



## **Child Ready Montana**

### **Contacts:**

Kassie Runsabove  
Program Manager  
Cultural Liaison  
(406) 238-6216

Kassie.Runsabove@sclhs.net

Kristi Conroy  
Program Assistant  
(406) 238-6215

Kristi.Conroy@sclhs.net

Robin Suzor  
EMSC Program  
Manager  
(406) 444-0901

rsuzor@mt.gov

**Mission:** The mission of Montana's Child Ready project is to implement a performance driven system of healthcare for pediatrics in Montana ensuring that children, no matter where they live, have access to the right care at the right time.

**Vision:** Through analysis of existing services, partnership among key collaborators and adoption of cooperative comprehensive practices, *Child Ready Montana* will implement a replicable regionalized system of healthcare for pediatrics in Montana.

### **Strategic Priorities**

**Collaboration:** Facilitate collaborative activities to ensure all stakeholders and populations of focus are engaged in the *Child Ready Montana* project.

**Assess existing care services** and identify gaps and challenges to high performance healthcare for pediatric patients.

**Examine capabilities of each component** of a pediatric system of care and implement activities to optimize the performance of each component.

**Develop and implement processes** to manage and treat acutely ill and severely injured children in focus populations.

**Data & Evaluation:** Facilitate access to and retrieval of data that supports performance driven pediatric care.

**Sustainability:** Establish and solidify Child Ready Montana program execution and sustainability.



## Assessments

Assessments are being conducted at each Critical Access Facility in Montana. Assessments include a written assessment of procedures, equipment, cultural barriers and certifications of the staff. It also includes a mock code simulation interaction with a Pediatric Intensivist via Telehealth. Critical Access Facility staff are encouraged to attend along with EMS crews.

Simulations with infant and child simulators last approximately 20-30 minutes. The Pediatric Intensivist is online to assist the staff and to help educate on pediatric care. The codes have opened doors to allow the Pediatric Intensivist to see how rural communities manage with limited access, equipment, and medications. The mock codes are not intended to evaluate the capabilities of the medical staff, but to assess the processes of the facilities while treating ill or injured children.



*Ft. Belknap Indian Health Service Unit,  
Mock code*



*Dr. Richard Salerno conducting a Pediatric  
Mock Code*

**Child Ready Montana** is a State Partnership Regionalization of Care Grant (SPROC) funded by the Federal Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA.) Montana is one of 6 states in the nation to be awarded this grant. This grant is a collaborative with the Montana Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) and St. Vincent Healthcare.

**Emergency Medical Services for Children** The EMS for Children's program helps to ensure that all children, no matter where they live, receive the best possible care. The EMSC's goal is to ensure that emergency personnel are properly trained in pediatrics; that ambulances and emergency departments have the equipment, supplies, and medications needed to treat children of all sizes; and that well-defined pediatric treatment protocols and procedures are in place. For more information see: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/ems/emsc/emschome.shtml>.

