

Chouteau County Resource Guide

Table of Contents

Child Services.....2

Disabilities.....3

Financial.....4

Food.....5

Health.....5

Housing.....6

Legal.....6

Senior.....7

Veterans.....8

Women’s Resources.....9

Other.....9

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

Child Services

CASA of Hill County

2229 5th Ave, Havre, MT 59501

406-265-6743 ext. 1135

casa@hrdc4.org

CASA consists of volunteers who advocate for children who have been removed from their homes for allegation of abuse and neglect.

Child and Family Services

1020 13th St, Fort Benton, MT 59442

406-622-5414

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/CFSD>

The Department of Child and Family Services is the office that investigates and provides protective services to children who are abused or neglected. Their mission is to keep children safe and families strong. They also may provide assistance in referring families to support services to help preserve the family unit.

Child Care Licensing

48 2nd St #207, Havre, MT 59501

406-262-9790

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/childcarelicensing/>

Regulates and monitors child care facility licensing and registration. Surveys facilities and investigates complaints.

Child Support Enforcement Division

201 1st St South, Ste 1A, Great Falls, MT 59405

406-727-7449

The division provides federally mandated child support enforcement services. These include locating absent parents; establishing paternity; establishing financial and medical support orders; enforcing current and past due child support; offering medical and spousal support; and modifying child support orders.

Child & Family Services Division

232 1st West #B, Havre, MT 59501

406-265-1233 (phone) 406-262-2879 (fax)

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

Family Connections MT

202 2nd Ave S, Suite 201, Great Falls, MT 59405

406-761-6010 or 800-696-4503

<https://familyconnectionsmt.org/>

fcinfo@familyconnectionsmt.org

Family Connections makes referrals for a number of child care organizations.

Youth Dynamics

220 3rd Ave #403, Havre, MT 59501

(877) 458-7022

Youth Dynamics will travel up to communities within 60 miles to provide services, including Chinook, Zurich, Harlem, Beaver Creek, Kremlin, Gilford, Hingham, Rudyard, Inverness, Joplin, Box Elder, and Big Sandy.

The Office of the Child and Family Ombudsman (OCFO)

P.O. Box 201417, Helena, MT 59620

1-844-252-4453 (1-844-25CHILD)

DOJOMBUDSMAN@mt.gov

Disability Services

Blind and Low Vision Services

201 1st St S, Ste 2, Great Falls, MT 59405

1 (888) 279-7527 (toll-free consumer line)

(406) 454-6060 (voice)

(406) 454 6084 (fax)

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/detd/blvs/blvs-vr/blvoffices>

Blind and Low Vision Services provides services to assist individuals in finding or maintaining employment, learning to live with low vision or blindness, and increasing independence.

Development Disability Program

Region II Office

201 First Street South, Suite #3, Great Falls, MT 59405

(406) 454-6085

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities>

The organization ensures that quality care providers meet state and federal regulations when providing services to people with disabilities.

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services

201 First Street South, Suite #2, Great Falls, MT 59405

(406) 454-6060 (voice)

(888)279-7527 (toll-free)

(406) 454 6084 (fax)

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/detd/vocrehab>

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/detd/vocrehab/index>

Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services combines the general and the blind vocational rehabilitation programs in a single unit in order to maximize access to in-demand and high-quality careers by Montanans with disabilities seeking dignity through choice, integration, and self-reliance.

Financial Services

Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce

87 Johannes Ave, Big Sandy, MT 59520

(406) 378-2418

<http://www.bigsandymontana.com/chamber.html>

The Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture is dedicated to promoting local farms and businesses and improving our lovely rural community.

Chouteau County Office of Public Assistance

1020 13th St, PO Box 459, Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406)622-5432 1-888-706-1535 (food assistance)

<https://www.foodstampsoffices.com/office/1712/chouteau-county-office-of-public-assistance/>

Provides economic and medical assistance to those in need due to lack of income or employment

Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce

1421 Front St, Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406) 622-3864

<http://www.fortbentonchamber.org/>

The Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce is a community organization whose goal is to promote, stimulate, increase, and improve business conditions, and to build a better community through positive participation and involvement.

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

Rural Dynamics, Inc.

410 Central Ave #401, Great Falls, MT 59401

(406) 454-5709

<http://ruraldynamics.org/>

Helping people achieve financial security is at the heart of all we do. We utilize both direct service programs such as counseling, coaching, lending, and tax preparation as well as indirect strategies such as coalition building and policy advocacy.

Food Services

Chouteau County Food Bank

PO Box 459 1020 13th St, Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406) 622 3771

<https://mfbn.org/resource/chouteau-county-food-bank/>

Choteau County Food Bank is a Food Pantry, but is also connected to the Office of Public Assistance.

Hours: 8-5 Monday – Friday, closed 12-1 for lunch.

Health Services

Alcoholics Anonymous, Area 40 Montana

1-888-607-2000

Box Elder – Tuesday 6pm – Box Elder Catholic Church

Fort Benton – Thursday 7pm – 1308 Franklin St. (Courthouse Annex)

<https://www.aa-montana.org/index.php>

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS® is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

Chouteau County Health Department

1020 13th St, Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406) 622-3771

<http://www.co.chouteau.mt.us/health/>

Provides immunizations, flu shots, new mom and baby visits, health education and more.

Chouteau County Mental Health Service

1020 13th St, Fort Benton, MT 59442

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

(406) 622-5414

The Mental Health and Services Division develops, mobilizes and manages resources for mental health services to residents of Chouteau County. The Division is responsible for providing or contracting for a continuum of counseling services, assessment and referral to adults, adolescents and children with mental health issues. The Division facilitates access and authorizes reimbursement to providers

Housing Services

Chippewa Cree Housing Authority

75 Laredo Rd, Box Elder, MT 59521

(406) 395-4370

The Housing Authority creates affordable housing opportunities for Montanans whose needs are not met by the market.

Legal Services

Chouteau County Attorney

1308 Franklin St, Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406) 622-3246

The Chouteau County Attorney, Stephan Gannon, is an elected official who serves as both the public prosecutor for the State of Montana and as the legal advisor for all county officials within Chouteau County. The County Attorney's office is divided into two divisions: Criminal and Civil.

Chouteau County Courthouse

1308 Franklin St, Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406) 622-5024

The Clerk of Court is Rick Cook

Hours: Monday – Friday 8 to 5

Chouteau County Justice of the Peace

Located in courthouse basement: 1308 Franklin Street Fort Benton, MT

(406) 622 3069

The County Justice of the Peace is Susan Spencer

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

Montana Family Transition Project

Phone: (406) 543-8343 extension 207

Email: mediate@mtlsa.org

The Montana Family Transition Project offers you the chance to decide what's next for your family, instead of going to court and having a judge decide. A trained professional mediator will help you and your co-parent talk through the issues and make a plan that will work for your lives. You can also get legal advice from an attorney and help calculating child support, all at no cost to you. Both parties need to participate.

To qualify, you and the other party must:

- *need a parenting plan or divorce*
- *Have at least one child*
- *Have a case in a Montana court or be planning to file in Montana*

At least one of you must

- *Not have a lawyer*
- *Meet certain income requirements*

Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA)

616 Helena Ave, Ste 100 Helena, MT 59601

(800)666-6899

<http://www.mtlsa.org/>

Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) is a law firm that empowers low-income people by providing legal information, advice, and other services free of charge. MLSA works both on individual cases and under a systemic approach to help low-income people escape domestic violence, keep their housing, preserve their public benefits, protect their finances, and more.

Self Help Law Center – Cascade County (Serves Chouteau County)

301 2nd Ave N 3rd floor, Great Falls, MT 59401

(406)205-0347

cascadecountyselfhelp@mt.gov

<http://courts.mt.gov/selfhelp/ne-region>

The Court Help Program is a free service provided by the Montana Supreme Court to assist people with civil, non-criminal legal problems. Our goal is to give you the information you need

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

to understand your legal rights and responsibilities and to help you resolve your legal problems on your own if you cannot afford an attorney or if you choose not to hire one.

Hours: M-F 9AM-2PM for walk-ins

Senior Services

Adult Protective Services

2300 12th Ave S #211, Great Falls, MT 59405

(844) 277-9300

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/APS>

Adult Protective Services Specialists help to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation. They help end abuse by matching the needs of the person, with community partners in their area. Partners like mental health, public health, law enforcement, the courts, the aging network, community groups and the public.

Area III Agency on Aging

North Central AAA, 311 S Virginia St, Ste 2, Conrad, MT 59425

(406) 271-7553

ncaaaseb@3rivers.net

Montana's Area Agencies on Aging are public or private non-profit agencies, designated by the Aging Services Bureau, to address the needs and concerns of older Montanans at the local level.

Big Sandy Senior Center

166 Johannes Ave, Big Sandy, MT 59520

(406)378-2405

Offer meals for a reasonable price and delivery at no charge.

Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Geraldine Senior Center

420 Main Street, Geraldine, MT 59446

(406)737-4362

Golden Age Center

1410 Front St #A, Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406)622-3601

Open 7 days a week has daily lunches and hosts bingo, dinner and pinochle parties from 12pm-2pm.

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

Montana Legal Services Association

616 Helena Ave #100, Helena, MT 59601

Phone: (800) 666-6899

Website: www.mtlsa.org

MLSA is a federally and privately funded nonprofit organization that provides non-criminal legal aid to low-income people throughout Montana. Residents seeking civil legal help can contact MLSA via phone, online, or walk-in to request free information, advice, and/or representation. Thanks to a grant from the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL), Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) currently has more resources to address the civil legal needs of elderly Montanans. MLSA civil legal assistance helps vulnerable elderly people address a wide range of civil legal problems, including financial exploitation, debt and consumer issues housing issues, and abuse.

Veteran's Services

American Legion: Big Sandy Post 50

(406) 378-2271

Organizes commemorative events, lobbies on behalf of veterans, and provides veteran assistance.

American Legion: Fort Benton Post 26

711 21st St Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406) 622-5556

Organizes commemorative events, lobbies on behalf of veterans, and provides veteran assistance.

American Legion: Havre Post 11

11225 River Rd Havre, MT 59501

(406) 265 4090

Organizes commemorative events, lobbies on behalf of veterans, and provides veteran assistance.

Montana Veterans Affairs

600 Central Ave #418, Great Falls, MT 59401

(406) 265-4225 (Havre)

(406)452-2265 (Great Falls)

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

<https://www.montanalawhelp.org/files/0ED0131F-1EC9-4FC4-652E-FC8C4E92C777/attachments/8FA0131D-7D30-42EA-93A7-BE6226FA7FC6/montanaveteransresourceguide3.2.pdf>

A statewide network of service for discharged veterans and their families that provides services and assistance for all Montana veterans, and surviving spouses and dependents in coordination with associated federal and state agencies, veterans' services organizations, private organizations and individuals.

Veteran Crisis Hotline

1-800-273-8255

www.veteranline.net

Women's Services

Hi-Line's Help for Abused Spouses

300 North Virginia, Ste 307, Conrad, MT 59425

(406) 278-3342 (Office)

1-800-219-7336 (Crisis Line)

1-866-820-5437 (reporting)

<http://www.hlhas.com/>

Services include a 24 hour Crisis Line, one-on-one advocacy, child advocacy, victim witness services and an informational referral network.

Other Services

Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Line

500 1st Ave Havre, MT 59501

(406)265-2606

<http://www.bgchi-line.net/home>

As the premier youth development program of the Hi-Line, we strive to enable all young people, especially those who need us most to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

Chouteau County Extension Office - MSU

1308 Franklin St, PO Box 459 Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406)622-3751 (phone)

(406) 622 3012 (fax)

<https://chouteau.msuextension.org/>

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

Provides unbiased research-based education and information that integrates learning, discovery and engagement to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

Chouteau County Disaster and Emergency Services

(406)622-3027

(406)622-3022

<http://www.chouteaucountydes.com/>

Emergency Management is the organized analysis, planning, decision making and assignment of available resources to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of all hazards. The goal of emergency management is to save lives, prevent injuries, protect property, and the environment if an emergency occurs.

Great Falls Job Service

1018 7th Street S

Great Falls, MT 59405

(406) 791-5800

Email: GreatFallsJSC@mt.gov

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm, Friday 9am-5pm

Chouteau County Planning Office

Located in the courthouse basement 1308 Franklin Street Fort Benton, MT

(406) 495 6153

jgrebenc@greatwesteng.com

The County Planning Department provides land use planning and development services to resident of Chouteau County.

Chouteau County Treasurer

Located on the 1st floor of the courthouse 1308 Franklin Street Fort Benton, MT

(406) 622-5032

Toni Eckhoff

This office is the collection and distribution center for all taxes in Chouteau County, including annual re-registration and titling of cars, trucks and other motorized vehicles (boats, motor homes, snowmobiles, trailers, motorcycles, special mobile equipment, gross vehicle weight charges).

Chouteau County Library

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024

Chouteau County Resource Guide

1518 Main Street Fort Benton, MT 59442

(406) 622-5222

(406) 622 5294 (fax)

Emily Wicks

fblibrary@itstriangle.com

<https://www.chouteaucountylibrary.net/>

The Chouteau County Library, along with its branch libraries in Big Sandy and Geraldine, is committed to serving the county's residents as an accessible center of reliable information, without restrictions of censorship or violation of privacy.

This Resource Guide was prepared by Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members. Although we do our best to keep these guides current, please contact programs directly for the most accurate and up-to-date information. Last Updated: January 2024