The University of Montana

Montana's Programs for Individuals with DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Cover artwork for this booklet was designed by Trudy Campbell of Missoula, Montana.

Photo by Todd Goodrich

For Trudy, "Art is work. It makes me feel good to do it." She has sold her paintings, including the painting on the cover of this booklet. This painting was featured in the Governor's Art Show.

Artwork made available through Very Special Arts Montana's Governor's Art Show Exhibit.

This booklet describes Montana's programs for individuals with developmental disabilities that are supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The Administration on Developmental Disabilities encourages cooperation and partnerships among agencies and service providers who work for people with developmental disabilities.

The four Montana agencies who cooperated in the production of this document are:

- ✔ The University of Montana Rural Institute: Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research, and Service
- ✔ The Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) of the Disability Services Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
- ✔ The Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities (MCDD – formerly DDPAC)
- ✔ The Montana Advocacy Program (MAP)

The booklet provides a definition and description of each program noted above. Funding for this booklet was provided by The University of Montana Rural Institute: Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research, and Service.

What is a Developmental Disability?

Over sixteen thousand Montanans, two out of every one hundred people, have a developmental disability. Although people with developmental disabilities may need support, they have capabilities, competencies and preferences that deserve respect.

A developmental disability typically occurs at birth or shortly thereafter. These disabilities affect people in many different ways and to varying degrees. The disability may affect any number of a person's life skills – skills that a person without a disability might take for granted. Mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy are specific types of developmental disabilities. The Federal Government and the State of Montana have different legal definitions of developmental disabilities.

The Federal Definition

A developmental disability is a severe, chronic disability, which:

- ✔ is caused by a mental or physical impairment or combination of impairments
- ✔ appears before the age of 22
- ✔ is likely to continue indefinitely
- ✔ reflects a need for long-term, individual services
- ✔ results in substantial function limitation in three or more of the following areas:
    - self-care
    - language
    - learning
    - mobility
    - self-direction
    - capacity for independent living
    - economic self-sufficiency

The Montana Definition

A "developmental disability" is a disability attributed to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or other neurological handicapping condition closely related to mental retardation and requiring treatment similar to that required by individuals with mental retardation if the disability originated before the person attained age 18, has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial handicap to the person.

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities

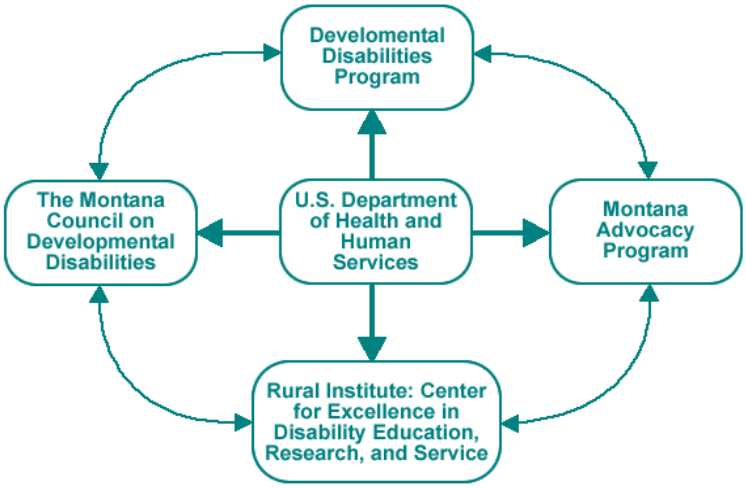
The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) program is part of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The major goal of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities is to forge a partnership with state governments, local communities and the private sector to help people with developmental disabilities achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity and community integration. It supports state, community and private sector efforts.

Programs address a variety of services across all elements of the life cycle:

- ✔ prevention
- ✔ early intervention
- ✔ education
- ✔ employment
- ✔ leisure opportunities
- ✔ diagnostic services
- ✔ therapy
- ✔ training
- ✔ community living

In Montana, four agencies administer programs with support from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. Federal support allows Montana agencies to collaborate and cooperate in providing services to the 16,000 Montanans with developmental disabilities. They also support information dissemination and training for the 3,000 professional service providers who help Montanans achieve and improve independence, productivity and community inclusion.

independence • productivity • inclusion



Developmental Disabilities Program

In Montana the Disability Services Division of the State Department of Public Health and Human Services administers the Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP). The Developmental Disabilities Program coordinates the system of services and activities that enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The program includes a main office in Helena, five regional offices and four satellite offices. In addition to support for DDP, the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Developmental Disabilities allocates federal funds through four grant programs.

access (`ak ses) *n.* freedom of ability to make use of: ability or means to participate in, work in, or gain insight into

❶ Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities

Each state must establish a citizen-based advisory council to work to provide increased independence, integration and productivity for all persons with developmental disabilities. Montana's council is the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities. MCDD's office is in Helena. The council focuses on nine areas of emphasis:

- ✔ employment
- ✔ education
- ✔ housing
- ✔ quality assurance
- ✔ health
- ✔ transportation
- ✔ child care
- ✔ recreation
- ✔ formal and informal community supports

❷ University Centers for Excellence

University Centers for Excellence in Disability Education, Research, and Service are funded by a discretionary grant program for public or private nonprofit agencies affiliated with a university. Annual grants provide for interdisciplinary training, exemplary services, research, technical assistance and information dissemination.

University Centers for Excellence (UCE) support activities that address a broad range of disability related needs of individuals from birth to old age, and a variety of service issues including prevention, early intervention and supported employment.

Montana's UCE is The University of Montana Rural Institute: Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research, and Service, located at The University Of Montana in Missoula, Montana.

collaborate
(kō lab′ ə rāt) *v.i.*
to work together:
to cooperate

❸ Protection and Advocacy Program

The Protection and Advocacy Program provides for the protection and advocacy of legal and human rights through formula grants to states. The P&A systems empower, protect, advocate on behalf of, and provide advocacy services for persons with developmental disabilities in areas related to their disabilities including:

- ✔ education
- ✔ abuse
- ✔ guardianship
- ✔ neglect
- ✔ institutional services
- ✔ housing issues
- ✔ habilitation services

The Montana Advocacy Program (MAP) administers the P&A program in Montana: Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD). MAP provides advocacy services statewide and has offices in Helena and Missoula.

❹ Projects of National Significance

Projects of National Significance funds are awarded to public or private nonprofit institutions to enhance the independence, productivity, integration and inclusion into the community of people with developmental disabilities. Monies also support the development of national and state policy. Issues transcend the borders of states and territories, but must be addressed in a manner that allows for local implementation of practical solutions. Examples include:

- ✔ family support activities
- ✔ data collection and analysis
- ✔ technical assistance to program components
- ✔ projects that enhance participation of people with developmental disabilities from minority and ethnic groups
- ✔ projects that develop strategies for self-advocacy and leadership skills among people with developmental disabilities and their families
- ✔ projects that address involvement of people with developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system

Developmental Disabilities Program

The Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) is one of several programs within the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Disability Service Program (DSP). It is directly responsible for providing or contracting for services for people with developmental disabilities. The agency consists of five regional offices, four satellite offices and the state office.

Over the past thirty years the view of people with disabilities and the help society offers these individuals and their families has changed dramatically, from one of paternal institutionalization to one of supported self-determination.

An emphasis on human dignity and a conviction that each person is unique and capable of growth are the cornerstone beliefs of Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program. Montana's thrust for providing services to persons with developmental disabilities calls for self-determination and individual participation in life's decisions about where to work, how to play and where to live. It also calls for community settings and integration with people who do not have disabilities. These changes in service philosophy are a result of many factors including a growing concern for the rights of individuals, the effectiveness of advocacy groups, and the notable successes of people with developmental disabilities living and working in Montana's communities.

Mission

The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Program is to support choices and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in their communities.

support
(sə`pō(ə)rt) *vt.*
to provide means, force or strength that is secondary to: back up: serve as a foundation or prop for: bear the weight or stress of: keep from sinking or falling

The Vision of the Developmental Disabilities Program

...is to assure opportunities for a good life, with choices, for each Montanan who is at risk of having or who has a developmental disability by:

- ✔ Encouraging individuals to exercise an increased amount of control and choice in their lives, services and support
- ✔ Providing opportunities to maximize personal growth, talents and responsibilities
- ✔ Assisting individuals and their families to plan and assess services and supports, and participate in the community
- ✔ Increasing the knowledge, skills and abilities of everyone whose actions impact the lives of people who have, or are at risk of having a developmental disability
- ✔ Promoting responsibility, accountability and interdependence in all service system participants, thus fostering dynamic, responsive and creative programs
- ✔ Promoting and utilizing broad public participation in the design, development and provision of services and other support opportunities
- ✔ Using a broad-based evaluation system that provides monitoring and assessment of services and promotes individual growth in a respectful, healthy, safe environment
- ✔ Promoting the use of local resources and natural supports for individuals in need who are not receiving developmental disability services

Service Profile

The Developmental Disabilities Program contracts with private, nonprofit corporations to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. These service programs are located in communities throughout Montana and are based upon individual preferences, needs and abilities. DDP provides an array of residential and work opportunities for adults, and education and support services for children and their families.

❶ Work and Other Day Services

A variety of skill development and work-oriented services for people with disabilities are funded through DDP. These include services ranging from housing to supported community employment. Services that meet the activity and training needs of elderly people with developmental disabilities are also supported.

❷ Community Living & Residential Services

People with developmental disabilities have the same need everyone has for a nice home. In addition, people with disabilities need to live in safe places that provide the training and supports to enable them to be full participants in community life. Community living and residential services include: Children's Community Homes, Intensive Community Homes, Adult Community Homes, Senior Community Homes and Supported Living Services.

❸ Home-Based Services to Families

Families who have a child with a disability have unique support needs. Montana offers a variety of services to natural, adoptive and foster parents of children with disabilities to enable them to provide for their children and support their development. Services to families include Family Education and Support Services, Respite Care Services, Intensive Family Education and Support Services, and Family Child Care Choices.

❹ Other Services

The DDP provides funding for a variety of other services and supports necessary for people with disabilities to live and work in the community, including Case Management Services, Transportation Services, Evaluation and Diagnostic Services and Adaptive Equipment.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services are also available to assist people with developmental disabilities with job training and placement. Vocational Rehabilitation is a separate program within the Disability Services Division of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

transition
(tran(t)`sishən) *n.*
a passage or movement from one state, condition or phase, to another: a movement, development or evolution, especially without abruptness

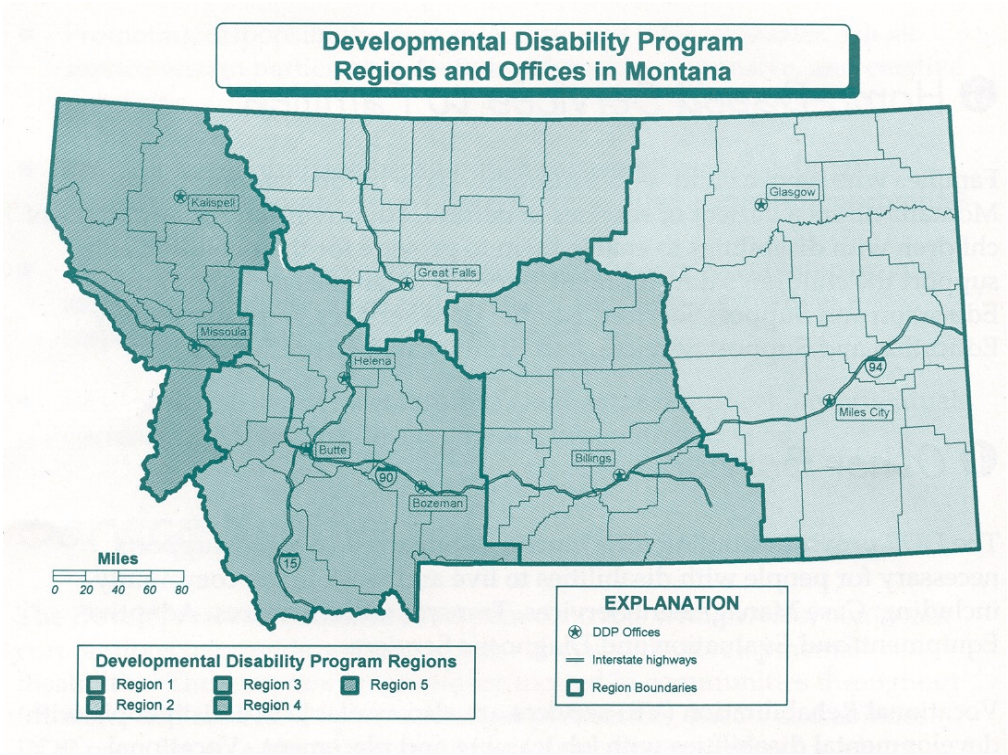
rehabilitation
(rē (h)ə´ bil ə `tā shən) *n.* the process of restoring an individual to a useful and constructive place in society through some form of vocational, correctional or therapeutic training, or through therapeutic measures and reeducation

Developmental Disabilities Service Providers

The Developmental Disabilities Program contracts with local disability service agencies in communities across Montana. These local agencies provide the hands-on services that help people with developmental disabilities reach their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity and community inclusion. The professional association of these local service providers is the Montana Association of Independent Deliverers of Services (MAIDS).

Regional Offices

In order to achieve its goals, DDP services are provided throughout five Developmental Disabilities Program service regions.



Map by Bill Innes, The Rural Institute

How to Contact the Developmental Disabilities Program

Central Office

Joe Mathews, Program Administrator
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(406) 444-2995; (406) 444-0230 Fax
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Regional Offices

Region I, Glasgow
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Region II, Great Falls
Dain Christianson, Regional Manager
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Region IV, Helena
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inclusion
(in klŌŌ ′ zhen) *n.*
having or being a part of a whole

Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities

Mission

Formerly named Montana Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council (DDPAC), Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) is dedicated to improving the independence, productivity, and integration into the community of persons with developmental disabilities. Its major purpose is to advise state agencies, local governments and private organizations involved in serving Montanans with developmental disabilities.

The Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities:

- ✔ educates the public, state agencies, service providers and legislators
- ✔ recommends legislative and state policy changes to law and policy makers
- ✔ supports the efforts of others to improve the service system
- ✔ develops the Montana State Plan for Persons with Developmental Disabilities as a guide for future services in Montana

The Council encourages and promotes change in the lives of people with developmental disabilities by advocating and planning for improved services. Improved services result in homes, jobs, skills and friendships for Montanans with developmental disabilities.

Membership

The Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities is comprised of people from throughout the state with an interest in providing the highest level of services possible to people with developmental disabilities. The members are appointed by the Governor and meet the membership composition described in P.L.106-402.

Council Grants Program

Mandated by both federal and state law and funded entirely through a federal allocation, MCDD disseminates 70% of its annual budget through its contract program. Since the Council was founded in 1971 it has awarded over $3.75 million in grants throughout the disability service system. The contract program is designed to fund new and innovative projects that will improve services to people with developmental disabilities. A least once a year the Council releases a Call for Investment (CFI). Responses to these calls must directly relate to the goals, objectives, and activities outlined in the Montana State Plan for Persons with Developmental Disabilities.

The Montana State Plan

Every five years MCDD develops a State Plan as a guide to promote systemic change and advocate for services and programs to meet the needs of Montanans with developmental disabilities. The Council has selected several areas of emphasis for the 2002-2006 State Plan for Montana's citizens with disabilities:

- ✔ employment – to obtain and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs
- ✔ education – to reach their educational potential, and for infants and young children reach their developmental potential
- ✔ quality assurance – to have the information, skills, opportunities and support to live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, violation of their human and legal rights, and the inappropriate use of restraints or seclusion
- ✔ health – to be healthy and benefit from a full range of needed health services
- ✔ transportation – to have transportation services for work, school, medical and personal needs
- ✔ formal and informal community supports – to have access to other services in the community that affect their quality of life

How to Contact MCDD

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partnership
(pärt′- nĕr ship)
n. a joint venture or interest

The University of Montana Rural Institute:
Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research, and Service

The unique qualities that characterize rural areas, for example neighborliness, collaboration and strong family values, all contribute to the inclusion of people with disabilities. Yet scarce resources, vast distances and sparse populations in rural areas can present special challenges for people with disabilities, as well as for their families and the professionals who work with them. The University of Montana Rural Institute: Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research, and Service, strives to address these circumstances in a variety of ways.

Mission

Based at The University of Montana since 1979, the Rural Institute advocates and supports full participation in community life by rural Americans of all ages. From integrated child care to supported employment, the Institute's wide range of grant-funded research, service and training projects blend innovative approaches and techniques with existing community resources.

Programs and Personnel

The Rural Institute's broad-based mission is accomplished by over eighty people and more than forty grant-funded projects in four general categories.

❶ Interdisciplinary Training

To help fill the growing demand for a greater number of well-trained disability service professionals in rural areas, the Institute offers interdisciplinary training and preparation of students for employment in leadership and direct service positions.

As a University Center for Excellence (UCE), the Rural Institute conducts projects for the purposes of training personnel to address the needs of individuals with disabilities in areas of emerging national significance. The Rural Institute started a Community Service Training Initiative in 1997. Community Service Training Initiatives provide training that enhance direct supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities, including training to community members, families, individuals with developmental disabilities, employers and community-based direct service providers.

❷ Community Services

The Rural Institute makes a direct impact on people's lives by providing technical assistance activities and community training for individuals with disabilities and their families, professionals, para-professionals, policy makers, students and volunteers. Exemplary, state-of-the-art direct service and demonstration projects focus on family and individual supports, and employment and personal assistance services. Educational, vocational, clinical, health, and prevention services are all part of the Rural Institute's complete life-cycle approach.

❸ Applied Research

Researchers within the Rural Institute address the problems unique to rural areas, and develop and validate solutions to those problems using the distinctive strengths and resources of rural communities. Research areas include vocational rehabilitation, independent living, health promotion, aging services, early intervention, school and community inclusion, self-employment, community resources and American Indian disability issues.

❹ Dissemination of Information

Rural Institute programs get the word out on research and validation of new ideas and "promising practices." Rural Institute publications contribute to the development of new knowledge in the field of disabilities and disseminate information to families, professionals and para-professionals.

How to Contact The Rural Institute

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interdisciplinary
(in tur´ dis´ ə pli ner´ ē) *adj.*
involving or joining two or more disciplines or branches of learning

The Montana Advocacy Program

Mission

The mission of the Montana Advocacy Program (MAP) is to protect and guarantee the human, legal and civil rights of all Montanans with disabilities while advancing dignity, equality and self-determination.

The Montana Advocacy Program is a nonprofit corporation that administers six Protection and Advocacy programs that advocate the rights of Montanans with disabilities. All programs are established under federal law. MAP's staff includes professional advocates and attorneys.

The Protection and Advocacy Program is not a state agency and is independent of all other agencies that provide developmental disability services. Each state receives federal funds and must have a designated Advocacy Program.

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) is a program authorized by federal law to help Montanans with developmental disabilities exercise their full rights as citizens.

The Rights of Citizens

Americans . . .

All citizens of the United States have the same rights under the Constitution:

- ✔ Right to free speech
- ✔ Right to religious preference
- ✔ Right to individual dignity
- ✔ Right to privacy
- ✔ Right to vote
- ✔ Right to due process
- ✔ Right to equal protection under the law
- ✔ Freedom from unlawful search and seizure
- ✔ Freedom from cruel and unusual punishment

Montanans . . .

Montana's Constitution says all persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights:

- ✔ Right to a clean and healthful environment
- ✔ Right to pursue life's basic necessities
- ✔ Right to enjoy and defend their lives and liberties
- ✔ Right to acquire, possess and protect property
- ✔ Right to seek safety, health, and happiness in all lawful ways

All persons must recognize their corresponding responsibilities when enjoying these rights.

People with Disabilities . . .

People with developmental disabilities are given further rights by state and federal law. Every person with a developmental disability has a right to:

- ✔ Freedom from discrimination based on a disability
- ✔ Free and appropriate public education
- ✔ Appropriate treatment, services and habilitation
- ✔ Provision of services in the most integrated setting appropriate to the individual's needs
- ✔ Individualized services

The Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights and Assistance Act

The purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights and Assistance Act is to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to culturally competent services, supports and other assistance and opportunities that promote independence, productivity and integration and inclusion into the community

advocate
(`ad və kāt) *vt.* to plead in favor or defend by argument: support or recommend publicly
n. one who argues for, defends or maintains: one who recommends a cause or proposal

Services Provided

Persons with developmental disabilities may be ignored or may be perceived as unable or unprepared to speak on their own behalf. The Protection and Advocacy Program advocates the rights of people with developmental disabilities regardless of age, race, sex, religion or other factors. The Protection and Advocacy Program has the authority to seek legal, administrative and other remedies for problems. The Protection and Advocacy Program provides one or more of the following:

- ✔ Information about basic legal and human rights
- ✔ Information and referral to appropriate services
- ✔ Representation by a professional advocate at meetings and administrative proceedings
- ✔ Training, information and publications on the rights of persons with developmental disabilities
- ✔ Support of local chapters of the Montana Citizen Advocacy Coalition
- ✔ Consultation and research by legal and professional staff
- ✔ Legal representation by a staff attorney

The Protection and Advocacy Program can provide assistance at the request of a person with a developmental disability, a family member, a social worker, an agency representative or other interested party.

Other Advocacy Services

MAP administers five other advocacy programs:

- ✔ AT – The "Assistive Technology" program provides assistance to persons with disabilities to obtain AT devices or services.
- ✔ PAIMI – The "Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness" program operates an advocacy system for persons diagnosed as having a mental illness.
- ✔ CAP – The "Client Assistance Program" identifies, explains, and resolves problems encountered with the state vocational rehabilitation system.
- ✔ PAIR – The "Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights" program assists people with disabilities who are not eligible to be served by the CAP, PADD or PAIMI programs.
- ✔ PABSS – The "Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security" program assists in protecting the legal rights of Social Security beneficiaries in their efforts to return to work.

How to contact MAP

The Montana Advocacy Program's services are available statewide. Staff members travel throughout the state to provide assistance and representation when needed.

PADD develops a plan every year identifying and prioritizing areas where advocacy representation will be provided. Even if full representation cannot be provided, information will be given. An Intake Specialist will talk with you to get an understanding of your concerns. Problems can often be resolved over the telephone. In some cases, additional help from a PADD advocacy specialist or staff attorney is required.

Montana Advocacy Program

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The University of Montana

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