

AEDs in Every Library MOAT Region 3

*2025 Montana Opioid Abatement Trust
Grants-second half of 2025*

Trust for Montana Libraries

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Application Form

Region Selection

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

Project Name*

AEDs in Every Library MOAT Region 3

You may only select one Abatement Region, if you are applying for funding from more than one region you will need to fill out and submit a separate application for each region.

Select Multi County Abatement Region OR Metro Region*

Select the Multi-County Abatement Region **OR** the Metro Region you are requesting grant funds from. Click [HERE](#) for a detailed map of Multi-County Regions and Metro Regions.

Abatement Region 3

Regional Funding Request*

If you are applying to multiple regions, please select all the regions to which you are submitting applications.

Abatement Region 1
Abatement Region 2
Abatement Region 3
Abatement Region 4
Abatement Region 5
Butte Silver Bow Metro Region
Cascade County Metro Region
Gallatin County Metro Region
Ravalli Metro Region
Yellowstone County Metro Region

Application Overview

About the Organization/Program*

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

The Trust for Montana Libraries is a Montana-based 501(c)3 working with Montana libraries to supplement local government support for publicly funded libraries. Montana libraries have a long tradition of working collaboratively to ensure each and every Montanan has the library resources they need to thrive. The Trust works with any publicly funded (ie, tax exempt) library, seeking alternative funding sources for shared projects and services. An example is this project, which focuses on getting an Automated External

Defibrillator (AED) in all Montana's libraries. By MCA Statute schools have them already. And in fact, most public and tribal college libraries have one, but research 18 months ago showed that 38 Montana Libraries lacked an AED. We invited these 38 libraries to join in this project, and 28 responded, asking to be included. Of those 28, 3 have obtained donations to obtain an AED separately from the Trust's AED Project, leaving 25 libraries lacking and wanting an AED. The Trust for Montana Libraries is not being compensated for this work. We think it's a good idea for all libraries to have an AED, and we're simply happy to help.

While investigating funding sources, we discovered the link between opioid harm reduction and the advantages of public facilities having, in addition to training, ready access to both an AED and inhaler Naloxone -- Narcam. After consulting with our project partner, the Montana Red Cross, we have modified our project to include this component.

The Trust for Montana Libraries Mission: The Montana Trust for Libraries serves Montana's publicly funded libraries.

Our Vision: Each Montanan has ready access to library content and services to support their lifelong pursuit of learning.

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

Treatment

Exhibit E List of Opioid Remediation Uses

Schedule A - select all that apply

A. NALOXENE/OTHER FDA-APPROVED DRUG TO REVERSE OPIOID OVERDOSES

Exhibit E List of Opioid Remediation Uses

Schedule B - select all that apply

B. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT & RECOVERY

H. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS & OTHER HARMS (HARMS REDUCTION)

J. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING, & COORDINATION

K. TRAINING

How does the program meet the Opioid Remediation Guidelines*

Provide a detailed explanation of how the program fits into the approved Opioid Remediation Guidelines selected in the above question.

Please be specific

Toward MOAT's goals of harm reduction and training, the Trust for Montana Library's AED program puts Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in public and tribal college libraries that don't have them, with a stop-the-bleed kit and 4 doses of Narcan. Montana Law provides for the use of AEDs and Naloxone in public facilities, as harm reduction strategies for those suffering opioid overdose. MCA 50-6-502 requires that public facilities to have a plan, provide periodic maintenance, that staff receive training, et cetera. These requirements are managed by Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Community AED office. This project strictly adheres to these guidelines and is supported by this DPHHS office. Non-trained staff members, responding to an opioid crisis with either or both AED or Naloxone intervention, are protected by MCA 50-32-609, Montana's Good Samaritan Law.

The American Heart Association and the American Society of Anesthesiologists advocate in addition to training, having ready access to Naloxone (Narcan) and an AED in public facilities. <https://www.heart.org/-/media/Files/About-Us/Policy-Research/Policy-Positions/CPR-and-AED/Naloxone-Position-Statement.pdf>. This project has a letter of support from the MT American Heart Association.

The American Medical Association put it succinctly in the title of a July 2024 web article: "Put Naloxone Next to Defibrillators in Public Places." <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/behavioral-health/put-naloxone-next-defibrillators-public-places>

The American Red Cross advocates the use of AEDs and Narcan, with CPR, for untrained people attempting to resuscitate someone suffering opioid overdose. <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/resources/learn-first-aid/opioid-overdose?srsId=AfmBOooxBkdRD3vogFCUYXu2kY8COhiSWk8Gr1cmZJbJ9vYNGeZxDlqh>. The Montana Red Cross is the Training Partner in this MT AED project.

Together, Training, CPR, AEDs and Narcan will save lives in public facilities.

New Program or Existing*

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

A new program for your region.

Fiscal Information

Requested Amount*

\$3,878.00

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.

AEDs in Every Library — MOAT Region 3.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.

The Trust for Montana Libraries has been working to fund this project for about 18 months. In the beginning we estimated project costs would be about \$55,000. Since then costs have been recalculated at \$49,745. To date we have raised \$20,000. This grant request to MOAT is part of our attempt to raise the required but missing balance. As the grant deadlines for several MOAT regions have passed this year, upon receiving funding for the libraries included in this request (and accompanying others), our intent would be to use this \$20,000 in hand to purchase AED/Stop-the-bleed/Narcan/Training for the libraries not currently eligible to apply for a MOAT grant.

Most Montana public and tribal college libraries already have an AED. This program's intent is to ensure that AEDs are available in every Montana library that wants one. This program, at the advice of DPHHS and through research, introduces Stop-the-Bleed kits and Narcan into the mix of harm reduction resources available in public or tribal college libraries. These libraries receive public support for day-to-day operations, but tax dollars are stretched to the limit and budgets are uniformly tight throughout Montana libraries. Through the efforts of The Trust for Montana Libraries, these AED project libraries are seeking to supplement local funds for the purchase of an AED etc. These project libraries don't have a budget item for an AED (etc) and training. The requested funds do not supplant or replace existing funds in any of these AED project libraries, instead the requested funding will make libraries more resilient places in terms of cardiac emergency, bleeding, and opioid overdose.

Do you have a Fiscal Agent*

No

Program Abstract

Program Description*

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

The objective of our project is to ensure every Montana public or tribal college who wants an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), has an AED. This project initially was focused on placing just an AED in libraries, but through feedback and expert advice has broadened to include a Stop-the-Bleed Kits and Narcan.

Montana libraries typically see about half their service area population in their library every year. Users include older Montanans, a group susceptible to cardiac misadventure. But of course library users include all ages, and sadly neither cardiac emergencies or opioid abuse are limited to one age group, and there are good reasons to have both an AED and Narcan on hand. Given the heavy use of Montana's public and tribal college libraries, it is right and prudent for these libraries to add these life-saving tools to their infrastructure.

With our partners, the Montana American Red Cross, we are currently working with twenty-five public and tribal college libraries to purchase Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for these libraries that want but lack an AED. In addition to purchasing AEDs and supplies, our project includes Stop-the-Bleed Kits and Red Cross training. In addition, two two-pack nasal Narcan inhalers will be included. These twenty-five libraries

are located in every MOAT Multi-County Abatement Region, and in several of MOAT's Metro Abatement Regions.

When this program's first phase is completed, success will be having an AED, Stop-the-Bleed Kit, and Narcan in every one of the (original) 28 project libraries. In addition, staff in these libraries will have received basic training in using their AED, Stop-the-Bleed Kit, and Narcan. As the project extends beyond this first phase, with our partner the Montana branch of the American Red Cross, we'll continue with the basic training and work to expand this training to include CPR and basic first aid. In addition, as the project continues, there will be routine AED maintenance, battery and pad replacement, and record keeping to attend to. The Trust for Montana Libraries will work with project libraries to assist them, and to ensure that they have an opportunity to build upon their capacity for harm reduction.

Of course, AEDs and Narcan don't require training for intervention to be successful, and by having these devices on hand and in a highly visible place in each library's public area, it may be that non-trained individuals are the ones applying the life-saving interventions. Frankly, if lives are saved, that's just fine for us. The policy of encouraging trained or non-trained first aid is consistent with Red Cross guidelines.

If we are successful, we will hear of cardiac and opioid emergencies, where the library patron, who is suffering a crisis, survives their medical emergency. Notification will obviously have to be handled in accordance with library privacy, and individual health privacy considerations.

Specific Goals*

Describe the primary goals your program seeks to achieve. For each goal, explain how the program intends to accomplish it.

Goal 1: Save lives by having an AED, Stop-the-Bleed Kit, and Narcan available in every project library.

Objective: Purchase, install, and train in the use of these items in every project library.

Objective: Establish routines for record keeping, maintenance, consumable replacement (batteries, pads) in every project library.

Goal 2: Make Montana libraries (even) safer places in which to gather, learn, socialize, and take part in civic events.

Objective: Expand and improve first aid training in project libraries.

Objective: Expand the number of libraries improving their first aid resiliency, led by the cohort of AED project libraries.

Evaluation Method*

Please explain in detail how you will gauge the effectiveness and overall impact of the program. What specific evaluation methods, tools, or metrics will you use to measure success.

Our project evaluation follows our stated goals. While it is impossible and illegal for us to gather detailed data about the individuals who suffer cardiac or opioid emergency in our libraries, MT DPHHS reporting requirements will provide the library community a 30,000 foot view of these incidents, their prevalence, and their frequency. If not necessarily their outcome. Accordingly --

We test Goal 1 (Save lives by having an AED, Stop-the-Bleed Kit, and Narcan available in every project library.) by seeing if the two associated objectives have been met.

1. Were AEDs, Stop-the-Bleed Kits, and Narcan purchased and installed in project libraries.

2. Did all of the right staff members receive training, and was training successful by the training's evaluative measures (tests, demonstrations, etc.). As needed is training being renewed?
3. Are there established routines for records keeping? Is maintenance being carefully and consistently done, and are consumables being replaced on schedule.

We test Goal 2 (Make Montana libraries (even) safer places in which to gather, learn, socialize, and take part in civic events.) by observing and reporting on the two associated objectives:

Are there ongoing and expanded efforts (actual training) improve first aid training in project libraries?

Are other Montana libraries joining the project libraries in this training?

The first objective is simple enough, did Trust for Montana Libraries raise donations to fund this project?

The second objective will require some self-reporting from project libraries, but we will look to them to see if they are becoming increasingly sophisticated and successful private fundraisers. Did the number of project libraries with Friends groups or a foundation grow? Did project libraries pursue and receive donations in amount or frequency more than they did before their participation in the AED project.

Data Source*

What data or evidence will you collect to show you are meeting your program goals? What specific information, metrics and documentation will you provide to demonstrate the program objectives have been achieved.

Data sources for Goal 1, will be The Trust for Montana Libraries reporting that items were purchased and installed in project libraries. We will obtain our information from the individual project libraries. We will work with our partner, the Montana Red Cross, to obtain a report that each project library has staff who have successfully participated in training.

MT DPHHS has specific record keeping requirements. We will work with project libraries and DPHHS Community AED to verify that each library has:

1. Registered AED locations with PulsePoint.
2. Provided local ambulance services and dispatch centers with a completed AED Notification Form.
3. A written AED program plan as per DPHHS guidelines.
4. A record of monthly AED inspections and maintenance.
5. Registered its AED program plan with DPHHS.
6. Has filled an electronic incident report each time an AED is used.

We test Goal 2 (Make Montana libraries (even) safer places in which to gather, learn, socialize, and take part in civic events.) by observing and reporting on the two associated objectives, by asking our partner the Montana Red Cross to report on first aid training in project and other Montana libraries.

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.

In addition to the formal notification to MT DPHHS and local first responders and dispatch centers, news releases will be sent to local media sources noting the availability of AEDs, Stop-the-Bleed Kits, and Narcan in their local library.

As per MT DPHHS guidelines, the AED itself will be placed in a highly visible cabinet in as public an area as can be found in each library.

Window or door stickers and other signage will be added to each library, as appropriate and possible, to make library users aware that an AED, Stop-the-Bleed Kit, and Narcan are available in their library.

Additional Documents

Tax Exempt Organization*

By clicking this box you are confirming the applying organization is a tax exempt organization.

Yes

Tax Exempt Determination Letter*

Please upload a copy of the Organization 501(C)(3) Tax Exempt Determination Letter.

Trust for Montana Libraries Tax Determination Letter.pdf

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

Trust Strategic Plan 24-25.pdf

Upload #2

Trust Board of Directors Aug 25.pdf

Upload #3

AED Project Description, Aug 25 Update.pdf

Additional Information

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for grant assistance. We're very eager to get these life-saving tools into Montana's public libraries.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- AEDs in Every Library — MOAT Region 3.pdf
- Trust for Montana Libraries Tax Determination Letter.pdf
- Trust Strategic Plan 24-25.pdf
- Trust Board of Directors Aug 25.pdf
- AED Project Description, Aug 25 Update.pdf



Trust for MT Libraries Region 3

Bruce Newell <bruce.newell@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 24, 2025 at 9:11 AM

To: "Steff McGowan (MT Opioid Abatement Trust)" <info@montanaopioid.org>

Cc: Kelsey Roebling <kroebling@bighorncountymt.gov>, Kris Goss <goss.kg@gmail.com>, Honore Bray <beyondstacks@gmail.com>

Steffanie,

Good morning. Here are my answers to your questions:

1. Region 3 has approved our application for five libraries, not two as per our original application.
2. The per library cost is \$1,849, which is less per library than in our original grant application. We negotiated a lower price with our AED supplier, the Red Cross. The total cost for all five libraries is as you state, \$9,245.00.

The original MOAT Region 3 libraries in The Trust's AED project were:

- * Red Lodge Carnegie Library
- * Lewistown Public Library

Through the able and energetic recruiting efforts of Kelsey Roebling with MOAT Region 3, three additional library (buildings) were added to this list:

- * Dorothy Asbjornson Community Library (Winifred)
- * Judith Basin County Free Library, Stanford
- * Judith Basin County Free Library, Hobson

This increases the total from two MOAT Region 3 libraries, to five. As stated above, at a cost of \$1,849 per library, the total funds requested for this MOAT 3 group of libraries is \$9,245. This represents both a slight reduction in per library costs, and the cost of five, not two, project libraries.

With the exception of the above, our initial application stands as submitted. Thank you in advance for your efforts and your support.

Bruce Newell
For The Trust for Montana Libraries

Bruce Newell
bruce.newell@gmail.com
2570 Mayrowan Court
Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 461-3206

> On Nov 21, 2025, at 8:55 AM, Steff McGowan (MT Opioid Abatement Trust) <info@montanaopioid.org> wrote:

>

> Good morning Bruce,

>

> I understand that Abatement Region 3 has approved your application, Trust for Montana Libraries - AED's in Every Library Region 3 for \$9,245.00. This application will be added to the MOAT Advisory Committee meeting agenda for final approval on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

>

> Region 3 informed me that the approval is for five libraries; however, your original budget application only specified two of them.

>

> Can you please confirm that you are requesting the total amount of \$1,849.00 for five libraries? If so, please email me an addendum to the application reflecting this change.

>

> Thanks,

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **APR 26 2019**

THE TRUST FOR MONTANA LIBRARIES
C/O JENNIE STAPP
MT STATE LIBRARY 1515 E 6TH AVE
HELENA, MT 59620-0000

Employer Identification Number:
83-3987961
DLN:
26053502002409
Contact Person:
CUSTOMER SERVICE ID# 31954
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
June 30
Public Charity Status:
509(a)(2)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
March 5, 2019
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 947

The Trust for Montana Libraries

Strategic Plan

Updated November 21, 2024

Mission Statement: *The Trust for Montana Libraries serves Montana's publicly funded libraries.*

Vision Statement: *Each Montanan has ready access to library content and services, to support their lifelong pursuit of learning.*

Goal 1: Library Marketing

Objective 1.1 Create and maintain an effective information and marketing campaign, that benefits both the Trust and libraries, to work with key stakeholders to quantify and communicate the value and impact of public library services across Montana to the general public and to Montana's leadership.

Objective 1.2 Establish an ongoing public information/marketing campaign to remind Montana residents of the critical need that Montana's Library services provide to the public.

Objective 1.3 Enhance the public's knowledge of library services across Montana provided by public libraries and to quantify the overall impact of these services by supporting the efforts of the Montana Library Association and their individual members to communicate the unique services that individual libraries serve in their communities.

Goal 2: Library Advocacy

Objective 2.1 Involve the Trust in an ongoing program to advocate for Montana's public libraries by working with the Montana Library Association and local public libraries to support and advocate for their needs to adapt and grow to meet the changing needs of Montana's citizens for current and future library services and to defend against threats to those services.

Objective 2.2 Establish and maintain an active Library Advocacy Committee within the Trust Board and support their efforts.

Objective 2.3 Enlist the support of others across the state who realize and wish to contribute to the overall support of public library across Montana.

Objective 2.4 Work to define the "Library of the Future" with examples of projects/initiatives.

Goal 3: Montana Libraries Legacy Fund

Objective 3.1 Support the enhancement of library services across Montana by building capital within the Trust's funds to provide financial support for Montana's libraries and their services.

Objective 3.2 Create an effective marketing campaign for the Trust to potential donors.

Objective 3.3 Work with partners and stakeholders to establish an annual event to celebrate the valuable services provided by Montana public libraries and the critical need to support them now and in the future.

Goal 4: Fundraising

Objective 4.1 Develop a plan that identifies potential streams for donations based on potential sources

Objective 4.2 Categorize potential funding sources as near-term project related or as the core funding for the foundation's long-term sustainability, growth, and development

Goal 5: Projects

Objective 5.1 Identify potential projects of service to libraries, statewide, and list most likely foundations to support and develop an approach for each; undertake projects strategically

Objective 5.2 Establish the means to receive and hold local public library gifts.

Goal 6: Trust for Montana Libraries Sustainability

Objective 6.1 Seek donations, partnerships, and outside foundation and other grants to support the Trust's efforts to implementation strategic plan to support public libraries across Montana.

Objective 6.2 Determine ways/means to acquire staffing focused on long-term financial sustainability for the position

Objective 6.3 Develop Performance Measurement Standards for the Trust

Objective 6.4 Create and maintain a media strategy that regularly communicates the good work of the Trust.



Board of Directors, August 2025

HONORE BRAY, HALL

Honore Bray is a native Montanan. She retired in the Spring of 2022 after spending 18 years teaching High School in Jordan MT and 31 years working in Montana Libraries. In 1995 she moved with her husband and two children to Hall, MT, and became the Director of the Hearst Free Library in Anaconda. There she led a handicap access project in a historic building creating ramp access to the main floor with a three-story elevator while automating the library and becoming one of the first 17 libraries in the Montana Shared Catalog. After 10 years at Hearst Free she became the Director of Missoula Public Library where she spent the next 17 years. During her tenure at MPL she led the planning, construction, and opening of a new award-winning library. Throughout her education, Honore received a BS in Home Economics Education and Extension from MSU, a BS in Elementary Education from MSU, a Fifth Year in Library Science and Curriculum from UM, and Master's of Information Science from University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign. Her passions are education and family.

JEANNIE FERRISS, WHITEHALL

Jeannie was born into a construction family which lived around the country and the world. She received her undergraduate degree in History from Colorado State University and a MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi. While at Southern Miss, Jeannie was awarded the Warren Tracy Award for Professionalism, Scholarship and Service. She began working in libraries in middle school as a volunteer and never quit. Writing is her passion, as well as quilting, traveling, reading, and spending time with her family. She is currently the Librarian at the Whitehall Community Library. A lifelong Holocaust Scholar, Jeannie and a group of teens and adults from Project Democracy, created the Holocaust collection at the Whitehall library, which is open to the public.

KRIS GOSS, HELENA

Kris grew up in Richland County and graduated from Sidney High School. He credits the Sidney-Richland County Library for his appreciation of learning and dedication to public service. Kris serves as the Director of the Library Learning Hub at Helena College. He is also an attorney with Jackson, Murdo, & Grant, PC in Helena. Kris earned a law degree from the University of Montana School of Law, a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College.

BRUCE NEWELL, HELENA

Born in Eugene, Oregon, Bruce moved to Helena in 1980 and worked at both the Montana State Library and the Lewis & Clark Public Library. Bruce was active in the Montana Library Association, and feels fortunate to having served in the global library cooperative OCLC as first a delegate and later as an elected Trustee. After retirement Bruce served on the State Library Commission from 2014 to 2022. Bruce is married to a retired librarian. He has two daughters, one a medieval historian and the other a youth services librarian. Bruce likes babies, biscuits, boats, bicycles, books, and rambling around under Montana's beautiful sky of blue.

JOHN ROGERS, CLANCY

John Rogers, a resident of Clancy, Montana has enjoyed a full career within the economic development community for more than 45 years. Most recently he served with the US Economic Development Administration as a regional representative for 25 years for Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota and later, as the Chief Business Development Officer with the Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development. He continues his work as a sole proprietor of his economic development consulting firm.

JENNIE STAPP, HELENA

Jennie Stapp is a Montana native. She holds a BA in International Studies from Rocky Mountain College. She earned her Masters of Arts in Library Science from the University of Arizona in 2002. Jennie worked previously for the Montana Historical Society Research Center and joined the staff of the State Library in 2005. She has been Montana State Librarian since

January, 2012. Jennie loves libraries because they are society's great equalizer. Her favorite book depends on the day.

HEATHER TWEET, CONRAD

Heather Tweet was born and raised in Montana. Prior to moving back to her hometown of Conrad, she lived in Forsyth where she was Rosebud County Library Director from 2014 to 2021 after serving as the Teen/Technology Librarian. During the Covid 19 shutdowns, Rosebud County Library was one of the first to offer mobile hotspots to patrons as part of a pilot program of Montana libraries. Heather has seen firsthand the impact that libraries make in their communities with providing access to technology, educational resources, and as community centers. Heather has degrees from the University of Montana in business administration (management emphasis) and sociology with a minor in communication studies. After a few years in the insurance industry, she is now teaching 7-12 Special Education and pursuing her master's degree. A book she would encourage everyone to read is Wonder by R.J. Palacio.

SARAH WIDGER, BOZEMAN

Sarah Widger, a transplant from Ithaca, New York by way of Corvallis, Oregon, is the Immediate Past President of the Montana Library Association. She received her Bachelor of Science in Food Science from Cornell University, and her Master of Library and Information Science degree from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. As a food scientist, Sarah developed freeze-dried backpacking meals, ensured the quality of yogurt melts for babies, and managed a trade show program with a \$150,000 annual budget. After moving to Bozeman in 2016, she officially switched careers after having volunteered and worked as a substitute at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library for several years. Sarah interviewed with the Belgrade Community Library the day after she took the GRE for graduate school. At Belgrade Library, Sarah worked as an interlibrary loan specialist, circulation specialist, interim youth services lead, adult services librarian, and cataloging department head. In 2021 she started at Bozeman Public Library as the Public Services Department Head where she manages the schedule for all service points in the library, and leads a team of 12 dedicated employees. As Montana Library Association President, Sarah helped launch the site Montanans for Libraries and made the Homeless Training from Ryan Dowd available to all active Montana Library Association members.



AEDs and Narcan in Every Montana's Library

Thankfully, heart attacks* are rare, but they do happen, and immediate access to an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) is key in ensuring a victim's survival. Every minute that elapses between a heart attack and defibrillation lowers the stricken's chance of survival by 10%. An AED on-site, coupled with trained personnel, can make the difference between life and death. [*More precisely, a ventricular fibrillation (VF) or pulseless ventricular tachycardia]

Opioid overdose happens rarely, but is an occasional occurrence in Montana's libraries. In addition to having an AED on hand, libraries can significantly reduce the possibility of overdose deaths by having nasally administered Narcan on hand. Having both an AED and Narcan on hand is a harm reduction strategy endorsed by the Red Cross, the American Medical Association, and other medical authorities. Users of AEDs and Narcan will certainly benefit from training, but the tools themselves are safe and easy to use. Additionally, library staff or others stepping in to intervene in a medical emergency are protected legally by Montana's Good Samaritan Law. (MCA [50-32-609](#))

Why libraries?

Most Montana public and tribal college libraries have an AED, but thirty-six do not. Of the public and tribal college libraries lacking an AED, twenty-eight initially asked The Trust for Montana Libraries, partnering with the American Red Cross, to help them obtain, install, and learn how to use an AED. Since the project began, three libraries have obtained an AED with local donations. Upon project completion, an AED, Stop-the-Bleed Kit and Narcan will be in every Montana the public and tribal college library who wants one. The total project cost is \$49,745. (8/23/25)

Montana libraries are heavily used by library users ranging in age from infants to the elderly. During fiscal year 2023 the residents within these 28 libraries' service areas amounted to over 38% of Montana's population, and they recorded well in excess of 1 million visits. [438,889 Montanans live within these libraries' service areas; in 2023 they made 1,038,334 visits]

This Program

Each participating public or tribal college library will receive an AED, to be mounted in a highly visible, public part of their library so the AED will be immediately at hand if needed. AEDs are easy to use, even for those without medical training—the device itself provides clear, step-by-step instructions to guide the rescuer. Given the age range of library users, we will provide AEDs that easily switch between child and adult modes.

Narcan (naloxone) will also be available in project libraries. Narcan is a medically and legally safe medication used to counter the effects of opioid overdose.

Similarly, at the advice of Montana's DPHHS Community AED Office, a Stop-the-Bleed kit will be included to counter life-threatening bleeding while first responders are being summoned.

Training will be provided for library staff and volunteers. While AEDs guide rescuers through the process, in the event of an emergency, everyone will feel better if person using the AED has received training. Training will consist of the Red Cross's 'Until Help Arrives' course, to be held online, and will include instruction in the use of AEDs and stopping life-threatening bleeding. Narcan training will also be provided.

Key Partners

The Red Cross is a natural partner for the Trust for Montana Libraries. Montana's public and tribal college libraries are busy community hubs, and having an AED available aligns with the

Red Cross's goals of enhancing public safety, preventing and alleviating human suffering in emergencies. Similarly, increasing public safety in libraries fits superbly with The Trust's mission of supporting and improving all Montana's public and tribal college libraries.

Additionally, The Trust and the Red Cross see this as an opportunity to build on our shared commitment to training and community life long learning, adding AED, CPR, Narcan, and first aid training in conjunction with libraries adding an AED to their buildings.

Finally, The Trust has partnered with the State of Montana's Department of Health and Human Services' EMS, Trauma, and Injury Prevention Systems office. Grant requirements will follow their Community AED guidelines, which serve as a best-practices checklist, for example, AEDs will be registered and integrated into Montana's 9-1-1 services.

Your Gift Will Make Montana Libraries Safer Places

The cost to purchase, install, and train each library is \$1,929, a total of \$49,745 for twenty-five project libraries. For this project, The Trust for Montana Libraries is receiving no compensation or administrative overhead. We simply want to see these life-saving tools get into all Montana's libraries.

- \$1,929 covers the cost of one AED, spare pads, Narcan, Stop-the-Bleed Kit, Cabinet, and its installation in a Montana library
- \$49,745 is the total project cost
- As of August 2025, The Trust has raised \$20,000
- This leaves The Trust for Montana Libraries \$29,745 short of completing this project

Any contribution will make a significant difference. Together, we can ensure that Montana's libraries are not only places of learning and community but also places of safety and preparedness. The Trust for Montana Libraries is an IRS 501(c)3 organization, and registered in Montana as a Non-profit Corporation.

By contributing to this initiative, you are not just purchasing a piece of equipment or funding a training program, you are contributing to safer more resilient communities. You are giving parents, grandparents, children, and neighbors the chance to survive a sudden cardiac arrest to go home to their families, and to continue living their lives.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference for Montana's libraries and all Montanans.

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