested/Proposed Funding Source

	One-time	Ongoing
Tax or Assessment	-	10,249
Non-tax	-	-
Fund Balance	-	-
Total	-	10,249