

The Honorable Steve Daines
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Sheehy
124 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Troy Downing
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines, Senator Sheehy, Representative Zinke, and Representative Downing

We, the undersigned Montana nonprofit organizations, urge you to protect the stability and timeliness of federal funding impacting local programs, services, and communities. Nonprofits are critical partners to government, delivering services to Montanans across the state. Recent and repeated disruptions to federal funding are making it increasingly difficult for local organizations to do that work effectively – whether they receive federal funding or not – and the consequences are being felt by the people and communities we serve.

Collectively, Montana's nonprofits employ more than 11% of the state's workforce, driving local economies and building vibrant communities. More than 9,800 charitable nonprofits operate in Montana, including both wage-paying employers and all-volunteer community organizations. Nonprofits provide food assistance, veterans' services, housing and homelessness services, healthcare, childcare, economic development, support for seniors and people with disabilities, domestic violence services, and animal rescue. Nonprofits also enrich our lives by providing access to recreation, open lands, education, theaters, museums, music, and so much more. In all these ways, nonprofits help keep Montana's entire workforce healthy and supported.

Often, this work is carried out in partnership with the federal government through direct grants and contracts, as subrecipients of state or local pass-through funding, or through close working relationships with organizations and programs that use federal dollars.

When this funding is delayed, conditions change abruptly, requirements become overly burdensome, or funding is otherwise thrown into uncertainty, it is a direct threat to nonprofits' ability to carry out our work – and it is Montana communities that ultimately bear the cost.

Over the past 18 months, Montana nonprofits have faced unprecedented funding disruptions from nearly every funding agency. Many of these organizations have contacted members of Congress and federal agencies to seek answers, timeline updates, and clarification about the funding issues. Despite their efforts, funding remains delayed, notices for new funding opportunities are still postponed, and congressionally appropriated funding is not reaching

Montana communities. **Currently, there are efforts to introduce even greater uncertainty into the federal funding process through proposed changes to the Uniform Guidance.**

Funding delays and disruptions carry real operational costs. Nonprofits employ more than 60,000 Montanans and pay nearly 13% of all wages in Montana. Late funding awards, abrupt changes, and shifting federal guidance create constant uncertainty and unreliable cash flow, making it difficult to recruit and retain staff and sustain long-term programs. Smaller and rural organizations have the least capacity to absorb this uncertainty, risking closures and loss of services in rural areas.

As such, we respectfully ask you to:

1. Work with your colleagues in Congress to increase pressure on federal agencies to honor existing grant agreements, contracts, and obligations and provide clear, consistent, and timely guidance when funding decisions are made;
2. Include robust, government-wide guardrails in FY27 Appropriation bills to prevent federal agencies from disregarding the law and Congressional intent;
3. Provide advance notice and reasonable transition periods when funding levels or program requirements change, so organizations can plan responsibly rather than react in crisis; and
4. Engage directly with Montana's nonprofit sector as you consider funding and policy decisions that affect our ability to serve our communities.

Montana nonprofits show up every day for our state and communities. We are doing meaningful, on-the-ground work, driven by accountable, transparent local leaders. **We ask the federal government to be a reliable partner in that work by ensuring that federal funding is timely, predictable, and honored.**

Thank you,

Montana Nonprofit Association

(List of signers)