

---

## Advocacy and Human Services

These organizations provide direct services, referrals, and training to low-income individuals and families. They also work with elected officials and government agencies on the behalf of social services and their recipients. See the Anti-Hunger Services section of this guide as well.



---

### **Boys and Girls Club of Missoula County (BGC)**

617 S Higgins Ave  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 542-3116  
[www.montana.com/boysandgirls/](http://www.montana.com/boysandgirls/)

The Boys and Girls Club (BGC) is a positive, safe place where kids gather after school on weekends and during the summer. The BGC offers three free after-school care programs as well as summer camp sessions for children from low-income families. The BGC also operates a center for teens ages 13-17 after school and in the evenings where teens find a community of their peers along with adult-supervised activities and skill building.

### **Child Care Resources of Missoula (CCR)**

127 E Main St  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 728-6446  
[www.childcareresources.org](http://www.childcareresources.org)

Child Care Resources of Missoula trains and assists childcare providers in child development, health, and nutrition to assure that high quality childcare is available to all children in the area. CCR is a sponsor of 150 area childcare homes through the Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP), which provides nutritional support to approximately 1700 children. CCR works with Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Missoula County Public Health, Child Care Plus (Rural Institute), Head Start and many other social service agencies.

### **District XI Human Resource Council**

1801 S Higgins Ave  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 728-3710  
[hrcxi@montana.com](mailto:hrcxi@montana.com)  
[www.hrcxi.org](http://www.hrcxi.org)

Human Resource Council is a non-profit organization working to enhance public health and welfare by networking with other organizations and individuals to provide education, training and services to those in need.

### **First Call for Help**

(406) 549-5555  
[hrcxi@montana.com](mailto:hrcxi@montana.com)  
[www.hrcxi.org](http://www.hrcxi.org)

First Call for Help is a service of the United Way and the District XI Human Resource Council that provides an immediate link between individuals seeking assistance and social services in the community. First Call for Help is open to receive calls Monday-Friday from 12 p.m.-5 p.m. First Call for Help also maintains a database online that is an up-to-date listing of non-profit community organizations, public agencies and self-help groups that provide human services in Missoula County.

### **Head Start/ Child Start Inc.**

1001 Worden St  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 728-5460  
[www.headstartmt.org/agencies/county23.htm](http://www.headstartmt.org/agencies/county23.htm)

Head Start is a child development program that serves low-income families through child-focused programs for children (birth to 5 years of age), pregnant women, and their families. Head Start maintains a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development, provides meals for the children enrolled in their programs, and offers nutrition classes for the children and parents.

---

## **Missoula City-County Health Department**

301 W Alder St  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 523-4740

Missoula City-County Health Department (MC-CHD) is an umbrella agency that offers various health and nutrition services around Missoula County, and houses programs that include Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP):

### **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

(406) 523-4740  
[www.co.missoula.mt.us/healthwic](http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/healthwic)

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition counseling, cooking classes and materials to meet individual client needs. WIC also engages in breastfeeding promotion, medical referrals, provision of nutritious foods that are high in protein, iron, vitamins, and other minerals, and a variety of consumer services including farmer's market coupons.

### **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)**

(406) 829-4208

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program targets limited-income families to improve nutrition, cooking and budgeting skills through classes and by appointment.

## **Missoula County Office of Public Assistance**

2677 Palmer St, Ste 100  
(406) 329-1200  
1-800-332-2272 (Food Stamp Hotline)

Missoula County Office of Public Assistance houses federal programs that address hunger and health issues for low-income children and families. The programs include Medicaid and the Food Stamp Program.

## **Missoula Indian Center**

Building 33 Fort Missoula Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 829-9515

Missoula Indian Center provides health, chemical dependency assistance, and human services to Native Americans living off the reservation. The services include

prevention education, awareness, and anonymous HIV counseling and testing. The Indian Center also functions as a satellite for Missoula Food Bank and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

## **Montana People's Action (MPA)**

208 E Main St  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 728-5297  
[www.mtpaction.org](http://www.mtpaction.org)

Montana People's Action is a statewide organization of low and moderate income Montanans using direct action for lasting change. MPA produces reports outlining the needs for and barriers to families having enough food. They work with decision makers to remove the barriers associated with food stamps, and educate the community about food resource availability. MPA is currently working on a campaign that focuses on the basic needs of families.

## **Working for Equality and Economic Liberation (WEEL)**

126 E Broadway Ave  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 543-2530

Working for Equality and Economic Liberation (WEEL) is a grassroots, economic and social justice organization made up of people experiencing poverty and their supporters. Through advocacy, action, and education WEEL works together to eradicate the myths, stereotypes and stigmas that are harmful to low-income families. WEEL encourages leadership and provides opportunities to use our collective voice to effect compassionate social change.

## **Women's Opportunity and Resource Development (WORD)**

N Higgins Ave  
Missoula, MT 59802

Women's Opportunity and Resource Development is a feminist organization committed to the empowerment of women through education, direct services, community outreach, the changing of public policy, and the development of affordable housing. WORD works toward their goals through the following programs: Montana Parent Information and Resource Center, the Center for Policy Analysis and Community Change, homeWORD, and Family BASICS.

---

## Anti-Hunger Services



Anti-hunger organizations work for immediate relief of hunger through provision of nutritious food to those in need. Many of the following anti-hunger organizations are also involved with long-term programs and services. These advocacy and service programs emphasize access to education, job services, and economic and nutritional training.

---

### **Bethel Baptist Church**

1601 S 6th St W  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 721-2780

Bethel Baptist Church operates a food pantry from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays for all in need. Recipients may take up to two bags of groceries, and there is no limit on pantry visits. Afternoon appointments are available.

### **Campus Ministries**

Lutheran Campus Ministry at The Ark  
538 University Ave  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 549-7821  
lcmum@bigsky.net

Campus Ministries organizes an interfaith collaborative effort on the University of Montana campus before Thanksgiving each year called Hunger Awareness Week. Hunger Awareness Week brings together campus Lutherans, Methodists, Catholics, and Latter Day Saints to raise money for the Missoula Food Bank, the Poverello Center, and Oxfam America.

### **Christian Life Center**

3801 S Russell St  
Missoula, MT 59801  
info@clc-missoula.org  
www.clc-missoula.org

The Christian Life Center food pantry is open to all in need every Monday from 5-6 p.m. Anyone interested in receiving food must go to the building and meet with

an interviewer who takes orders and gathers the food for individuals and families. Deliveries for homebound individuals are also available.

### **Clark Fork City Church**

140 S 4th St W  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 721-7804  
clarkfork@cfccmt.org

The Clark Fork City Church operates a food pantry program called City Food Ministries, which distributes food items on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Recipients are limited to two visits per month.

### **First Christian Church**

2701 S Russell St  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 549-7221  
fccmissoula@hotmail.com

First Christian Church's food pantry provides groceries to anyone who requests them every Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### **Garden City Harvest**

103 Hickory St. or  
PO Box 205  
Missoula, MT 59806  
(406) 523-FOOD  
help@gardencityharvest.org  
www.gardencityharvest.org

See Sustainable Agriculture and Gardening section for description.

---

### **Missoula 3:16**

506 Toole St  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 549-4673

Missoula 3:16 is a rescue mission that serves breakfast and lunch daily and dinner on Saturdays to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Missoula 3:16 also provides free clothing, and has a food bank that serves 3,000 people per month. Plans are in the works to start a housing program for homeless where they will receive education in living skills and Bible studies.

### **Missoula Aging Services**

337 Stephens Ave  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 728-7682  
[www.missoulaagingservices.org](http://www.missoulaagingservices.org)

Missoula Aging Services runs the Senior Nutrition Program, which includes: Meals on Wheels, delivering hot meals to elderly citizens who are unable to leave their homes, and Senior Diner's Club, providing vouchers for low-income seniors to receive meals at selected Missoula restaurants. Aging Services also maintains a senior help line, Elderphone.

### **Missoula Food Bank (MFB)**

219 S 3rd St W  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 549-0543  
[www.missoulafoodbank.org](http://www.missoulafoodbank.org)

Missoula Food Bank (MFB) offers immediate relief to those experiencing hunger by providing a three-day supply of nutritious food. MFB also provides education and advocacy for individuals and families experiencing hunger to identify and alleviate the causes of their hunger. Other programs run by MFB include: Food Circle, Kids Café, and ROOTS. Food Circle rescues food that would otherwise be thrown away, from local grocers, bakeries, restaurants, and caterers to serve to clients and distribute to other feeding agencies in the county. Kids Café provides meals for low-income children during the summer. ROOTS offers monthly home deliveries for seniors and homebound individuals.

### **Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN)**

5625 Expressway  
Missoula, MT 59808  
(406) 721-3825  
[www.montanafoodbanknetwork.org](http://www.montanafoodbanknetwork.org)

The Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) works to eliminate hunger statewide through food acquisition and distribution, education and advocacy. MFBN gives resources to food banks, food pantries, rescue missions and soup kitchens throughout Montana. They fill a critical role as a central distribution facility to glean surplus foods, sort, repackage and transport large corporate donations to supplement food programs across the state with nutritious foods.

## **Food Assistance in Missoula County**

Number of individuals (unduplicated) served by the Missoula Food Bank in 2002: 10,808

Pounds of food distributed by the Seeley-Swan Food Pantry in 2002: 17,894

Number of meals served at the Poverello Center's soup kitchen in 2003: 94,200

Pounds of fresh produce donated to anti-hunger agencies from the Missoula community gardens run by Garden City Harvest in 2001: 4,753

Source: Missoula County Food Assessment

---

**Poverello Center, Inc.**

535 Ryman St  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 728-1809; emergency housing: (406) 728-8526

The Poverello Center, part of Poverello Center, Inc., is an emergency homeless shelter and soup kitchen. It provides emergency shelter, three meals per day, physical and mental healthcare (through collaborations with Partnership Health Center and Western Montana Mental Health Center, respectively), case management, referral services, a free clothing room, client services, showers, laundry facilities and a food pantry for low-income area residents.

**Joseph Residence**

2222 Rattlesnake Dr  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 549-6159

The Joseph Residence, part of Poverello Center, Inc., is transitional housing facility for homeless families. It provides emergency shelter, meals, physical and mental healthcare (through partnerships with Missoula County Health Department and Western Montana Mental Health Center, respectively), case management, referral services, free clothing, showers and laundry facilities. In addition, the Joseph Residence provides parenting classes, training in nutrition and budgeting, weekday afternoon childcare, and an after school enrichment program.

**Salvation Army**

339 W Broadway Ave  
Missoula, MT 59802  
(406) 549-0710

The Salvation Army provides services to individuals and families, including basic needs and referrals. Other services of the Salvation Army include emergency housing, rental assistance, emergency transportation, clothing, furniture, food, household items, counseling, and referrals for people who may be homeless, at risk for homelessness, or of low income.

**Seeley-Swan Community Food Bank**

PO Box 1344  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
(406) 677-5025

The Seeley-Swan Community Food Bank collects, buys and distributes food in the Seeley-Swan-Ovando communities. The food bank operates to provide households in immediate emergency situations with simple and nutritious foods and aims to improve the quantity and quality of nutritional consumption.



Photo:  
Neva Hassanein

---

# Other Components of the Missoula County Community Food Assessment

**Grow, Eat, and Know** is designed to complement the other components of the Missoula County Community Food Assessment. These include:

**Our Foodshed in Focus: Missoula County Food and Agriculture by the Numbers.** This report, released in May 2004, utilizes existing statistical data, primarily from U.S. census reports and other government sources, to describe patterns in the local food system and how these have changed over time. Seven chapters, all authored by UM students, detail relevant trends in the following areas: demographics; agricultural production; environment; food distribution; employment in farming and food-related businesses; consumption; and food security and access. Each chapter also discusses why these trends might be occurring and explains why these measures are important.

**Agricultural Viability.** This report, which will be released in the autumn of 2004, presents findings of research designed to answer the following questions: What is needed for viable and sustainable, commercial food production in and around Missoula? What are the existing assets and barriers to creating a more viable and sustainable production system? The report includes findings from data our team gathered during spring of 2004, specifically a telephone survey, in-depth interviews, and a focus group with farmers, ranchers, and market gardeners.

**Residents' Concerns about Food.** This report, also to be released in autumn of 2004, presents the findings of research designed to answer the following question: What concerns do Missoulians of various income levels have about food (including quality, access, transportation to food outlets, cost, eating behaviors and choices)? The report is based on findings from an extensive self-administered survey of a sample of County residents and from two focus groups with low-income Missoulians, all conducted by our research team during spring 2004.

