

WHAT IS THE OAK TREE PROJECT?

in 2021, the state ended their legislative session with a little over one billion dollars in American Rescue Plan funds. Additionally, the state ended the fiscal year with a generous general fund balance. Typically, the general fund balance is around 300 million dollars, and in 2022, the balance was nearly 2 billion dollars. Montana Women Vote, in partnership with Montana Budget and Policy Center saw an opportunity to invest this historic amount of money back into Montana communities, and thus the Oak Tree Project was born.







HB 249 Representative Ed Stafman

This bill would have created a fully refundable tax which would have provided a credit for families with children older than 5. In addition, the credit could be claimed even if the claimant had no taxable income.

HB 268 Representative Josh Kassmier

This bill would have created a credit for children 5 or younger, required proof of earned income, and a valid social security number for each child claimed.



2024

Prepare for the upcoming legislative session by collecting stories about the impact of programs like Medicaid, Best Beginnings, and the Earned Income Tax Credit.



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2025

Invest in the programs that help working Montanans and their families most. In addition to fortifying social safety net programs, creating tax fairness through a circuit breaker for property taxes, and limit the number of one time tax refunds that do little most Montana families.

OPPORTUNITIES IN 2025

Expand Best Beginnings

Make HB 648's changes permanent and continue to expand eligibility so that more working families have access to affordable childcare.



the Medicaid Sunset

Make Medicaid Expansion permanent, and protect the substantial impact the program has had for both communities and individuals.

Invest in Montana Families

Dedicate surplus funds to tax credits like a child tax credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, or a property tax circuit breaker.



going, or where there is

room for improvement.

that your values are

represented by voting

in November.

policy. Help them submit

their story to a committee

or testify!

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