

Number of Participants

HELP-Link enrollment continues to grow:

- Over **12,100** people completed HELP-Link surveys;
- Over **24,500** people enrolled through the Montana HELP Plan have received employment services through the Department of Labor & Industry;
- Since the launch of HELP-Link, over **2,900** people have received intensive, one-on-one employment training services through the program.

Employment Outcomes

HELP-Link is putting Montanans to work with higher wages for participants:

- **91%** of HELP-Link participants who completed their training are employed;
- **78%** of HELP-Link participants who were unemployed during 2016 found employment after completing the program;
- Roughly **39%** of HELP-Link participants who completed the program in 2016 experienced wage growth. The average wage increase was **\$4,980** from 2015 to 2016;
- **51%** of HELP-Link participants had higher wages after completing the program. The average wage increase was **\$1,470** over-the-year in **2016**;
- During 2016, **72%** of employed participants who did not need extensive services had higher wages after completing their HELP-Link program, by an average increase of 2017
- **\$1,680**.

Training Outcomes

HELP-Link continues to expand Montana's labor force with trained workers:

- The most common occupations pursued by HELP-Link participants are:
 - Registered Nurses
 - Nursing Assistants
 - Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
 - Medical Record and Health Information Technicians
- Registered nurses earn a median wage of roughly **\$60,000** in Montana, which would likely be enough to lift a family of five out of poverty and above the Medicaid expansion eligibility threshold.
- The remaining occupations listed have median wages between **\$25,000** per year and **\$43,000** per year, which likely would be enough to individuals and small families of two people above the Medicaid expansion eligibility threshold.

Participant counts reported as of 5/31/18. Employment and training outcomes reported as of 7/07/17.

*This memo **does not** include data for Montana HELP plan participants who have been trained through DPHHS programs.*