

OCSE Child Access & Visitation Program

Name of State: Montana

Part I: Contact Information

- Name of State Program Contact: Barbara Delaney
- Name of Designated State Agency: Dept. of Public Health & Human Services
Child Support Enforcement Division
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Part II: Statistical Profile

- No. of minor children under 18 years of age living with one biological parent. (1990 U. S. Census data) 55,611

Part III: Previous and Current Year Funding Levels

	<u>Federal \$ Grant</u>	<u>State \$ Match</u>	and	<u>Percentage</u>
• FFY 1997	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,556		10%
• FFY 1998	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000		9%
• FFY 1999	\$100,000	\$11,111		10%
• FFY 2000	\$100,000	\$11,111		10%

Part IV: Summary of State's Proposed Use of FFY 2000 Grant Funds

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Process for Awarding Funds:		
• Request for Proposals (new & continuation)	X	
• New only		
• Continuation only		
• Other _____		

Time of Year RFP's are Issued and/or Funding Decisions Are Made:
 Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring X Summer _____

Award of Funds: Grants _____ Contracts X Cooperative Agreements _____

Targeted Priority Areas:

• Mediation			
voluntary	Yes <u>X</u>	No	_____
mandatory	Yes <u>X</u>	No	_____
• Counseling	Yes <u>X</u>	No	_____
• Education	Yes <u>X</u>	No	_____
• Parenting Plans	Yes <u>X</u>	No	_____
• Visitation Enforcement			
monitoring	Yes _____	No	_____
supervision	Yes _____	No	_____
neutral drop-off/pick-up	Yes _____	No	_____

- **Development of Guidelines**

Visitation	Yes _____	No _____
Alternative custody arrangements	Yes _____	No _____

Summary Narrative: Proposed Use of FFY 2000 Funds

Montana’s Child Access and Visitation Grant is administered by the Child Support Enforcement Division, which is part of the State’s Department of Public Health and Human Services. Two years ago, Montana contracted with “Families First,” a private nonprofit organization, to provide access and visitation services in Missoula County, one of the State’s more heavily populated counties. Services provided by Families First include: (1) in-depth educational opportunities for parents and children; (2) access to a trained individual who can assess the needs of families and make recommendations on matters requiring immediate attention; (3) a centrally-located facility which includes a resource library of current information for families and professionals; (4) mediation services for families; and (5) dissemination of materials to families and professionals. Families First has found that attendance at classes, and the need for consultations, especially telephone, and mediation services is increasing as the availability of the services becomes more widely known to the public. It is anticipated that, with FFY 2000 Child Access grant funds, Montana will select two or more additional projects to support and facilitate noncustodial parents’ access to and visitation with their children. The State intends to select projects that may include at least one project for a rural setting and one for an urban setting; or a mix of small, regional, or large projects. Emphasis will continue to be placed on community collaboration. Future projects will elicit extensive community support from families, judges, attorneys, mental health professionals, and other community professionals. The State will continue to emphasize evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of proposed services and procedures on the issue of family violence.

Part V: Projects Funded by States with FFY 98 OCSE Dollars

Grantee Name, Address & Phone Number mothers	Amount of Award & Services Provided	Number of Parents Served:		
		Total #	# fathers	#
1. Families First of Montana Shared Parenting Program, 407 East Main, Missoula, MT 59802 (406) 721-7690	\$43,982, Mediation, Counseling, Education, Development of Parenting Plans	389	156	233
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

Participant Data: Part A
(by income and marital status)

Grantee Name & Program Title	Average Annual Income	Parent Participation Rates:		
		divorced	separated	unwed
1. Families First of Montana Shared Parenting Program		53 %	44 %	9 %
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

Participant Data: Part B
(by race/ethnicity)

Grantee Name	<u>RACIAL / ETHNIC BREAKOUT:</u>					
	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Native American	Pacific Islander
1. Families First of Montana Shared Parenting Program	99 %				1 %	
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

Don't Know _____

Other, _____

Sources of Client Referral

GRANTEE							
Agency	Self-Referral	TANF	Child Welfare	Child Support	Social Services	Courts	Private
1. Families First of Montana Shared Parenting Program	X		X	X	X	X	X
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							