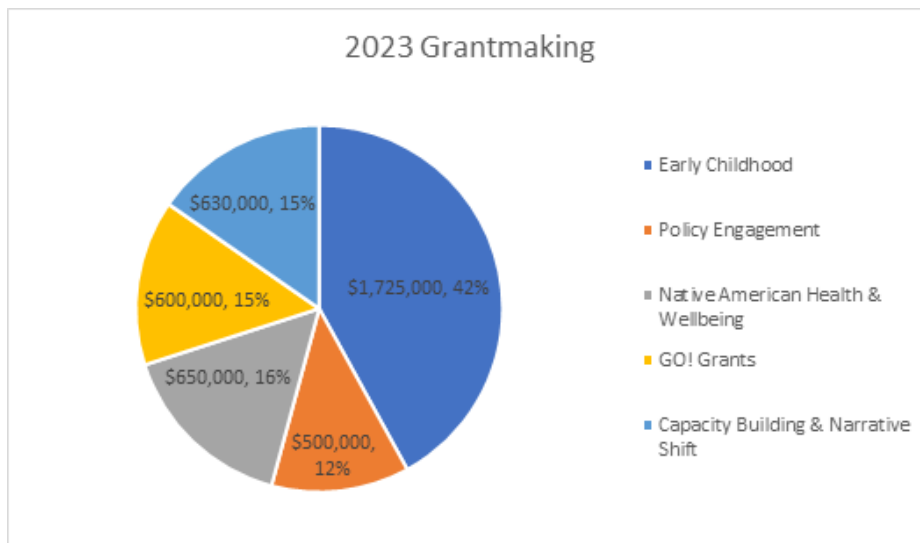


Headwaters Foundation 2023 Program Plan

Reducing social and economic barriers to Western Montanans' health and wellbeing, particularly for families living in poverty and Native Americans

In 2023, Headwaters Foundation expects to invest \$4 million into community-driven solutions to reduce social and economic barriers to Western Montanans' health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on families facing the greatest structural disadvantages to health, through four grantmaking programs.



Early Childhood Strategic Initiative

A child's first years are critical to their development and have a significant impact on their long-term health. Many parents and caregivers in Western Montana face a complex array of obstacles such as unpredictable housing, stagnant wages, mental illness, and family violence, which can negatively impact a child's physical and emotional health. **Addressing these barriers to health can help Western Montana's next generation become healthier today and better equipped for tomorrow.**

To help ensure that Montana kids have a healthy start in life, Headwaters Foundation invests in building the strength and resiliency of families and children by addressing the social and economic conditions which keep children from being healthy. **We do this by partnering with organizations and existing coalitions that are:**

- Working to advance opportunities for children 0 to 5 by going beyond service delivery to address systemic barriers to health.
- Engaging, seeking direction from and mobilizing the people most affected by the goals of the project or collaboration.
- Convening partners from different sectors, such as nonprofits, education, health care, business, faith groups, childcare and/or government.
- Involving leaders like executive directors, CEOs, school superintendents and elected officials.
- Participating in policy development such as by talking to lawmakers or advocating for funding.

If you are working to advance opportunities for kids ages 0-5 and want to learn more about funding opportunities, please contact Ashley Shaw, program officer at ashleys@headwatersmt.org.

Native American Health & Wellbeing Initiative

Native Americans make up 6 to 7% of the population in Montana, and they experience disproportionately higher rates of health problems than the rest of the population. Headwaters Foundation invests in community and culture-driven solutions to support thriving Native American communities in Western Montana. We work with organizations that exist specifically to serve Native Americans, demonstrate Native leadership within their organization, and prioritize addressing social and economic barriers to health.

In conversation and partnership with Native American leaders in Western Montana, we have prioritized the following funding areas:

- Mental health crisis prevention and intervention.
- Increasing access to culturally competent healthcare.
- Preserving Indigenous culture and identity.
- Supporting access to healthy food and preserving traditional food systems.

If you are working in one of these areas and want to learn more about funding opportunities, please contact Cari Cuffney, program officer at caric@headwatersmt.org.

Policy & Engagement Fund

Headwaters believes that we must go ‘upstream’ to shape the policies that impact people’s health and wellbeing throughout their lives. We invest in organizations and networks engaged in policy advocacy, research, mobilization, grassroots organizing and narrative change to address social and economic barriers to health for children, families and Native American communities in Western Montana.

We seek to support deeper and sustained collaboration among policy organizations and engagement and mobilization of community members in policy work. We look for partners that engage individuals that are directly impacted by the problem and work across sectors to create change in their communities. Headwaters also supports organizations conducting research that will inform policymaking on social and economic issues affecting people’s health.

To learn more about this fund and whether your organization is a fit, please reach out to Cari Cuffney, program officer at caric@headwatersmt.org.

Systems Change Supports

To start to make significant change in people’s lives, we need to build the capacity of organizations in the state to tackle things at the systems change level. We believe that significant and strategic investments into the skills and leadership of community leaders will pay dividends back to the communities for years to come. Systems changes can be achieved when the mindset of a community changes. To support this, we must invest in strategies to shift the narratives around social determinants of health, to prioritize prevention-first approaches and uplift the needs of people in our state who face the greatest barriers to health. Through this fund, Headwaters supports foundational skill-building opportunities for grantee partners and continues to amplify key messages around social determinants of health and the benefits of Trust-Based Philanthropy to lead to better outcomes. These funding opportunities are only available to current grantee partners. Ask your program officer about any additional support opportunities!

GO! Grants

Headwaters Foundation provides General Operating (GO!) Grants up to \$7,500 for nonprofit organizations in Western Montana’s rural communities working to promote health for children and families, with a short turnaround time and a simple application process. To qualify for funding, a nonprofit organization must primarily serve rural areas (outside of the urban centers of Butte, Kalispell, Helena, or Missoula) in our 15-county funding region, serve families experiencing poverty or

Native American communities, and demonstrate that the bulk of its work is aligned with one or more of the following 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, family mental health)

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

What we don't fund

Currently, our grantmaking programs do not generally fund:

- 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, except when programmatically appropriate and will require expenditure responsibility
- Any organization or project that is inconsistent with the mission, vision, values and Strategic Framework of Headwaters