



MFEC
Montana Financial
Education Coalition

mtmfec.org

2018 Annual Report

Year at a Glance

Elder Fraud and Exploitation Prevention Network Convening

The MFEC and the CFPB's Office of Older Americans hosted an [elder financial protection network convening](#) which brought together 29 individuals representing 18 organizations across Big Sky Country. Chief among the discussion topics were the need for further resource sharing, improving interagency referrals, educating each other, and finding the right people to engage in the development of the network going forward.

MFEC Conference

The MFEC held its [biennial conference](#) titled *Financial Education Matters* in Bozeman on April 3, 2018. The morning session was highlighted by a keynote presentation by National Endowment for Financial Education President and CEO Billy Hensley while afternoon included six break-out sessions targeting programs for youth, adults, and seniors.

National Jump\$tart Coalition Leaders Meeting

MFEC President Chris Romano attended the National Jump\$tart Conference in Washington, D.C. There were 35 coalitions in attendance which was an all-time high for this event. It was here that National Jump\$tart announced its [Project Groundswell](#) initiative to increase financial education in our nation's classrooms 25 percent by the end of 2025.

Personal Finance Challenge

The MFEC participated as a sponsor in the [1st Annual Montana Personal Finance Challenge](#). The state competition was hosted by the Federal Reserve Branch Bank on April 16th. MFEC sponsorship helped send the winning team from Hellgate High School to the national competition in Lincoln, Nebraska.

National Jump\$tart Educator Conference

MFEC scholarships enabled Nicole Bogunovich, (Billings West High School), Beth Schule (Kalispell Middle School), and Jody Sandru, (Twin Bridges High School) to attend the [National Jump\\$tart Educator Conference](#).

MFEC Mini Grants

The MFEC awarded five [mini grants](#) totaling \$3,750 to participants at its biennial state-wide conference. In 2018, the MFEC Board also approved an expansion of this program which will result in mini-grants being awarded annually.

Mission: The Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC) strives to improve the personal financial knowledge and decision-making ability of Montana citizens by promoting public awareness of the need for personal financial education, providing a platform for promoting the agenda of Montana financial education providers and building the capacity of their programs.

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The Board of the Montana Financial Education Coalition offers this report of its initiatives and accomplishments in 2018.

Nothing would be accomplished without the statewide network of partners dedicated to advancing financial education across Montana.

THANK YOU!

MFEC Mini Grants

Mini grants fund projects which represent a broad range of demographics and reach a variety of areas in Montana. They fund ongoing projects in need of a small boost to meet their funding needs, as well as small-scale pilot projects, for which funding can be hard to secure.

Montana Family, Career and Community Leaders of America - Bozeman

The FCCLA allocated its grant to nine teachers that attended their annual fall Leadership Rally. These teachers received funding to help implement a Financial Fitness project that reached 350 middle and high school students.

MSU Extension - Lewis and Clark County - Helena

This grant funded two projects: Money Habitudes and Solid Finances, with the potential to reach up to 80 low-income residents. Money Habitudes allowed participants to explore their spending habits and move in the direction of improving their financial behaviors. Solid Finances offered "Cool Your Spending: Financial Education Webinar Series" at libraries over the noon hour during the summer.

MSU Extension - Richland County - Sidney

The grant funded a one-day estate planning workshop that helped residents address financial and family issues surrounding estate planning. The workshop reached about 20 Richland County residents.

Montana Youth Homes - Helena

This grant provided basic budgeting skills and other financial life-skills to eight residents of Montana Youth Homes. The training provided practical financial skills the residents can use to help them live independently when they leave the youth home.

Park City School District 5 - Laurel

Park City School offered a Personal Finance Presentation Day for 26 senior class students. The presentation consisted of eight speakers and focused on personal financial topics for students preparing to leave home. One presentation was held in the evening and was open to the public.

National Jump\$tart Coalition Launches Program to Increase Financial Education in Schools

The [Jump\\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy](#)

(Jump\$tart) has set a new goal to increase financial education in our nation's classrooms 25 percent by the end of 2025. This exciting new initiative dubbed

"[Project Groundswell](#)" plans to enlist the help of parents, family members, educators, volunteers and Jump\$tart's nationwide network of state affiliates. The focus of Project Groundswell is on getting financial education into more classrooms, regardless of state or local mandates, and at all levels, beginning in elementary school.

Jump\$tart has created a virtual toolkit at [CheckYourSchool.org](#) for those who want to take part in the effort, including links to research that will help make the case for financial education in schools. Jump\$tart's online clearinghouse will help schools new to financial education find vetted resources from hundreds of providers, as well as the National Standards in K-12 Personal Finance Education and professional development opportunities for classroom teachers.

