



0-5 Strategic Initiative Partner Meeting

Vision and Commitment

Imagine a western Montana where every person, especially the most vulnerable among us, is healthy and thriving. Imagine resilient families, supported children. Imagine game-changing community collaborations. Montanans told us they come together to address the challenges their communities face and they are committed to long-term solutions. They're ready. So are we.

In 2018, Headwaters is launching a **0-5 Strategic Initiative**, a multi-year commitment **to improve the health and well-being of children and their caregivers** in western Montana. We will do this by partnering with local communities to advance locally-driven, innovative, multi-sector collaborations. Headwaters will work side-by-side with these communities, guided by a commitment to **listen** to the needs and aspirations of community; to **leverage** the tremendous capacities in local communities; and to continue to **learn** alongside our partners about what's working and what more needs to be done.

Headwaters is committed to doing this work with a focus on **trust-based philanthropy**, which means we prioritize building relationships grounded in trust, transparency and honesty; we support a community learning approach to the work; and we are re-imagining philanthropic practices to be streamlined and grantee centered.

We hope you will join us.

0-5 Strategic Initiative

The 0-5 Strategic initiative has two components:

Community Collaboratives: Headwaters is partnering with communities across the region to build or strengthen local collaborations that support **healthy pregnancies, positive parenting and school readiness**. These collaboratives are working with Headwaters to build capacity to design, develop and lead local impact initiatives.

There are **two types of grants** available to local collaboratives:

- **Planning Grants** (up to \$50,000/year) are available to communities that are interested in establishing an early childhood collaboration, or that need time and support to more fully develop an existing early childhood collaboration.

- **Implementation Grants** (up to \$200,000/year) are available to community collaborations that have evidence of collaborative capacity to impact issues related to early childhood.

These grants are invitation only. Please reach out to us to find out more about our collaborative work or to tell us about the good work you're doing in your community.

Statewide Program Office: In order to support local collaboratives with research, data and technical assistance, Headwaters is creating a statewide program office comprised of key early childhood leaders in the state. The program office will also advance state and local policies that benefit families and children.

Why We're Focusing on the Early Years

Headwaters is investing in the early years for three reasons:

That's what western Montanans told us they care most about. We've listened to hundreds of people across our 15-county region share what they think will make the biggest difference in the health and well-being in their communities, and people soundly responded that prioritizing young children and their caregivers matters most.

Research shows that the greatest return on investment in funding initiatives around children occurs when you focus on their earliest years. A growing body of knowledge is providing insight and evidence on the profound, multi-generational shifts that are possible when communities focus on the earliest years of a child's life.

We can build on what works. Throughout Montana and throughout the nation there are ample examples of effective efforts that have real impact on young children and families. Montana communities are not starting from scratch, and we don't have to "reinvent the wheel": we can learn from one another and others what works, and adapt it to our community needs and aspirations.

Reach Out to Us!

For more information about Headwaters' work, please feel free to contact us.

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