

PCOP

EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEARNING CENTER

HI-SET



ĀISSPOŌMMOŌTSIYŌ•P

Parent Community Outreach Program

BPS Early Childhood Learning Center~

The Child Care center currently has 10 children enrolled; there are (4) infants and (6) toddlers. We have an additional four on the waitlist; unfortunately, we are not able to enroll them due to our current shortage of staff. The infants have been exploring with block play, stacking cups, and developing fine motor skills through painting. The toddlers have been learning about the letters in their names, practicing drawing and cutting circles, and (spoiler alert) even planting some seeds!



The leprechaun got away again!



HI-SET & Adult Basic Education~report submitted by Jerelyn Gobert, HiSET tutor and GRG/Kinship point of contact

HiSET

- 17 Registered
 - 12 Active
 - 4 In House
 - 5 Have IPads
 - 3 Working on Personal Computers
- 4 Currently testing @ BCC

GRG/Kinship (a program within āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p)

167 Kinship Families
516 Kinship Children (In School)

I sent out 162 letters to families to get them registered with Montana Kinship Program. I sent out letters for Parenting classes being held in May for guardians raising children ages 0-4. We have IPads available for these classes but the guardian must have their own internet. There will also be incentives upon completion.

***211 needs to be updated for Browning, I am in contact with Jennifer McMillan to update. 211 Montana is a resource directory of services: <https://montana211.org/about.php>

AMS (Aging Mastery Services)

This program is through MSU Missoula. I have went through the facilitator training and am currently trying to recruit our elderly to get online and join this program.

āisspoōmmoōtsiyyō•p ~report submitted by Nikki Hannon

**McKinney Vento Data update:
We have currently identified #300 students as experiencing
homelessness.**

School-based Clothing Closets



Before Robin worked her magic



After Robin worked her magic

Robin continues to sort through our last donation from the Heart Locker. We are also receiving more donations from the community now that people are spring cleaning and getting out and about. We may need to start declining donations now that each school-based site is completely stocked. We have no storage space in the clothing closets and have found they are much more user-friendly when they resemble a “store” rather than a storage room.

Our PCOP-based Clothing “Closet” is now officially a Prom pop-up boutique. We have a HUGE selection of absolutely stunning dresses. Students in need are welcome to stop by between 8 AM-11 AM and 2 PM- 5 PM to select a dress.



We hope to have donations of jewelry and corsages/boutonnieres to go along with the dresses. We will also accept prom shoes; however, in recent years it seems the gals prefer to wear a comfortable shoe, such as Vans or Converse, rather than a heel.

The PCOP-based diaper pantry and baby clothes closet are still available as a resource to teen parents. As long as we continue to find grants and have the inventory, we will continue to offer this service.



Diaper Pantry



Baby Clothing Closet



PCOP-based Food Pantry

School-based Food Pantry

Due to a lack of space, we have eliminated the larger-scale PCOP-based food pantry. We will continue to have food items and hygiene items available to unaccompanied homeless youth. Families in need of food are referred to the Oyop Food Pantry, as well as the other school-based food pantries depending on where their student(s) attend school. We also make sure these families have been referred to the Montana Food Bank Network weekend backpack meals that are available to all students in grades PreK-5th.

BPS YHDP

#33* *unaccompanied homeless youth*

March has really been a month of rallying a Community of Support for our students experiencing homelessness. We have not been successful in finding insurance for the host home portion of our YHDP grant so we are looking at all potential community partners to meet this housing need.

We first met with the Blackfeet Housing Board to share our program and emphasize to the board that we are lacking housing options for our teen parents experiencing homelessness. The director of housing intended on seeing whether or not they had a couple of units that would meet this need.

We also presented to the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council (BTBC) to provide an update on the programs, and again to emphasize the need for housing in general. The Blackfeet Youth Transitional home is still in the works to serve students experiencing homelessness, although this would not accommodate our teen parents and their children. We also emphasized to the BTBC that there is a growing number of students in kinship care and the majority of them are being raised by grandparents.

We continue to collaborate with the Medicine Bear Shelter, although the majority of students are not old enough to stay there, and the ones who are old enough (over 18) are not interested. Regardless, we keep the relationship going and are very grateful when the shelter accepts our adult clothing donations.

We also continue to network with the Blackfeet Boarding Dorm, which includes making referrals for students to attend and providing clothing donations as needed. We are also pursuing what it would take to have the dorm opened back up to descendants, which would alleviate the burden on grandparents significantly.

**This number is included in the #300 posted above.*

Foster Care

We are hoping that Blackfeet Family Services will soon be hosting their Child Protection Team (CPT) meetings again to allow us consistent and open communication with all of their case managers. We understand that they are short-staffed as well and continue to collaborate when and where we are able.

Soles4Souls is partnering with us on the 4EveryKid shoe program!



We will be receiving a donation in April of #250 shoes and #500 socks. Once we have an inventory sheet of sizes being shipped, we will be able to start selecting students to receive the shoes. We will coordinate with teachers on student selection, however, priority will be given to students in foster care, those experiencing homelessness, those in kinship care, and our teen parents. We estimate this number to be close to #1000 students.