

# Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project

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*2023 Montana Opioid Abatement Trust  
Grants*

## ***Montana Legal Services Association***

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# Application Form

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## *Region Selection*

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To collaborate with someone else on this request, click the blue "Collaborate" button in the top-right corner.

### **Project Name\***

Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project

### **Select Abatement Region and/or Metro Region\***

Select the Multi-County Abatement Region **and/or** the Metro Region you are requesting grant funds from. Select all regions that apply, for example if you are collaborating with multiple Counties **and/or** Abatement Regions select each region the program/project will serve. Click [HERE](#) for a detailed map of Multi-County Abatement Regions and Metro Abatement Regions

Abatement Region 1  
Abatement Region 2  
Abatement Region 3  
Abatement Region 4  
Abatement Region 5  
Cascade County  
Flathead County  
Gallatin County  
Lake County  
Lewis & Clark County  
Missoula County  
Ravalli County  
Silver Bow County  
Yellowstone County

## *Application Overview*

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### **About the Organization/Program\***

Give a brief description of the Organization/Program/Project. Include the mission statement and the services provided.

The Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) is a non-profit law firm whose mission is to protect and enhance the civil legal rights of, and promote systemic change for, Montanans living in poverty. For 58 years, MLSA has provided free legal assistance (such as legal information, advice, and full representation) to thousands of vulnerable Montanans. Civil legal aid helps Montanans to address urgent legal issues such as domestic violence, family law, housing law, public benefits, debt, tribal law, and more. These are all common civil legal problems that get to the heart of essential human needs: health, safety, and access to food and shelter.

MLSA accomplishes its mission in part by partnering with seven Federally Funded Qualified Health Clinics and one hospital to form the Montana Health Justice Partnership, a medical-legal partnership first established in 2015 that aims to address the physical and mental health-harming civil legal needs of patients, including those with substance use disorders (SUD). MLSA is an essential partner for creating long-term recovery support and solutions for people and families living with an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). These vulnerable patients and their families struggle to maintain a stable recovery while civil legal matters endanger their physical safety, food security, safe housing, and adequate healthcare. By giving OUD patients and their healthcare providers the tools needed to solve common civil legal problems, such as ensuring access to basic food benefits, securing orders of protection against abusers, preventing illegal debt collection practices, and attaining safe and stable housing, MLSA is able to help OUD patients build healthy lives and stay in recovery. The primary partner for this expanded Recovery Project is Aware, Inc., with the anticipation of adding other non-profit Montana Mental Health Centers as referral partners to the Montana Health Justice Partnership over the next five years.

### What category does the program fit into\*

Check the category/categories the program fits into. You may select more than one option.

Click [HERE](#) for a list of approved opioid remediation uses

Recovery

### How does the program meet the Opioid Remediation Guidelines\*

In detail, describe how the program fits into the approved Opioid Remediation Guidelines selected in the above question.

*Please be specific*

The Montana Health Justice Partnership-Recovery Project fits into the approved Opioid Remediation Guidelines for Recovery by providing evidence-based services that adhere to the American Society of Addiction Medicine continuum of care Dimension 5: Recovery Environment Interactions, which focuses on the safety and support a person has access to in their current environment. The MHJP-Recovery Project will help healthcare patients and participants in a clinical recovery program succeed in long-term recovery by working to address civil legal problems that directly impact the four major domains of recovery identified by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: (1) health, (2) home- a stable and safe place to live, (3) community and connection, and (4) purpose – engaging in meaningful daily activities, such as employment and family, with independence and resources to participate in society. (SAMHSA, 2017, <https://www.samhsa.gov/recovery>.) Because many civil legal problems are a major destabilizing threat to these domains, providing civil legal services to individuals with OUD and co-occurring SUD/Mental Health conditions is essential to creating the kind of safe, supportive, and stable environment a person needs in order to achieve and maintain their recovery.

The medical-legal partnership service delivery model of the MHJP-Recovery Project stands to particularly benefit individuals in recovery by enabling healthcare providers, substance abuse support workers, and civil legal aid attorneys to work together to address the co-occurring health, social, and legal problems that directly impact the four major domains of recovery (Girard, et al., Archives of Psychiatric Nursing 35, 2021). By expanding legal services to more partner provider sites and people, the MHJP-Recovery Project will build

on successful national models to address an unmet need under the Opioid Remediation Guidelines to support recovery in Montana.

### New Program or Existing\*

Is the funding intended for a new program or to expand an existing program?

A proposed supplement or expansion to a program.

## Fiscal Information

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### Requested Amount\*

\$2,084,969.00

### Program Budget\*

How will the funds be allocated? Attach a detailed line item budget breakdown for the program. If the funds are intended for a multi-year program please specify the amount budgeted for each year.

MHJP Recovery Project Budget 2024 submission.pdf

### Source of Funding\*

Does the program currently receive funding from another source? If yes, please explain in detail. (i.e. amount, funding source, etc.)

Grant funding is intended for the creation or expansion of opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery projects. The money is **NOT** meant to replace or supplant existing funding.

MLSA requests that the MT Opioid Abatement Trust provide funding to expand the current MHJP with the addition of two attorneys and one navigator focused on OUD clients, along with associated costs. In turn, this investment will be supported by the infrastructure of the current MHJP Project, which does not currently have the capacity to focus on OUD patient referrals.

The MHJP has a solid reputation and support in Montana, and has received funding in the past from the Montana Healthcare Foundation, the Headwaters Foundation, and the Montana Justice Foundation. The MHJP is also supported by a financial commitment from the original healthcare partners and hospital partner, who provide a yearly cash amount to help cover project costs, and through allocations of MLSA's general operating grants. These funding sources will help ensure that the Recovery Project has a solid foundation in a thriving medical-legal partnership. The Montana Opioid Abatement Trust funding will not replace or supplant existing funding, but will instead expand the current partnership by increasing capacity for legal services to people living with an OUD and to integrate these services into the core medical-legal partnership.

Current MHJP Annual Cost: \$684,574

MHJP Partner Contributions: \$181,936

St. Patrick's Providence Hospital Contribution: \$120,027

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, MLP+ Grant: \$173,985

Montana Healthcare Foundation Grant: \$25,000  
Legal Services Corporation Grant: \$108,626  
Otto Bremer Trust Grant: \$30,000  
U.S. Housing and Urban Development Eviction Prevention Grant: \$20,000  
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project Grant: \$5,000  
Montana Justice Foundation Grant: \$20,000

Although partner contributions allow the existing MHJP to provide services to hundreds of clients each year, additional funding is needed to scale up the partnership to fully meet its true potential for Montanans vulnerable to overdose death. The MHJP needs support from the Montana Opioid Abatement Trust to implement services specifically for OUD referrals, to add additional mental health care partners (such as AWARE) to the partnership, and to incorporate client navigation services to help patients living with an OUD and co-occurring SUD/Mental Health condition navigate the legal process and access the strength-based, wraparound services they need to stay in recovery. The MHJP will continue to prioritize diversifying funding to create long-term sustainability for the Recovery Project.

## Do you have a Fiscal Agent\*

No

## *Program Abstract*

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### Program Description\*

Describe the objectives of this project. Provide a detailed overview of the program, including its purpose, priorities & objectives, and intended results.

The purpose of the MHJP-Recovery Project is to help OUD patients succeed in long-term recovery utilizing the evidence-based practice of addressing civil legal problems that directly impact SAMHSA's four major domains of recovery. The Recovery Project will prioritize a strength-based, patient-centered system of care by assisting Montanans statewide with an OUD and co-occurring SUD/mental health conditions, prioritizing high-risk populations. The intended results of the Recovery Project will be to increase the number of clients with an OUD who receive civil legal services by directly partnering with 8 healthcare providers and Aware, a non-profit mental health provider annually serving 5,000 patients statewide. The proposed MHJP-Recovery Project will be fully integrated into MLSA's existing medical legal partnership, which currently screens patients in 7 community health clinics and 1 hospital. First established in 2015, the MHJP has, to date, handled 2,121 cases for low income clients. In 2023, MLSA as a whole handled 322 cases where Substance Use impacted the household, helping 805 clients and their family members, including 407 children in the client household.

In order to meet the legal needs of patients with an OUD, MLSA will hire two 1.0 FTE Attorneys to provide dedicated legal services and one 1.0 FTE Navigator to provide administrative and client support, including by serving as a single point of contact for referred patients with an OUD. The MHJP Coordinating Attorney will provide staff supervision and mentoring. The Project Navigator will: (1) accept referrals and conduct intake interviews with Montanans with an OUD; (2) serve as a trauma-informed single point of contact and provide support to clients as they receive legal assistance; (3) support the Project Attorney with legal tasks; and (4) refer OUD clients to network organizations and other service organizations for additional supportive services. The Project Attorney will: (1) provide legal advice, brief services, limited scope services, and full representation to clients with an OUD on a variety of civil legal issues that impact their housing, safety, and

economic stability; (2) build and work with a network of healthcare providers and service organizations that provide recovery services to Montanans with an OUD; and (3) provide technical assistance and guidance to Aware and other referral healthcare partner staff on civil legal issues faced by people with an OUD. Project staff will conduct training with Aware staff and other referral partners to implement screening and referral tools to identify and refer patients with an OUD and a civil legal need.

The Project Attorney will provide legal services to OUD clients facing legal problems related to housing; family law; income support; domestic or intimate partner violence; access to health care; consumer law, including debt collection and garnishments, fraud, and financial exploitation; tax issues; expungements; and employment law.

## Program Reach

If you are requesting funds from multiple Abatement Regions please specify how your program serves each region. **Be specific.**

The Recovery Project is founded in statewide civil legal at MLSA, and statewide referrals from Aware. The Recovery Project will serve people in each all Abatement Regions and Metro Abatement Regions.

Region 1: MLSA served 205 clients in 2022 (24 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 341-638 people yearly. Local sites: 3 health clinic partners.

Region 2: MLSA served 220 in 2022 (35 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 102-217 people yearly. Local sites: 2 health clinic partners, 2 partner domestic violence shelters.

Region 3: MLSA served 196 in 2022 (33 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 68- 190 people yearly. Local sites: 1 health clinic partner, 1 DV shelter.

Region 4: MLSA served 266 in 2022 (50 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 108-266 people annually. Local sites: 1 health clinic partner, 1 DV shelter, Aware office.

Region 5: MLSA served 175 in 2022 (20 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 91-177 people yearly. Local sites: 2 health clinic partners.

Cascade: MLSA served 438 in this metro region in 2022 (37 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 230-957 people yearly. Local sites: 1 health clinic partner, 1 DV shelter, Aware office.

Flathead: MLSA served 314 in this metro region in 2022 (38 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 102-229 people yearly. Local sites: 1 DV shelter.

Gallatin: MLSA served 318 in this metro region in 2022 (53 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 102-229 people yearly. Local sites: Aware office.

Lake: MLSA served 127 in this metro region in 2022 (18 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 102-229 people yearly. Local sites: 1 health clinic partner.

Lewis & Clark: MLSA served 527 in this metro region in 2022 (71 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 230-957 people yearly. Local sites: MLSA office, 1 health clinic partner, 1 DV shelter, Aware office.

Missoula: MLSA served 801 in this metro region in 2022 (82 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 230-957 people yearly. Local sites: MLSA office, 1 hospital partner, Western MT Mental Health referrals, Aware office.

Ravalli: MLSA served 166 in this metro region in 2022 (23 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 102-229 people yearly. Local sites: 1 DV shelter.

Silver Bow: MLSA served 281 in this metro region in 2022 (53 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 230-957 people yearly. Local sites: MLSA field office, 1 health clinic partner, 1 DV shelter, Aware office.

Yellowstone: MLSA served 755 in this metro region in 2022 (101 impacted by SUD). Aware serves 230-957 people yearly. Local sites: MLSA office, 1 health clinic partner, Aware office.

## Specific Goals\*

What are the specific goals of the program? List several goals the program hopes to accomplish and how the program intends to meet these goals.

The overarching goal of the MHJP-Recovery Project is to achieve better recovery outcomes for Montanans living with an OUD by addressing their recovery-harming civil legal needs. The Recovery Project has set the following measurable annual goals:

- (1) 12 consultations, trainings, and outreach per year for Aware and other OUD recovery provider staff, provided by MHJP staff or MLSA Communications Manager;
- (2) Project Attorneys provide legal services, including advice, limited scope services, and full representation, on 140 legal matters per year to clients with OUD and co-occurring SUD/Mental Health conditions, meeting at least one achievable legal goal for each client;
- (3) Project Navigator conducts intake interviews and provides navigation services with 105 referred patients; and
- (4) Aware screens 75% of their new OUD/SUD recovery patients for civil legal needs.
- (5) 3 annual outreach events to high-risk priority populations and treatment providers.

The MHJP-Recovery Project will meet these goals by: (1) hiring two 1.0 FTE attorneys to provide legal services to OUD clients and one 1.0 FTE Navigator to provide legal advocacy, intake, support, and referral to OUD clients; (2) training healthcare, recovery care, and legal care teams to work collaboratively for screening and referral at both the front-line and administrative levels; (3) identifying OUD patients' recovery-harming social and legal needs with screening procedures; (4) providing OUD patients with legal care ranging from triage and consultations to full representation; (5) providing OUD patients with systems navigation care including maintaining and expanding a statewide network; (6) traveling to local and regional offices to meet with healthcare staff, provide trainings, and provide services to OUD clients; (7) building community outreach to Montanans who live with an OUD and with health care and supportive services workers to build an active referral process for OUD clients; and (8) collecting and evaluating detailed outcomes about improved recovery, health, legal, and social outcomes from legal, healthcare, and recovery service partners.

Through the MHJP-Recovery Project, MLSA and Aware will work together to holistically address the health, social, financial, and environmental needs that prevent OUD patients from staying in recovery. OUD patients stand to benefit from the holistic service delivery model of a medical-legal partnership because of the unique needs they face.

## Evaluation Method\*

Describe how you plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and what the method for evaluation will be.

MLSA will evaluate the MHJP-Recovery Project using a non-experimental mixed methods approach to determine whether Project goals and objectives were accomplished, and if Project implementation and processes are effective in producing the desired outcomes. MHJP staff will track data on OUD clients served

using MLSA's case management system and project management software to track client time, activities and levels of service provided, referrals, demographics, legal results, and outcomes. MLSA staff will also use outreach and training logs, activity logs, input descriptions, partner feedback forms, and client satisfaction surveys in order to track data.

The Project staff will seek input and data from Aware, MHJP healthcare partners, and other OUD referral partners on the effectiveness and usability of the referral and training process, in order to evaluate the Project implementation and impact on recovery for OUD patients. Healthcare partners utilize electronic health records to track health impact, legal needs screenings, and referrals. The sharing of all data is governed by the MHJP's confidential and sensitive information protocols, which recognize the importance of maintaining client confidentiality as well as the specific legal and ethical obligations of healthcare providers and attorneys.

Data tracking includes the number of OUD clients served and their demographics, along with outcomes: (1) Process Outcomes: number and location of healthcare partners; number of patients screened by partners versus total number of patients receiving care; numbers of patients referred by partners; partner feedback on Recovery Project implementation; numbers of outreach communications; patient and community awareness of legal services available; level of healthcare partner familiarity and trust of legal referral process and services; (2) Legal Service Outcomes: level of service provided; tangible and intangible client legal issue outcomes; client increased understanding of legal rights; economic benefit to clients; number of services supporting recovery domains of health, housing, connection, and purpose; and (3) Recovery Outcomes: legal services report of client mental health status; client self-report of mental health and recovery status; healthcare partner report of patient recovery and health status.

MLSA will compile all data to present, evaluate, and improve the project processes during the implementation to ensure the Recovery Project meets project goals.

## Awareness\*

How do you plan to create awareness of this program? Briefly describe what action the program plans to take to create awareness in the community.

The Recovery Project's existing partnerships with healthcare providers mean that strong community relationships and awareness are built into the foundation of the project. MLSA will seek to expand existing relationship building and outreach efforts to include Aware, Inc. by establishing specific legal outreach, screening, and referral procedures that are customized to meet the needs of OUD patients. Although Aware staff already refer patients to MLSA for services, implementing these specific procedures will enable MLSA to more effectively connect legal services with Aware's 5,000 yearly patients. MLSA and Aware have discussed the benefits of having dedicated legal staff available to serve OUD patients and Aware has signed a letter of commitment for the Recovery Project. MLSA will also add OUD-specific outreach, training, screening, and referrals to the 7 healthcare clinic partners and 1 hospital currently in the MHJP and will seek to establish relationships with other OUD service organizations. These healthcare providers will play a crucial role in identifying OUD patients who need civil legal aid to support their recovery, with MLSA in turn able to connect referred patients with treatment providers such as Aware.

As the only statewide general civil legal aid organization in Montana, MLSA also works closely with other community partners to connect with low income Montanans, including those with OUD. These partners include the existing MHJP partners; 8 domestic violence shelter partnerships; Justice for Montanans AmeriCorps program; relationships with all Tribal Nations in Montana and numerous tribal service organizations; a Victim Legal Assistance Network with over 30 network members; and more. These partnerships leverage the outreach strengths of multiple organizations, and allow awareness of MLSA's services to reach throughout the state. MLSA staff also regularly attend events like the Butte Mental Health Resource Fair, communicating directly with potential OUD clients.

MLSA also uses technology to meet low-income Montanans where they are. We regularly post articles to MontanaLawHelp.org and to social media to raise awareness about services, while traditional media outlets (including radio and newspapers) help spread information about our services. MLSA utilizes grants for GoogleAds which notify people of MLSA's services when they search for civil legal services in our core areas of housing, credit, public benefits, and domestic violence in Montana.

## *Additional Documents*

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Use this section to upload or explain any additional information regarding the program/organization. ie. a detailed budget projection, program/organization history, etc.

### Upload #1

Aware Ltr Commitment Signed 2024.pdf

### Upload #2

Mental Health Opioid Crisis Legal Partnership Factsheet.pdf

### Upload #3

Service Area Map MLSA Aware.pdf

## Additional Information

Because legal issues are often particularly complicated for low-income and vulnerable clients such as those with an OUD, MLSA requests a 15 year MHJP-Recovery Project. MLSA has submitted a firm yearly budget for each of the first 5 years of this long-term, strength-based OUD recovery support project. A 15 year budget has also been included, although to enhance the budget accuracy we suggest submitting revised budgets in 5 year increments.

The budget is tailored to effectively provide civil legal aid recovery support, which makes a dramatic difference in patient outcomes, helping solve problems before they push patients with an OUD out of active recovery. In housing cases, tenants who are fully represented by an attorney win or settle their cases 96% of the time, compared to just 62% for unrepresented tenants, and are twice as likely to stay in their homes and four times less likely to use homeless shelters. (The Justice in Government Project, "Key Studies and Data About How Legal Aid Improves Housing Outcomes," American University, 2019.) Domestic violence survivors see a similar improvement in outcomes: according to one study, 83% of victims represented by an attorney successfully obtained a protective order, compared to just 32% without an attorney. ("Supporting Survivors: The Economic Benefits of Providing Civil Legal Assistance to Survivors of domestic Violence," Institute for Policy Integrity, New York University School of Law, July 2015.) Studies like these are why researchers at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins have found that medical-legal partnerships "benefit patients in substance use disorder recovery" by assisting them with legal needs that increase recovery capital across the four dimensions of SAMHSA's social determinants of health. (Girard, et al., How medical-legal partnerships help

address the social determinants of mental health, Archives of Psychiatric Nursing 35, 2021.) Civil legal aid delivered through a medical-legal partnership gives people struggling with an OUD the legal tools they need to address their problems can help keep them in recovery.

The Recovery Project will focus on high-risk OUD populations, including people who inject drugs, people reentering the community from incarceration, pregnant, postpartum, and parenting people, Native Americans, people experiencing homelessness, people over age 50, and military Veterans. MLSA anticipates Montana OUD client outcomes will include the following: stabilized housing through eviction and housing matters, increased employment opportunities through driver's license and expungement matters, increase in feelings of purpose and connection by family law interventions to enable them to spend more time with their children, and increased financial stability through consumer and benefits cases.

The MHJP Recovery Project timeline is as follows:

-Month 1: (1) Initial meeting of Aware and MLSA to coordinate partner schedules, roles, and responsibilities; (2) MHJP Coordinating Attorney to work with Aware staff to establish screening and referral protocols; and (3) MLSA to update screening and referral protocols for MHJP healthcare and hospital partners.

-Months 1-2: MLSA to recruit and hire Project Attorneys and Project Navigator seeking applicants with low-income experience.

-Months 2-3: (1) MHJP Coordinating Attorney to provide trainings to Aware staff; and (2) MLSA to provide updated training to MHJP healthcare and hospital staff.

-Years 1-15: 1) Aware, MHJP healthcare and hospital partners, and other OUD treatment partners to screen and refer patients with legal needs, with particular focus on patients in OUD recovery treatment; 2) MLSA Project Navigator to process referral OUD client intake applications; 3) Project Attorneys to provide civil legal services, including advice, brief services, and representation, to referred patients for their civil legal needs; 4) Project Navigator to provide legal advocacy, support, information, and/or referral to referred OUD clients; 5) Project Navigator to coordinate with and support attorneys providing legal services to OUD clients; 6) Project Attorney to identify legal issues for referral to other specialized MLSA attorneys or volunteer attorneys; 7) MHJP Coordinating Attorney to hold weekly case staffing meetings with Project Attorneys to determine level of service for referred OUD clients; 8) MLSA Project staff to travel to Aware and local referral partner offices regularly to meet with healthcare staff, provide trainings, and provide services to OUD patients; 9) MHJP Coordinating Attorney works with MLSA Communications Manager to build referral partnerships with other OUD treatment organizations throughout Montana; 10) MHJP Coordinating Attorney and Project Attorneys to identify training needs and provide screening and referral trainings for Aware, healthcare, hospital, and other referral partner staff; 11) MHJP Coordinating Attorney to supervise and mentor Project staff; 12) Project staff attends appropriate training to ensure best practices for trauma-informed OUD client legal care; and 13) MLSA to maintain/collect performance measurement data, client demographics, grant records, financial data, and prepare and submit progress, partner, and grant reports.

-Annually: (1) Meeting with Aware, hospital, healthcare, and other OUD treatment referral partners about status of project, any identified issues that need to be addressed, and begin implementing plans for next year's service delivery and coordination; and 2) Project staff to evaluate Recovery Project formation and implementation, assess outcomes, and identify successes, challenges, and solutions.

Key personnel taking on this timeline of activities include: Executive Director Alison Paul and MHJP Coordinating Attorney Kallie Dale-Ramos. MLSA will hire two 1.0 FTE Project Attorneys and one 1.0 FTE Project Navigator. MLSA has the capacity to hire, train, and supervise these new positions, who will be a critical part of the MHJP. MLSA's Communications Manager will also assist with outreach.

Executive Director Alison Paul first joined MLSA as a staff domestic violence attorney in 1999 before becoming Deputy Director in 2003 and Executive Director in 2011. In 2014, Ms. Paul was selected as a Where Health Meets Justice Fellow to build health care expertise and leadership in the civil legal aid community,

offered by the National Legal Aid & Defender Association. She will provide general project oversight and guidance.

MHLP Coordinating Attorney Kallie Dale-Ramos joined MLSA in March 2016 as the first attorney and coordinator for the Montana Health Justice Partnership. Ms. Dale-Ramos has shepherded the MHJP since its inception, creating a viable, sustainable project that is valued by all partners. In 2020, Ms. Dale-Ramos received the American Bar Association's Centennial Access to Justice Award for her work on the Partnership and was recognized locally in Helena as a community leader. Ms. Dale-Ramos oversees the medical-legal partnership, provides legal services to referred patients, coordinates with intake staff regarding Partnership referrals, and supervises and supports three Partnership attorneys. Ms. Dale-Ramos will supervise and mentor the new Project Attorneys and Navigator hired with this grant. All of these staff members have sufficient capacity to take on the addition of the Recovery Project to the MHJP and have been active in planning the Project.

At a programmatic level, MLSA has the staff capacity to provide direct services to OUD client referrals. With 20 attorneys working statewide to provide legal assistance to clients and 58 years experiencing addressing civil legal problems, MLSA will be able to provide holistic, wrap-around legal services that effectively address whatever civil legal problem OUD clients present with that may prevent them from staying in recovery.

As a law firm, MLSA takes a strong and preemptive approach to complying with funder requirements, including for our federal, state, and private funders. MLSA has a detailed monitoring and oversight process that engages a combination of education, oversight, accountability, and enforcement. All staff funded by a grant are trained on allowed activities and regulations. Because MLSA receives an operating grant from the Legal Services Corporation, which is funded directly by Congress, we are required to notify you that all funds we receive may not be used in any manner inconsistent with the LSC Act of 1974, as amended in 1977, its implementing regulations, and other relevant law. As a recipient of federal funding, MLSA already has the necessary processes in place to comply with these requirements.

The MHJP-Recovery Project is built upon this strong foundation of financial stability, holistic legal services, and successful medical-legal partnership. Data proves that our model works: in one year, the MHJP legal assistance impacted 911 patients and their families, resulting in improved health and \$355,411 in direct economic benefit to patients. Patients had a 100% success rate on improving safety with domestic violence; a 92% success rate on resolving consumer debt issues, such as illegal garnishment; an 85% success rate on obtaining access to public benefits; and an 88% success rate on resolving housing issues.

With support from the Montana Opioid Abatement Trust, the MHJP-Recovery Project will increase capacity for legal services for OUD clients and to build more referral relationships with OUD treatment and mental health providers. Funding will immediately expand the MHJP by adding Aware as a partner whose OUD patients will receive civil legal and navigation services. By expanding legal services supporting successful recovery to more provider sites and people, the Recovery Project addresses an unmet need for recovery support in Montana.

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- MHJP Recovery Project Budget 2024 submission.pdf
- Aware Ltr Commitment Signed 2024.pdf
- Mental Health Opioid Crisis Legal Partnership Factsheet.pdf
- Service Area Map MLSA Aware.pdf

**Montana Opioid Abatement Trust**  
**Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project**

Yearly Budgets for Year One - Five  
 Five Year Grant Period: 2024-2029

						Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
<b>Personnel</b>											
MHJP Coordinator/Supervisor	0.1 FTE	\$ 90,631	per year *	1 Supervisor*	1 yr	\$ 9,063	\$ 9,335	\$ 9,615	\$ 9,903	\$ 10,200	
Staff Attorneys	2 FTE	\$ 81,350	per year *	1 Attorney*	1 yr	\$ 162,700	\$ 167,581	\$ 172,608	\$ 177,786	\$ 183,120	
Communications Manager	0.1 FTE	\$ 60,594	per year *	1 Staff *	1 yr	\$ 6,059	\$ 6,241	\$ 6,428	\$ 6,621	\$ 6,820	
Navigator	1 FTE	\$ 45,130	per year *	1 Staff *	1 yr	\$ 45,130	\$ 46,484	\$ 47,879	\$ 49,315	\$ 50,794	
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>											
MHJP Coordinator/Supervisor		Salary *	24%			\$ 2,200	\$ 2,312	\$ 2,382	\$ 2,453	\$ 2,527	
Staff Attorneys		Salary *	26%			\$ 41,676	\$ 43,764	\$ 45,076	\$ 46,429	\$ 47,822	
Communications Manager		Salary *	30%			\$ 1,839	\$ 1,926	\$ 1,983	\$ 2,043	\$ 2,104	
Navigator		Salary *	36%			\$ 16,460	\$ 17,187	\$ 17,702	\$ 18,233	\$ 18,780	
<b>Total Personnel</b>						\$ 285,127	\$ 294,830	\$ 303,673	\$ 312,783	\$ 322,167	
<b>Non-Personnel</b>											
Travel											
Mileage (used on gas & maintenance of MLSA owned vehicle, reimbursement, or rental vehicle)						8000 miles/yr @	0.67 cents/mile*	1 yr	\$ 5,360	\$ 5,360	\$ 5,360
Lodging (2023 MT rate)						107 per night *	10 nights *	1 yr	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,070
Per Diem						59 per day *	20 days *	1 yr	\$ 1,180	\$ 1,180	\$ 1,180
<b>Training</b>											
Airfare						800 per staff *	2 staff * nights (2 staff * 4	1 yr	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Lodging						195 per night *	8 nights) * days (2 staff * 6	1 yr	\$ 1,560	\$ 1,560	\$ 1,560
Per Diem						79 per day *	16 days) *	1 yr	\$ 1,264	\$ 1,264	\$ 1,264
Conference Fee						450 per staff *	2 staff *	1 yr	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900
Other: (transport, bag fees, etc)						150 per staff *	2 staff *	1 yr	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300

**Montana Opioid Abatement Trust**  
**Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project**

Yearly Budgets for Year One - Five  
 Five Year Grant Period: 2024-2029

				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
<b>Supplies</b>								
Laptop, dock, monitors, keyboard, mouse, scanner, carry bag, portable printer / 3 year replacement cycle	2900 per staff *	3 staff *	1 yr	\$ 8,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,013	\$ -
Printing	750 per year *		1 yr	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
Office Supplies/Postage	50 per month*	3 staff *	12 mo	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Office Furniture - headset, phone, desk, bookshelves, filing cabinet, work table, client chair / 3 year replacement cycle	1900 per staff *	3 staff *	1 yr	\$ 5,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,850	\$ -
<b>Other Costs</b>								
Library	350 per year *		1 yr	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 350
Translation Services	750 per year *		1 yr	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
Computer Assisted Legal Research Service	72 per atty *	2 Attorney	12 mo	\$ 1,728	\$ 1,728	\$ 1,728	\$ 1,728	\$ 1,728
Client/Litigation Costs	750 per year *		1 yr	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
Online and media outreach	2000 per project*	1 Outreach		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
State, Local & Tribal Bar Fees	695 per atty *	2 Attorney *	1 yr	\$ 1,390	\$ 1,390	\$ 1,390	\$ 1,390	\$ 1,390
<b>Total Non- Personnel</b>				\$ 37,152	\$ 22,752	\$ 22,752	\$ 30,615	\$ 22,752
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>				\$ 322,279	\$ 317,582	\$ 326,425	\$ 343,398	\$ 344,919
<b>Indirect Costs</b>								
Provisional Rate for 2024 is 28.34%				\$ 80,805	\$ 83,555	\$ 86,061	\$ 88,643	\$ 91,302
<b>Total Budget</b>				\$ 403,084	\$ 401,137	\$ 412,486	\$ 432,041	\$ 436,221

**Montana Opioid Abatement Trust**  
**Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project**

15 Year estimated Budget  
 Total Grant Period: 2024-2039

						<b>15 Year Total</b>
<b>Personnel</b>						
MHJP Coordinator/Supervisor Attorney	0.1 FTE	\$ 112,013	per year *	1 Supervisor *	15 years	\$ 168,019
Staff Attorneys	2 FTE	\$ 100,320	per year *	1 Attorney *	15 years	\$ 3,009,598
Communications Manager	0.1 FTE	\$ 74,484	per year *	1 Staff *	15 years	\$ 111,726
Navigator	1 FTE	\$ 55,002	per year *	1 Staff *	15 years	\$ 825,024
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>						
MHJP Coordinator/Supervisor		Salary *	23%			\$ 38,893
Staff Attorneys		Salary *	24%			\$ 734,010
Communications Manager		Salary *	29%			\$ 31,928
Navigator		Salary *	34%			\$ 282,753
<b>Total Personnel</b>						<b>\$ 5,201,951</b>
<b>Non-Personnel</b>						
Travel						
Mileage (used on gas & maintenance of MLSA owned vehicle, reimbursement, or rental vehicle)						
		8000 miles/year @	0.67 cents/mile *		15 years	\$ 80,400
Lodging (2023 MT rate)		107 per night *	8 nights *		15 years	\$ 12,840
Per Diem		41 per day *	16 days *		15 years	\$ 9,840
<b>Training</b>						
Airfare		800 per staff *	2 staff *		15 years	\$ 24,000
			nights (2 staff * 4			
Lodging		195 per night *	8 nights) *		15 years	\$ 23,400
			days (2 staff * 6 days)			
Per Diem		79 per day *	16 *		15 years	\$ 18,960
Conference Fee		450 per staff *	2 staff *		15 years	\$ 13,500
Other: (transport, bag fees, etc)		150 per staff *	2 staff *		15 years	\$ 4,500

**Montana Opioid Abatement Trust**  
**Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project**

15 Year estimated Budget  
 Total Grant Period: 2024-2039

				<b>15 Year Total</b>
<b>Supplies</b>				
Laptop, dock, monitors, keyboard, mouse, scanner, carry bag, portable printer / 3 year replacement cycle	2900 per staff *	2 staff *	5 year	\$ 29,000
Printing	750 per year *		15 years	\$ 11,250
Office Supplies/Postage	50 per month *	2 staff *	180 months	\$ 18,000
Office Furniture - headset, phone, desk, bookshelves, filing cabinet, work table, client chair / 3 year replacement cycle	1900 per staff *	2 staff *	5 years	\$ 19,000
<b>Other Costs</b>				
Library	350 per year *		15 years	\$ 5,250
Translation Services	750 per year *		15 years	\$ 11,250
Computer Assisted Legal Research Services	72 per atty *	2 Attorney	180 months	\$ 25,920
Client/Litigation Costs	750 per year *		15 years	\$ 11,250
Online and media outreach	2000 per project	6 Outreach Projects		\$ 12,000
State, Local & Tribal Bar Fees	695 per atty *	2 Attorney *	15 years	\$ 20,850
<b>Total Non- Personnel</b>				<b>\$ 351,210</b>
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>				<b>\$ 5,553,161</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>				
Provisional Rate for 2024 is 28.34%				\$ 1,474,233
<b>Total Budget</b>				<b>\$ 7,027,394</b>



02/15/2024

Rusty Gackle, Executive Director  
Advisory Committee  
Montana Opioid Abatement Trust  
115 N. Broadway, Ste. 310  
Billings, MT 59101

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Gackle,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support and commitment for the Montana Legal Services Association's (MLSA) proposed expansion of their Montana Health Justice Partnership to serve our referred patients who have a substance use disorder (SUD). We have long referred patients to MLSA for their civil legal needs, including as a part of recovery services, and are deeply grateful for the opportunity that the Montana Opioid Abatement Trust has presented to expand access to legal assistance to support SUD recovery.

AWARE is a statewide nonprofit organization that serves 5000 clients across the state of Montana, providing quality, community-based care to those with mental health and or developmental disabilities. We serve all 56 counties in Montana. AWARE has more than eight hundred employees across Montana and is accredited by CARF International at the highest level of accreditation possible which indicates substantial conformance to CARF's standards. CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body that promotes quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services, including opioid treatment services.

It is only through the kind of investment contemplated by the Montana Opioid Abatement Trust grant that MLSA and AWARE can catalyze an SUD-focused medical-legal partnership in Montana. This investment would anchor this service as an essential mechanism to meet the needs of Montana patients living with SUD to succeed in long-term recovery. The Montana Health Justice Partnership - SUD Project will help clinical recovery program participants with the evidence-based practice of increasing recovery capital across the four dimensions of SAMHSA's social determinants of health. For example, legal help can provide unique access to key recovery supports such as stabilizing housing through eviction services, facilitating purpose and employment by reinstating driver's licenses and expunging criminal records, stabilizing income through public benefits and consumer law assistance and supporting connection by seeking increased time with children.



Expansion of the Montana Health Justice Partnership will play a particularly critical role in bridging service gaps for Montana patients living with SUD, where rural patients are often either forced to travel long distances to access the services they need or are unable to access them at all. The

Montana Health Justice Partnership has already impacted the health-harming needs of low-income Montanans throughout the state, and the addition of the SUD Program will expand the capacity of the project and provide the solid footing needed to provide dedicated civil legal aid to patients with SUD throughout the state.

AWARE to support the proposed Montana Health Justice Partnership - SUD Project in the following ways:

1. Work with MLSA to develop and implement screening tools to effectively screen and track eligible AWARE patients statewide with civil legal needs.
2. Work with MLSA to develop and implement referral tools to refer eligible AWARE patients statewide effectively and efficiently with civil legal needs.
3. Refer AWARE patients statewide who live with SUD and who have civil legal needs to MLSA.
4. Create linkages between AWARE and MLSA so that staff can participate in screening and referral training from MLSA.

We fully support the Montana Health Justice Partnership - SUD Project and are prepared to work with MLSA to bring recovery support to our patients who are at the highest risk for drug overdose. Thank you for considering MLSA's application for funding from the Montana Opioid Abatement Trust. I welcome the opportunity to discuss any questions with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Bugni".

Matt Bugni, CEO



# Opioid Use in MT

## HOW CIVIL LEGAL AID HELPS PATIENTS AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS

Drug overdose deaths are the third leading cause of injury related death in Montana.[1] Since 2000, the rate of prescription drug overdose deaths has doubled, with more than 700 deaths from opioid overdoses alone. Substance use and mental illness of parents have serious impacts on the health and well-being of pregnant women, infants, and children in Montana. Of the more than 3,200 Montanan children in foster care in 2016, 64% were removed from the home for reasons related to parental substance abuse. Among Medicaid patients, the percentage of infants with perinatal drug exposure increased from 3.7% in 2010 to 12.3% in 2016.[2]

**Policymakers know the current epidemic requires a multi-disciplinary response that includes law enforcement, doctors, nurses, mental health professionals, social workers, and case managers, but civil legal aid providers are also essential partners in solving one of Montana's most pressing public health issues.**

### Studies have shown...

Legal aid helps with child support, custody, adoption, and guardianship when parents are unable to care for their children:

- When parents have periods of intense drug use, children may not be properly fed, clothed, or cared for.[3]
- Children of addicted parents experience dramatically higher rates of medical, behavioral, and psychological issues as a result of trauma experienced in an unstable home [4]
- Representation of caretakers almost doubled the speed to adoption and doubled the speed to legal guardianship.[5]

### Impact of Civil Legal Aid

Legal aid can also help reduce burdens on the child welfare and health care system, improve health of children, and reduce stress of patients in recovery.

- Representation leads to cost savings for foster parents, subsidies for children's medical care, case benefits, and the expense of monitoring foster families.[6]
- When parents have access to legal services, child health, access to food, and access to income supports improved,[7] while adults reported reduced stress and increased wellbeing.[8]
- When civil legal needs were addressed, inpatient and emergency department use dropped 50 percent and health care costs decreased 45%. [9]

# How the Montana Health Justice Partnerships Helps Address the Opioid Crisis

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration identifies health, home, purpose, and community as four essential components to recovery from drug addiction.[10] Because legal aid can help individuals with opioid-related substance use disorders to secure housing and health care services, ensure their children are cared for, escape domestic violence, and remove obstacles to employment, the Montana Health Justice Partnership increases the likelihood of recovery.
- By working to solve the legal issues that impact patient health – such as unsafe housing, family violence, and denial of earned benefits – the Montana Health Partnership helps strengthen family stability and increases access to safety net programs to prevent further substance abuse related problems.
- The Montana Health Justice Partnership can help grandparents and other extended family members to have the legal tools to care for children whose parents suffer from opioid addiction.
- The Montana Health Justice Partnership can also help opiate-addicted pregnant women address legal needs related to homelessness, human trafficking, domestic violence, and access to benefits.
- Cross-training between the Health Clinics and MLSA ensures that attorneys and paralegals better understand substance use disorders, and nurses and social workers learn how to spot problems with possible legal solutions and make referrals.

## A Helping Hand

“Robert” (not his real name) reached out to MLSA through our medical legal partnership. His adult child, who struggled with staying in recovery from substance use, asked him to take custody of his grandchild. With the attorney’s help, Robert filled out the guardianship paperwork and felt prepared to continue the case on his own. The court had never ruled in favor of a guardianship unless an attorney was involved. Afraid that he would lose custody of his grandchild to foster care, Robert called his attorney back.

MLSA reopened Robert’s case, helping him file the paperwork and get a court date. With the medical legal partnership attorney by his side, Robert appeared in court and was successfully granted guardianship of his grandchild. MLSA also helped Robert with receiving income supports to help take care of his grandchild. Thankful and relieved, Robert could now rest easy knowing he could support his adult child to reduce his stress levels and keep his grandchild out of foster care.

[1] OESS, Drug Poisonings 2003-2014; [2] MLSA acknowledges the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Justice in Government Project, and the Montana HealthCare Foundation for statistics and text used in this factsheet. [3] Barnard, M. & McKeganey, N. (2003). The impact of parental problem drug use on children. *Addiction*, 99, 552-559, p. 553; [4] Shulman, L., Shapira, S. R. & Hirschfield, S. (2000) Outreach developmental services to children of patients in treatment for substance abuse. *American Journal of Public Health*, 90, 1930-1933; [5] Courtney, M. E. & Hook, J. L. (2012). Evaluation of the impact of enhanced parental legal representation on the timing of permanency outcomes for children in foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34, 1337-1343; [6] Zill, N. (2011, May 19). Adoption from foster care: Aiding children while saving public money. *Brookings Institution*; [7] Weintraub, D., Rodgers, M., Botcheva, L., Loeb, A., Knight, R., Ortega, K., Heimbach, B., Sandel, M., & Huffman, L. (2010). Pilot study of medical-legal partnership to address social and legal needs of patients. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 21(2), 157-168; [8] Ryan, A. M., Kutob, R. M., Suther, E., Hansen, M., & Sandel, M. (2012). Pilot study of impact of medical-legal partnership services on patients’ perceived stress and wellbeing. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 23(4), 1536-1546; [9] Martin, J., Martin, A., Schultz, C., & Sandel, M. (2015, April 22). Embedding civil legal aid services inc are for high-utilizing patients using medical-legal partnership. *Health Affairs*; [10] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2017, September 20). *Recovery and Recovery Support*.

# Medical Legal Partnerships



Addressing social determinants of health in Montana through collaboration with civil legal aid

Where a person works, the state of a person's housing, what a person eats, a person's level of stress and a person's vulnerability to crime, injury and discrimination all affect physical and mental health. **By acting together, mental health providers, healthcare providers, and legal aid lawyers can address these social determinants of health and create better physical, mental, and social outcomes for individual patients.**

## LEGAL PROBLEMS ARE HEALTH PROBLEMS

### Income



Legal aid can appeal denial of food stamps, disability benefits, and healthcare coverage; dispute illegal debt collection; and help file for bankruptcy

### Employment & Education



Legal aid can secure or enforce specialized education services, remedy employment discrimination, and enforce workplace rights

### Housing and Utilities



Legal aid can help enforce habitable living conditions, prevent eviction or foreclosure and protect against utility shut-off

### Personal Safety



Legal aid can secure restraining orders, a divorce, and parenting plans for domestic violence survivors, breaking the cycle of abuse.

### Who has civil legal problems?

**A 2014 Study by the Montana Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission reported that 9 out of 10 Montanans under 200% of poverty who have a legal problem have not received legal assistance for that problem.** In 2022, Montana Legal Services Association handled 4,949 cases, helping 12,137 clients and their families (including 5,688 children) access equal justice and improve health. Meanwhile, research shows that 60% of health is determined by social/environmental factors and 1 in 6 people nationally need legal care to be healthy.

### Support for Addiction Recovery, Resilient Parenting, and Mental Health

**MLSA provides the tools and services Montanans and their children need to access education, reduce family violence, reduce evictions, improve health, and participate in federal safety net programs.** When parents have access to legal services, child health, access to food, and utilization of income supports improved, while parents reported reduced stress and increased wellbeing. People with Severe and Disabling Mental Illness can access guardianships, powers of attorney, and income supports to meet their goals. Legal Aid can help individuals with substance use disorder secure housing, access health care services, ensure children are cared for, escape domestic violence, and remove obstacles to employment.

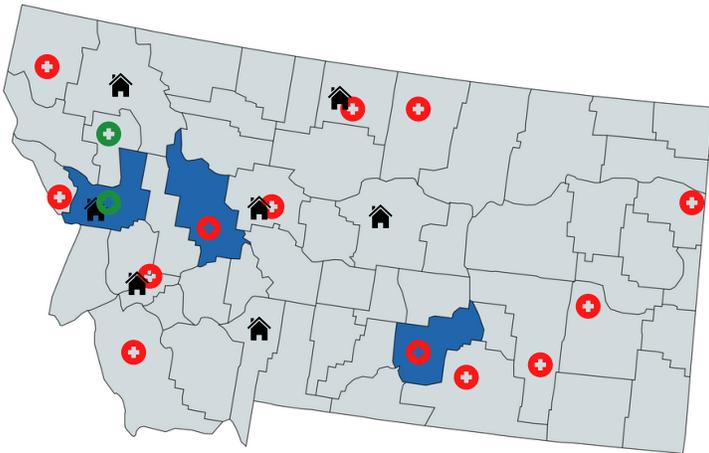
### Collaboration potential

**Medical Legal Partnerships are a proven, effective model to improve health and reach our most vulnerable community members.** The Montana Health Justice Partnership has a 50% reach into rural communities. In its first year, the medical-legal partnership resulted in a 184% increase in legal services provided in Lincoln County and 177% in Hill County. Nationwide, other medical legal partnerships integrate legal services into existing demonstration models or contracts for specific types of Medicaid patients, while others offer broad financial support to ensure legal services are available to all patients

## How can we fund MLPs in Montana?

In 2014, the federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) recognized civil legal aid as an enabling service that health care providers can include under their federal grants. In at least seven states, funding for legal services is included in a Medicaid managed care contract or other value-based payment arrangement or innovative delivery system reform model. Other grants exist to help pilot a medical legal partnership while partner cost-share is determined.

## Montana Legal Services Association Medical Community Initiatives



- MLSA Office Locations (Helena, Missoula, Billings)
- ⊕ Montana Health Justice Partnership Health Center Sites
- ⊕ Providence St. Patrick's Medical-Legal Partnership
- 🏠 Resilient Parenting Project referral sites

### Montana Health Justice Partnership

MLSA partners with the Montana Primary Care Association, and seven Federally Qualified Health Care Centers. Since 2015, this MLP has expanded its reach from four to seven FQHCs. Health partners have decided to increase financial contributions based on positive health impact for patients.

### Providence St. Patrick's Hospital MLP

The Providence MLP is a Medical-Legal Partnership between MLSA and St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula. Our MLP attorney works closely with the hospital as well as community organizations such as the Western MT Mental Health System to house the most vulnerable in our community.

### Resilient Parenting Project

The Headwaters Project works to connect early childhood providers with legal information, resources and access to MLSA services. Service providers include Human Resource Development Councils, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and Home Visiting Programs.

### Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

YHDP is a new national initiative designed to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness. In Montana, HUD has selected 13 different grantee organizations that are working across disciplines in new and innovative ways to support our youth struggling in homelessness.

## Sources and Additional Information

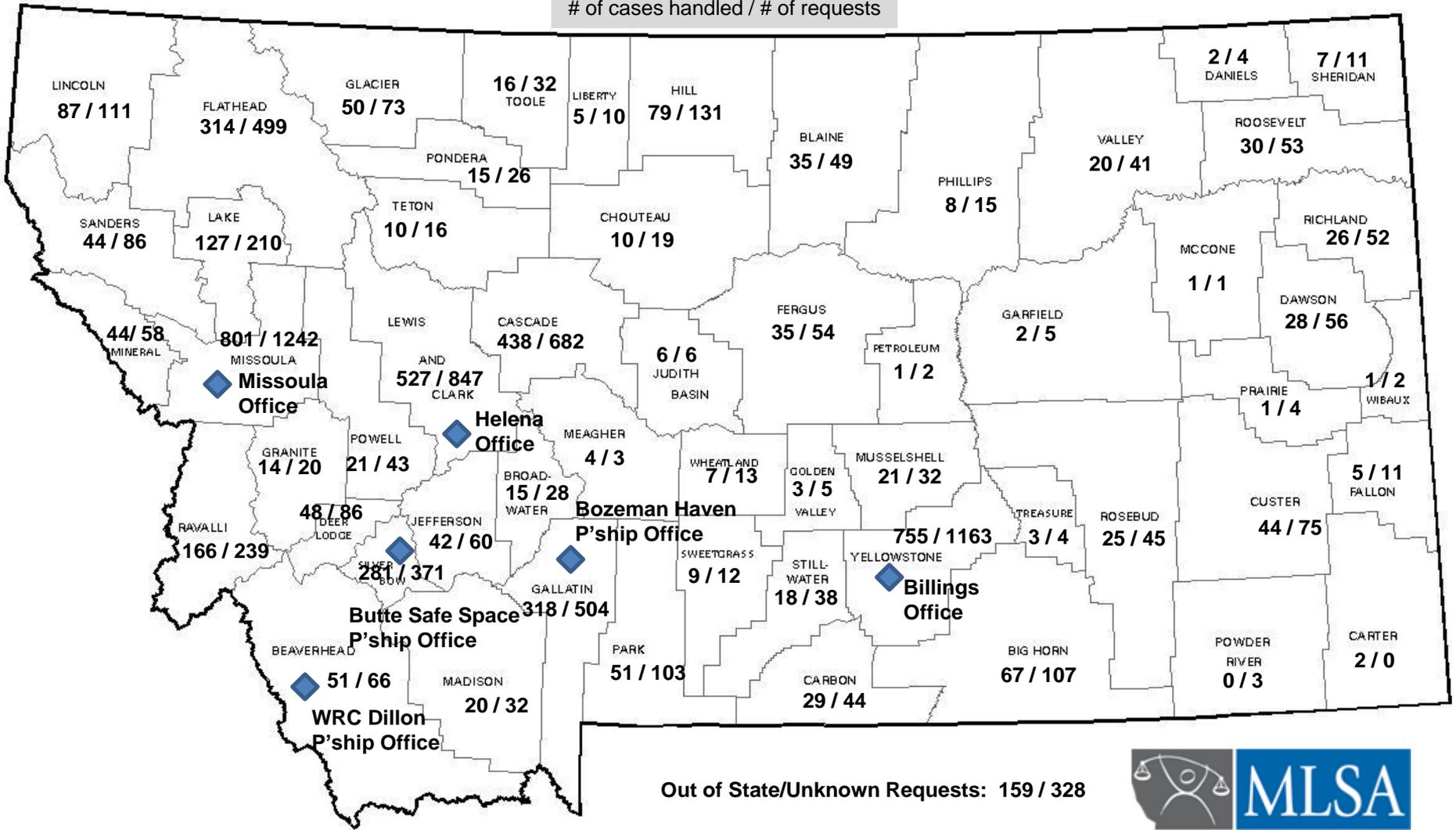
\*Funding Medical Legal Partnerships: <https://medical-legalpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Financing-MLPs-View-from-the-Field.pdf>; MLPs and Early Childhood Systems: <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Legal-Partnering-for-Child-and-Family-Health.pdf>; Medical-Legal Partnership in Primary Care: Moving Upstream in the Clinic: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6506975/>; Administration for Children and Families: Civil Legal Advocacy to Promote Child and Family Well-being, Address the Social Determinants of Health, and Enhance Community Resilience <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im2102.pdf>



# MLSA Number of Cases Handled and Requests for Services by County

## For 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022

# of cases handled / # of requests



Out of State/Unknown Requests: 159 / 328





## Montana Opioid Abatement Trust

Montana Health Justice Partnership - Recovery Project

Allotment of Funds: Based on Client Eligible Populations

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>Grand Request Total</b>		<b>\$ 403,086</b>	<b>\$ 401,142</b>	<b>\$ 412,488</b>
Abatement Region 1	4.33%	\$ 17,454	\$ 17,369	\$ 17,860
Abatement Region 2	5.00%	\$ 20,154	\$ 20,057	\$ 20,624
Abatement Region 3	4.43%	\$ 17,857	\$ 17,770	\$ 18,273
Abatement Region 4	5.90%	\$ 23,782	\$ 23,667	\$ 24,337
Abatement Region 5	3.78%	\$ 15,237	\$ 15,164	\$ 15,593
Butte-Silver Bow	5.14%	\$ 20,720	\$ 20,620	\$ 21,203
Cascade County / Great Falls	9.54%	\$ 38,454	\$ 38,269	\$ 39,352
Flathead County / Kalispell	6.47%	\$ 26,080	\$ 25,954	\$ 26,687
Gallatin County/ Bozeman	6.69%	\$ 26,965	\$ 26,837	\$ 27,596
Lake County	2.20%	\$ 8,868	\$ 8,825	\$ 9,075
Lewis & Clark County / Helena	10.57%	\$ 42,606	\$ 42,400	\$ 43,600
Missoula County / Missoula	15.56%	\$ 62,720	\$ 62,418	\$ 64,183
Ravalli County	3.80%	\$ 15,317	\$ 15,243	\$ 15,674
Yellowstone County / Billings	16.59%	\$ 66,872	\$ 66,549	\$ 68,431
	100.00%	\$ 403,086	\$ 401,142	\$ 412,488

**Region 5: Current Services and Planned Expansion**  
**Montana Health Justice Project: OUD Recovery Project**  
**October 3, 2024**

Current Services in Region 5: Both MLSA and AWARE directly serve people in Region 5 every year. The Project has a local partner site in Region 5: Lincoln County Community Health Center (d/b/a Northwest Community Health Center) Libby Clinic in Lincoln County. MLSA served 175 clients in Region 5 in 2022, with 20 impacted by an SUD. AWARE serves 91-177 people yearly in Region 5. The MHJP Health Clinic partners provide primary care services regardless of ability to pay in medically underserved areas and populations in Region 5. These partnerships will particularly benefit individuals in recovery living in Region 5 by enabling local healthcare providers, substance abuse support workers, and civil legal aid attorneys to work together to address the co-occurring health, social, and legal problems that directly impact the four major domains of recovery.

Planned Expansion of Services: Neither MLSA nor AWARE have the resources to partner together to screen all AWARE patients for OUD related legal needs nor to provide services to patients referred to MLSA. The existing MHJP Health Clinic partners do already screen patients for care, and refer those with OUD related legal needs to MLSA. There is currently funding from the Health Clinic Partners and MLSA to provide advice only services to referred patients, but often times OUD related legal needs are complex and require full representation to achieve positive outcomes. The MHJP Recovery Project request will enable (1) AWARE and MLSA to form a partnership for screening, referral, and provision of legal services; and (2) full representation to current Region 5 Health Care Partners referred clients with OUD related legal needs. With these additional partnerships and services in place, the MHJP Recovery Project partners can work together to holistically address the health, social, financial, and environmental needs that prevent OUD patients from staying in recovery.

The specific measurable annual goals for Region 5 are as follows:

- (1) 1 consultation, trainings, and outreach per year for Region 5 AWARE and other OUD recovery provider staff, provided by MHJP staff or MLSA Communications Manager;
- (2) Project Attorneys provide legal services, including advice, limited scope services, and full representation, on 6 legal matters per year to Region 3 clients with OUD and co-occurring SUD/Mental Health conditions, meeting at least one achievable legal goal for each client;
- (3) Project Navigator conducts intake interviews and provides navigation services with 4 referred patients in Region 5; and
- (4) AWARE screens 75% of their new OUD/SUD recovery patients in Region 3 for civil legal needs.

The MHJP-Recovery Project will meet these goals in Region 5 by dedicating 0.07 FTE attorney time to provide legal services to OUD clients and 0.03 FTE Navigator time to provide legal advocacy, intake, support, and referral to OUD clients. The remaining activities of the statewide Project proposal are the same for Region 5: (1) training healthcare, recovery care, and legal care teams to work collaboratively for screening and referral at both the front-line and administrative levels; (2) identifying OUD patients' recovery-harming social and legal needs with screening procedures; (3) providing OUD patients with legal care ranging from triage and consultations to full representation; (4) providing OUD patients with systems navigation care including maintaining and expanding a statewide network; (5) traveling to local and regional offices to meet with healthcare staff, provide trainings, and provide services to OUD clients; (6) building community outreach to Montanans who live with an OUD and with health care and supportive services workers to build an active referral process for OUD clients; and (7) collecting and

**Region 5: Current Services and Planned Expansion**  
**Montana Health Justice Project: OUD Recovery Project**  
**October 3, 2024**

evaluating detailed outcomes about improved recovery, health, legal, and social outcomes from legal, healthcare, and recovery service partners.

These activities will ensure the effectiveness in Region 5 of the overarching goal of the MHJP-Recovery Project: to achieve better recovery outcomes for Montanans living with an OUD by addressing their recovery harming civil legal needs.