

# 2021 Grantmaking Program Plan

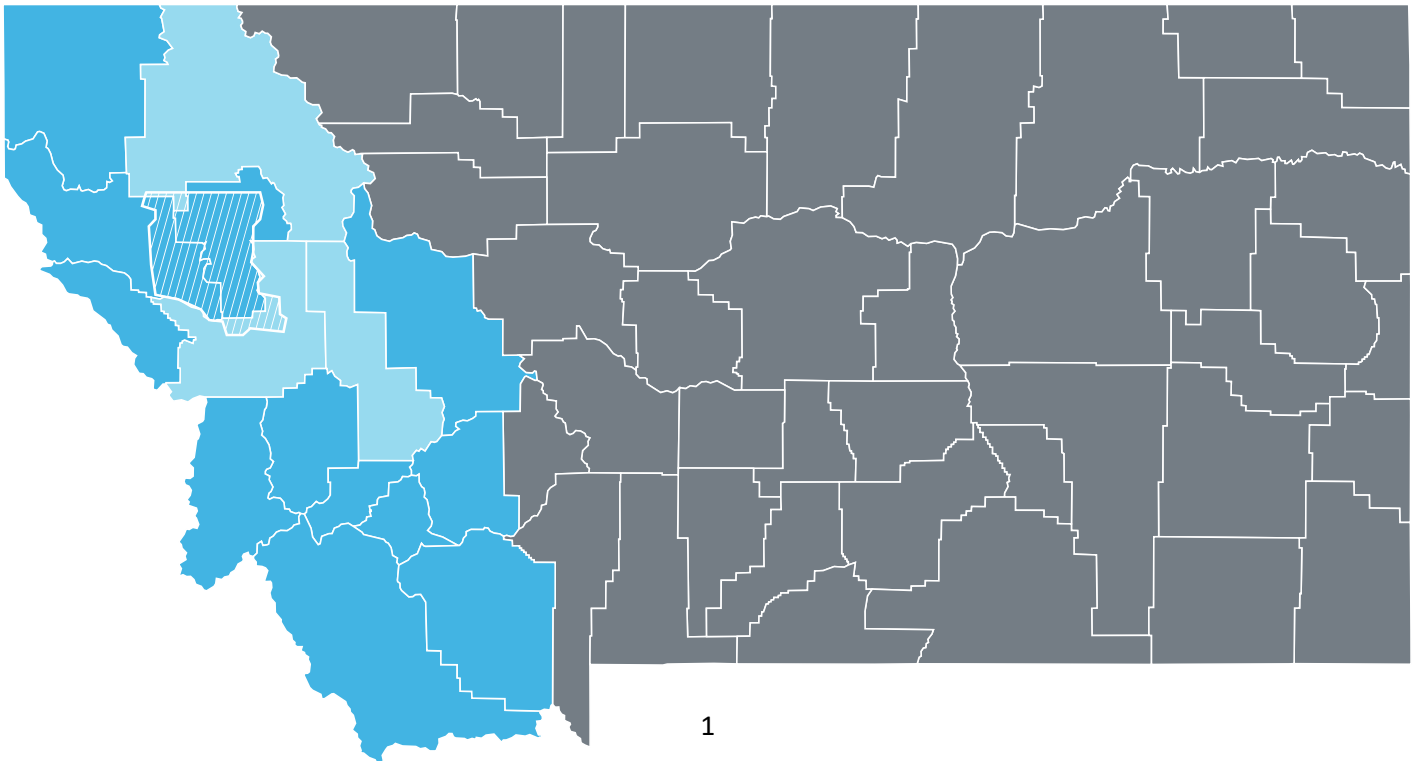
*Reducing social and economic barriers to Western Montanans' health and wellbeing, particularly for families living in poverty and American Indians*

## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must provide majority of their organization's services in our funding region (see map below);
- Must be a tax-exempt public charity, as qualified by the IRS;
- Applicant's work must align with the mission, vision, values of Headwaters Foundation;
- Headwaters prioritizes organizations serving those living in poverty and American Indian constituents; and
- Headwaters will consider the applicant's past history in successful project completion and tracking outcomes.

## HEADWATERS FOUNDATION'S SERVICE REGION

Headwaters Foundation serves the 15 most western counties in Montana and the Flathead Indian Reservation. Counties served include: Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Granite, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Silver Bow, Beaverhead and Madison.



## HOW TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

There are two ways to apply for a grant at Headwaters.

1. **GO! Grants** are quick turn-around general operating grants of up to \$7,500. The application is online and open to anyone who meets the eligibility requirements. There are no deadlines to apply, but the application window typically runs from mid-January to mid-November each year; organizations are only eligible to apply once every 12 months. [Click here to learn more or apply.](#)
2. For our larger investments, **making a grant starts with a conversation.** And our door is open to anyone who knocks. You can learn more about each grantmaking program and how to reach out below. We do not have open ‘call for proposals’ or deadlines for these grants, so we encourage you to reach out to learn if your work is a fit with our mission and priorities.

## 2021 GRANTMAKING STRATEGY

In 2021, we will invest approximately \$4.5 million into community-driven solutions to reduce social and economic barriers to Western Montanans’ health and wellbeing—particularly for families living in poverty and American Indians—through four core grantmaking programs: Early Childhood Initiative, American Indian Health and Wellbeing, Policy Engagement Fund and GO! Grants.

### Early Childhood Strategic Initiative

**Goal:** Build resilience for kids in their earliest years

**Total Fund:** \$2,000,000

When we first began digging into the Montana’s health disparities, we heard time and again from people in Western Montana that we should focus on children in their earliest years, getting as far upstream as possible. If we could help provide a stable foundation from the start, we’d prevent future problems. We also heard loud and clear that every community is different in Montana, and in order to achieve real, sustainable impact, the work must be driven locally. Under that direction, Headwaters supports the following efforts:

1. **Zero to Five Montana.** Headwaters is the seed funder for the Zero to Five Initiative in Montana. Through this effort, Headwaters funds a select number of **locally-driven, multi-sector collaborative groups** working to advance opportunities for children ages 0-5 in Western Montana, as well as a statewide resource office. You can learn more about Zero to Five at [www.zerotofive.org](http://www.zerotofive.org). We currently fund collaborative efforts in Beaverhead, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, and Silverbow counties. If you are part of local early childhood coalition effort in one of the other 15 counties in our funding region and want to learn more about funding opportunities, please contact Ashley Shaw, program officer at [ashleys@headwatersmt.org](mailto:ashleys@headwatersmt.org).
2. Additionally, Headwaters will explore funding to **early childhood projects** in communities where a collaborative does not exist. To learn more about funding opportunities, please contact Ashley Shaw, program officer at [ashleys@headwatersmt.org](mailto:ashleys@headwatersmt.org).

## American Indian Health & Wellbeing Initiative

**Goal:** Support healthy and thriving American Indian Communities in Western Montana

**Total Fund:** \$925,000

Headwaters Foundation acknowledges the deep traditional values and strengths of Indigenous people, specifically American Indians in Montana. Over the last year, several workshops and conversations between Headwaters Foundation and American Indian leaders in Western Montana identified key areas for strategic investments that will best support American Indian health and wellbeing in our region. Through these conversations, the themes of Sovereignty, Culture, and Family emerged as areas where Headwaters could support work. In 2021, Headwaters will focus funding on Family & Community Resilience on the Flathead Indian Reservation, Urban Indian Health and Wellbeing, Cultural Preservation in Schools on the Flathead Indian Reservation, and Food Sovereignty.

To learn more about this fund and whether your organization is a fit, please reach out to Aly Schock, program officer, at [alys@headwatersmt.org](mailto:alys@headwatersmt.org).

## Policy Engagement Fund

**Goal:** Support a better environment for the advocacy of policies that reduce social and economic barriers to health in Montana

**Total Fund:** \$800,000

In order to achieve health equity in the state, Headwaters acknowledges that we must go upstream and impact the policies that affect people's lives. Through this fund, Headwaters seeks to increase the capacity of organizations doing policy and advocacy work; increase collaboration among policy organizations, especially across sectors; support organizations working to engage and mobilize members in policy work; and support research that will lead to better policy-making on social and economic issues affecting people's health. In 2021, Headwaters will focus on funding organizations, community organizing efforts, or networks focusing on improving policies related to our priority social determinants of health. Additionally, we are interested in supporting research that will lead to improved decision-making on policies in our priority areas as well. Priority areas include:

- **Family Resiliency** (early childhood education & development, child welfare, family support);
- **Food** (food access, food security, access to foods that support healthy eating patterns);
- **Housing** (quality of housing, affordable housing, stable housing);
- **Social Inclusion** (civic participation, discrimination, incarceration, Indigenous traditional knowledge & culture); and
- **Mental Health** (children's mental health, maternal mental health (pre/post-natal), family mental health)

Proposals to this fund are by invitation only. To learn more about this fund and whether your organization is a fit, please reach out to Erin Switalski, program director, at [erins@headwatersmt.org](mailto:erins@headwatersmt.org).

## GO! Grants

**Goal:** General operating grants to build the resilience of children and families (ages 0-18)

**Fund total:** \$600,000

Through this fund, Headwaters will offer grants up to \$7,500 in general operating support for nonprofit organizations working in western Montana's most rural communities to promote healthy lives for children and families. To qualify for funding, an organization must be working rurally, serve families experiencing poverty or

American Indian communities, and demonstrate that the bulk of their work is aligned with the following strategic focus areas:

- **Family Resiliency** (early childhood education & development, child welfare, family support)
- **Food** (food access, food security, access to foods that support healthy eating patterns)
- **Housing** (quality of housing, affordable housing, stable housing)
- **Social Inclusion** (civic participation, discrimination, incarceration, Indigenous traditional knowledge & culture);
- **Mental Health** (children's mental health, maternal mental health (pre/post-natal), family mental health)
- **Neighborhood & Built Environment** (crime and violence, environmental conditions, transportation)

\*[Applications are accepted online via the website](#). Headwaters defines rural as area outside of Butte, Kalispell, Helena, or Missoula.

## What we don't fund

Currently, our grantmaking programs exclude funding of the following categories:

- Individuals;
- Endowments;
- Direct lobbying;
- Debt retirement, operating deficits or after-the-fact support;
- Basic biomedical research, drug therapies or devices;
- Public, Private or parochial education institutions, including their foundations, except when support is essential to programs or projects that align with our Strategic Framework and are not considered standard educational services;
- Organizations or projects that unlawfully discriminate with regard to employees, volunteers, delivery of programs or services, or clients served based on age, sex, religion/creed, race, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, marital status, military or veterans status, pregnancy or genetic information;
- 501c4 or 501c6 organizations; and
- Any organization or project that is inconsistent with the mission, vision, values and Strategic Framework of Headwaters.