PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & COMMENT SUMMARY AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2026

IMPACT AREA | ARTS & CULTURE:

- **Public Comment Summary: 2 Arts & Culture written comments received**
  - 2 comments received regarding Big Sky Pride Programming: Winter Pride & Summer Pride 2027
    - 2 in opposition
  - 0 comments received for Big Sky Center for the Arts – Capital for a Building Transformation, WMPAC 26/27 Annual Cultural Programming, and 2027 Music in the Mountains Free Concert Series

- **Prioritize Results:** *39 Arts & Culture submissions received*
  - Big Sky Pride Programming: Winter Pride & Summer Pride 2027
    - Voted **Yes** I would fund: 21 (54%)
    - Voted **No** I would not fund: 18 (46%)
  - Big Sky Center for the Arts – Capital for a Building Transformation
    - Voted **Yes** I would fund: 26 (67%)
    - Voted **No** I would not fund: 13 (33%)
  - WMPAC 26/27 Annual Cultural Programming
    - Voted **Yes** I would fund: 36 (92%)
    - Voted **No** I would not fund: 3 (8%)
  - 2027 Music in the Mountains Free Concert Series
    - Voted **Yes** I would fund: 29 (74%)
    - Voted **No** I would not fund: 10 (26%)

IMPACT AREA | CONSERVATION

- **Public Comment Summary: 3 Conservation written comments received**
  - 1 comments received regarding Alpenscapes | 1 in support
  - 2 comments received providing overall support of Grow Wild as an organization
  - 0 comments received regarding West Fork Restoration, Gallatin River Restoration, Big Sky Water Conservation Program, Water Monitoring, CAP Implementation, Water Planning, Coordination and Outreach, Wildlife Habitat Conservation, Land Stewardship, and Forest Stewardship
- **Prioritize Results: 76 Conservation submissions received**
  - West Fork Restoration
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 73 (96%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 3 (4%)
  - Gallatin River Restoration
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 70 (92%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 6 (8%)
  - Big Sky Water Conservation Program
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 61 (80%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 15 (20%)
  - Alpenscapes
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 49 (64%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 27 (36%)

- Water Monitoring
  - Voted Yes I would fund: 67 (88%)
  - Voted No I would not fund: 9 (12%)
- Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation
  - Voted Yes I would fund: 48 (63%)
  - Voted No I would not fund: 28 (37%)
- Water Planning, Coordination and Outreach
  - Voted Yes I would fund: 63 (83%)
  - Voted No I would not fund: 13 (17%)
- Wildlife Habitat Conservation
  - Voted Yes I would fund: 48 (63%)
  - Voted No I would not fund: 28 (37%)
- Land Stewardship
  - Voted Yes I would fund: 42 (55%)
  - Voted No I would not fund: 34 (45%)
- Forest Stewardship
  - Voted Yes I would fund: 50 (66%)
  - Voted No I would not fund: 26 (34%)

IMPACT AREA | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Public Comment Summary: 0 Economic Development written comments received**
- **Prioritize Results: 37 Economic Development submissions received**
  - Visitor Marketing
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 17 (46%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 20 (54%)
  - VBS - Operations
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 18 (49%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 19 (51%)
  - Chamber Operations Programming
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 22 (59%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 15 (41%)
  - Development of Business Skills Programming
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 19 (51%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 18 (49%)
  - Destination Research and Stewardship Plan
    - Voted Yes I would fund: 17 (46%)
    - Voted No I would not fund: 20 (54%)

IMPACT AREA | EDUCATION & CHILDCARE

- **Public Comment Summary: 11 Education & Childcare written comments received**
  - 2 comments received regarding Big Sky Community School Campus Expansion: Franklin Unit 1D Acquisition | 1 in support
  - 9 comments received regarding MLC's Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance | 9 in support
  - 0 comments received regarding BSDA's Early Childhood Education, Big Sky Community Library, and Big Sky Community Language Learning Program

- **Prioritize Results: 167 Education & Childcare submissions received**
    - Big Sky Community School Campus Expansion: Franklin Unit 1D Acquisition
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 77 (46%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 90 (54%)
    - Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance (MLC)
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 71 (43%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 96 (57%)
    - Early Childhood Education (BSDA)
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 138 (83%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 29 (17%)
    - Big Sky Community Library
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 88 (53%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 79 (47%)
    - Big Sky Community Language Learning Program
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 66 (40%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 101 (60%)

IMPACT AREA | HEALTH & SAFETY

- **Public Comment Summary: 1 Health & Safety written comments received**
    - 1 comments received providing general support for Wellness in Action as an organization
    - 0 comments received regarding Big Sky Community & Workforce Food Security, Affordable Mental & Behavioral Health Support Program, and Navigator Network
- **Prioritize Results: 46 Health & Safety submissions received**
    - Big Sky Community & Workforce Food Security
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 41 (89%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 5 (11%)
    - Affordable Mental & Behavioral Health Support Program
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 43 (93%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 3 (7%)
    - Navigator Network
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 25 (54%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 21 (46%)

IMPACT AREA | HOUSING

- **Public Comment Summary: 0 Housing written comments received**
- **Prioritize Results: 30 Housing submissions received**
    - Housing Preservation
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 25 (83%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 5 (17%)
    - Operations and Administration
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 21 (70%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 9 (30%)

IMPACT AREA | PUBLIC WORKS

- **Public Comment Summary: 0 Public Works written comments received**
- **Prioritize Results: 26 Public Works submissions received**
    - Skyline Transit – Technology and Reporting Advancements
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 25 (96%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 1 (4%)

IMPACT AREA | RECREATION

- **Public Comment Summary: 0 Recreation written comments received**
- **Prioritize Results: 50 Recreation submissions received**
    - Expanding Youth Winter Sports Safety Equipment
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 30 (60%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 20 (40%)
    - The Elkhorn Downhill Trail
        - Voted Yes I would fund: 36 (72%)
        - Voted No I would not fund: 14 (28%)

From: Robert Quinn
To: Public Comment
Subject: Project Opposition
Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:10:01 PM

You don't often get email from rquinnmd@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

I strongly oppose the use of our resort tax dollars to support Pride Programming. This is divisive and has nothing to do with the arts and culture of a ski resort.
I am quite sure that you wouldn't support a "right to life" event, and nor should you. So, how about we use the revenues to support initiatives with strong majority support.

Robert Quinn

From: Doug Black
To: Public Comment
Subject: Opposition to a funding
Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 3:46:17 PM

You don't often get email from black@gate.net. Learn why this is important

Let me begin with I am not homophobic. I have a 35+ year friendship with a gay man. He and his partner will be spending this Thanksgiving with us here in Big Sky. I hired numerous gays over many years.

Providing any funds to Big Sky Pride is ridiculous. It is fine they have an event but not funded by BSRAD. If we are to give them funds then we, to be fair, should provide funding for Heterosexual Pride and Veteran's events, even better Disabled Veterans, Furries and Drag Queens. You see, where does it end when desiring to be fair?

I am shocked this ever got in your list of grants.

Doug Black
black@gate.net
305-467-8577 Cell
406-993-2227 Home

From: PC O"K
To: Public Comment
Subject: Grow Wild
Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 10:15:12 AM

You don't often get email from pmcap7@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Grow Wild has played a critical role in its outreach efforts to help combat the noxious spotted knapweed. They have been able to walk me through the slow and arduous process of minimizing its hold on our property. I look forward to when the Grow Wild flower seeds take hold and dominate our lot. They are readily accessible and promptly return emails and when you meet them at the Farmer's Market or Crail they forever have a smile on their faces.

Thank you,
Pamela O'Keefe

From: Krisy & Scott Hammond
To: Public Comment
Subject: In Support of Grow Wild
Date: Monday, October 12, 2026 11:26:53 AM

You don't often get email from krisyscotth@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

To Whom it may Concern,

Please accept my letter of support on behalf of Grow Wild (GW) and in consideration of BS Resort Tax benefits.

I have been seeking out the advice and guidance from GW for 20 (+) years. Jen Mohler's commitment to help our community is like no other. I so appreciate having the Grow Wild website for information, being able to call upon Jen for great guidance and for the heartfelt dedication to our community and especially our beloved environment here in The Gallatin Watershed. I also appreciate the many events like weed pulls. I look at the places we have been doing physical work for many years. I can literally see the difference GW has made with the community driven events. I speculate that without GW weed pulls, we would not see the difference in places like The Community Park and Portal River Access in our Canyon.

I do keep in mind that it is easy to access the GW website. However, I speculate upon the work put into that website. The research and assistance provided is clear and user friendly. The plant identification is beautiful and clear. The website itself as well as some social media (Instagram) is almost poetic. The driving force behind this shows sincere motivation and energy to do the right thing and by that I mean, educate the public and keep our homes and public lands better, as free from invasive species as we possibly can.

Lastly, thank you very much for the opportunity to be on the receiving end of these donations. I hope you take a deep look at GW. This organization exists to make the world a better place. It truly does and that is a large undertaking.

Thanks for your time and attention to GW!!!

Sincerely,
Kristine Hammond

From: Mark McCurley
To: Public Comment
Cc: Pam McCurley (Luallin) FAMILY
Subject: GRTF & Grow Wild projects support
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 5:13:41 AM

You don't often get email from mccurleyflyfish@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear Resort Tax board,
We have made Big Sky our summer home for over 20 years and have been privileged to volunteer with these two conservation groups. They have helped us understand the challenges and the importance of the steps they take to protect the wonderful environment that makes this area so special.
Recently their work with Alpenscapes has made great contributions to our condo community by helping us see how we could improve our properties regarding wildfires.
I hope you will consider supporting their financial requests from the resort tax pool. We feel they are effective and efficient in using the funds for our community.
Many thanks,
Mark & Pam

From: Shannon Hyem
To: Public Comment
Subject: Resort Tax and Big Sky Community School allocation
Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:16:45 PM

[You don't often get email from shannon.hyem@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

My name is Shannon Hyem, and I live in Big Sky, own and operate a local business, and have two children attending Big Sky Community School. The school's hybrid approach has been an incredible fit for our family, combining high level education with life skills, flexibility, independence, and a strong sense of community.

As a business owner and long-term resident, I believe quality educational options are essential to attracting and retaining families who want to live, work, and invest in Big Sky. Our family plans to stay here long term, and this school is a meaningful part of why we have chosen to build our lives and businesses in this community. I strongly support funding its expansion.

Many Thanks
Shannon Hyem
Sent from my iPhone

From: Attia Ilyas
To: Public Comment
Subject: Support for Big Sky Community School expansion
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 6:12:01 PM

You don't often get email from attiahalima20@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

To the Big Sky Resort Tax Board,

I'm writing to support funding for the Big Sky Community School expansion.

I'm one of the families on the waitlist. If my children get a spot at the school, we would be moving to Big Sky, and our youngest would go to one of the daycare centers there. We're familiar with Morningstar from 2022 and have been hoping to move back.

Your support would mean a lot to families like ours.

Attia Ilyas

Missoula, Montana

Dear BSRAD Board Members,

My name is Ana Backstrom, and I am a MLC parent and an employee of Big Sky Resort. I am writing in support of Morningstar Learning Center's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance, and I respectfully ask that BSRAD fully fund this request.

MLC is a huge help to my family. It is important for us to have a place like MLC, where we know our daughter Ella is well cared for and learning a lot. Tuition assistance is vital because it enables us to pay the monthly fee; this allows my husband and me to keep working here in Big Sky, rather than one of us having to quit our job to care for our daughter full-time.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your continued investment in Big Sky families.

With gratitude,

Ana Backstrom

From: Rosie Sullivan
To: Public Comment
Subject: MLC"s request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance
Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026 1:16:06 PM

You don't often get email from roselhewitt@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear BSRAD Board Members,

My name is Rosie Sullivan and I am a current Morningstar Learning Center parent who is able to work and live in Big Sky thanks to MLC. I am in support of MLC's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance, and encourage you to fully fund this request.

Access to excellent and affordable childcare is essential for my family and for the strength of the entire Big Sky community. Reliable childcare allows parents and caregivers to work and contribute to our local economy while knowing that their children are safe, supported, and learning in a high-quality environment.

MLC's Tuition Assistance Program is important for our family because it allows my husband and I to maintain our work responsibilities while knowing that our son is well cared for during the day. We place significant value on the quality of care and learning opportunities our son receives at MLC, and we are grateful for your continued support of MLC and TAP throughout the years.

Sincerely,

Rosie Sullivan

From: Jennifer Guenther
To: Public Comment
Subject: Morningstar support
Date: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:20:28 AM

You don't often get email from jen.guenther@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

Dear BSRAD Board Members,

My name is Jen Guenther, and I am a community member and parent of a former MLC student. I am writing in support of Morningstar Learning Center's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance, and I respectfully ask that BSRAD fully fund this request.

Morningstar Learning Center is crucial to the health of this community. Without affordable childcare, families cannot work and live here. Without new families moving in, our community will die. MLC provides fantastic childcare and early childhood education, and has filled a gap that is only growing as this community grows and becomes more popular.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your continued investment in Big Sky families.

With gratitude,

Jen Guenther

From: Krawiec, Kyle
To: Public Comment
Subject: Fw: MLC"s request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance
Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:45:25 PM

You don't often get email from kkrawiec@bigskyresort.com. Learn why this is important

Hello,

My wife and I work at Big Sky Resort. We are very thankful to have day care for our son at Morningstar Learning Center, and that it is made affordable for us by the TAP program. We have considered moving back to our home state due to the difficulty of living here and would likely do so if day care was more expensive. We love the care our son gets at MLC, and we love Big Sky. We appreciate the tuition support and sure are hopeful that it continues to be fully funded.

Kyle Krawiec

Dear BSRAD Board Members,

My name is Robbeye Samardich, and I have been a Big Sky resident for more than 30 years. As a parent whose two children attended Morningstar Learning Center and as the General Manager of Lake Condos Owners' Association, I am writing in strong support of Morningstar's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance. I respectfully ask that BSRAD fully fund this request.

Morningstar holds a special place in our family's story. Having dependable care in a nurturing learning environment gave me peace of mind and allowed me to work while my children were young. Knowing they were safe, supported, and learning was invaluable.

Today, as someone who manages and hires year-round employees, I see how essential reliable, affordable childcare is to keeping families and businesses in Big Sky. Parents need care they can count on to remain in the workforce, and employers need that same stability to recruit and retain qualified staff. When childcare is unaffordable or unavailable, the effects reach throughout our community.

BSRAD's investment in Morningstar supports children during their earliest years while helping their parents build a sustainable life here. Tuition assistance makes that opportunity accessible to more families, including the year-round workers who keep Big Sky running.

After more than three decades here, I know that a strong community depends on families being able to stay and thrive. Fully funding Morningstar's request is a meaningful investment in those families and in Big Sky's future.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your continued investment in Big Sky families.

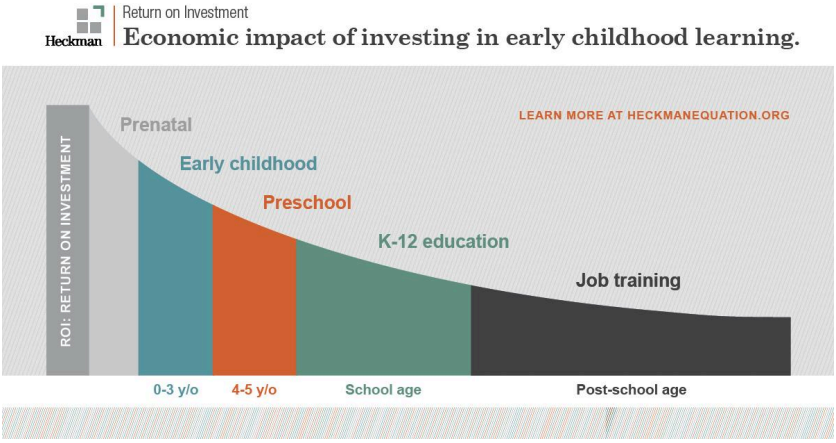
With gratitude,
Robbeye Samardich

October 12, 2026

Dear BSRAD Board Members,

I am deeply grateful for the Resort Tax Board's longstanding support of Morningstar Learning Center (MLC) and its commitment to strengthening the Big Sky community. Your investment has made a meaningful difference for local families, and I am writing to respectfully ask that BSRAD fully fund MLC's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance.

Morningstar has served Big Sky for 20 years, offering affordable and excellent child care and early learning services, and my own children have benefited from the high-quality early education it provides.



Research by Nobel laureate and University of Chicago economist Professor James J. Heckman demonstrates that investing in early childhood yields lasting economic and social benefits, including improved educational outcomes, higher lifetime earnings, better health, and a stronger workforce. These benefits are not realized overnight, but they compound over time, shaping the well-being and economic vitality of communities for generations (see Heckman Curve infographic).

Quality early learning is an investment not only in children, but also in the strength, stability, and long-term vitality of our entire community. Resort tax funding offers an opportunity to make a profound difference in Big Sky, the lives of our families, and future generations.

Thank you for your continued leadership, thoughtful stewardship of resort tax dollars, and commitment to the organizations that make Big Sky a stronger, more resilient community. Thank you for your partnership and for your consideration of funding support for MLC.

With sincere appreciation,
Stephanie Kissell
MLC Board Member

From: Chase Sick
To: Jenny Christensen
Subject: Re: Dear BSRAD Board Members, My name is Chase Sick, and I am a current Morningstar Learning Center parent. I am writing in support of Morningstar Learning Center's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance, and I respectfully ask that
Date: Monday, October 12, 2026 9:34:19 AM

Sure thing

Dear BSRAD Board Members,
My name is Chase Sick, and I am a current Morningstar Learning Center parent. I am writing in support of Morningstar Learning Center's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance, and I respectfully ask that BSRAD fully fund this request.
As a family who lives and works in Big Sky, having access to high-quality, affordable child care is incredibly important to us. MLC gives our family the ability to work and live in this community while knowing our children are safe, loved, and receiving an excellent early childhood education. Having that peace of mind allows us to focus on our work while knowing our children are in a place where they are truly cared for.
The cost of living in Big Sky is already a significant challenge for working families. Without programs like MLC's Tuition Assistance Program, quality child care would simply not be affordable for many families. Keeping MLC affordable gives families like ours the ability to stay in Big Sky. Thank you

On Fri, Oct 9, 2026, 10:36 AM Jenny Christensen <jenny@resorttax.org> wrote:

> Hi Chase,
>
> It doesn't look like your comment was included in this email. Would you mind reattaching your letter/comment?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Jenny
>
> **Jenny Christensen**
>
> Deputy Director
>
> Big Sky Resort Area District
>
> **Phone:** 406-995-3234
>
> **Web:** www.resorttax.org
>
> **Email:** jenny@resorttax.org

11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 204

P.O. Box 160661

Big Sky, MT 59716

From: Chase Sick <chase.sick67@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 12:35 PM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@resorttax.org>
Subject: Dear BSRAD Board Members, My name is Chase Sick, and I am a current Morningstar Learning Center parent. I am writing in support of Morningstar Learning Center's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance, and I respectfully ask that B...

From: Kimberly Vitou
To: Public Comment
Subject: Please fund MLC"s Request!
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 1:08:38 PM

Dear BSRAD Board Members,

My name is Kimberly Vitou, and I am an employee at Morningstar Learning Center and a former MLC parent. My children have since graduated from the program, but as both a parent and an employee, I have seen firsthand how much MLC means to Big Sky families.

Quality, affordable child care gives children a strong foundation while allowing parents to work and local businesses to retain employees. In a community with such a high cost of living, access to affordable child care can make a real difference in whether families are able to stay in Big Sky.

I hope BSRAD will fully fund MLC’s request to help ensure more local families have access to the quality care and early education their children deserve.

Thank you for your time and for your continued support of Big Sky families.

With gratitude,

Kimberly Vitou

From: Erica Perlman-Hensen
To: Public Comment
Subject: Morningstar Learning Center's Ask
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 9:06:20 AM

You don't often get email from ericaperlman@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear BSRAD Board Members,

I am writing in support of Morningstar Learning Center's request for Early Childhood Education and Tuition Assistance, and I hope you will fully fund their request.

As a parent, local healthcare provider, and business owner who lives and works in Big Sky, I know firsthand how important good childcare is to making life in this community work. Morningstar gives our family the ability to go to work each day knowing that our daughter is somewhere she is safe, happy, learning, and genuinely cared for.

Big Sky is an amazing place to raise a family, but it is also an expensive place to live. The high cost of housing, childcare, and everyday necessities can make it difficult for many families to remain in the community, even when they are working hard and contributing in important ways. Tuition assistance is essential for families who may not otherwise be able to afford quality early childhood education. It helps ensure that access to a safe, nurturing, and enriching learning environment is not limited only to those who can comfortably pay the full cost.

Having access to quality, affordable childcare makes a huge difference in whether families can make a life here. It allows parents to work, businesses to have employees, and families to feel like they can put down roots in this community. Supporting childcare helps ensure that our community has access to healthcare and other essential services it needs.

And Morningstar is more than just a place to drop your kids off while you go to work. The teachers know our kids, celebrate their little personalities, and help them learn how to be good little humans. Those early years matter, and having a place like Morningstar where children can thrive is something that benefits the entire community.

We are very grateful for BSRAD's continued support of Morningstar and its Tuition Assistance Program. That support helps make it possible for families with different financial circumstances to access the same high-quality care and education. I hope you will continue that investment by fully funding Morningstar's request.

With gratitude,

Erica Perlman

Dr. Erica Perlman-Hensen, OD, MPH, MA

Big Sky Eyes
99 Town Center Ave, Unit #A6
P.O. Box # 160700
Big Sky, MT 59716
Phone: (406) 414-0006
Alternate email: bigskyeyes@gmail.com

From: Danielle
To: Public Comment
Subject: Public comment
Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026 10:35:01 AM

You don't often get email from daochenoweth@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Hello,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the importance of Wellness in Action's impact in the community. I am a mental health counselor who was been partnering with WIA for the past several years. I have seen the sliding scale help numerous individuals who wouldn't have access to services otherwise due to seasonality and lack of health care opportunities. Montana is one of the lowest ranking states for mental health in the country due to the lack of sunshine, isolation, and increased substance use. We have unfortunately seen the effects of lack of mental health care through many in our community who have taken their lives. Substance abuse and addiction is extremely prevalent in this community. WIA has been the leader in prevention and providing support for these individuals in Big Sky. They have even started opening the building for 12 step support groups. There is still a lot of work to do in regards to mental health treatment in Big Sky. Thank you for your continued support for WIA.

Sincerely,
Danielle Chenoweth, MA, LCPC, LMHC