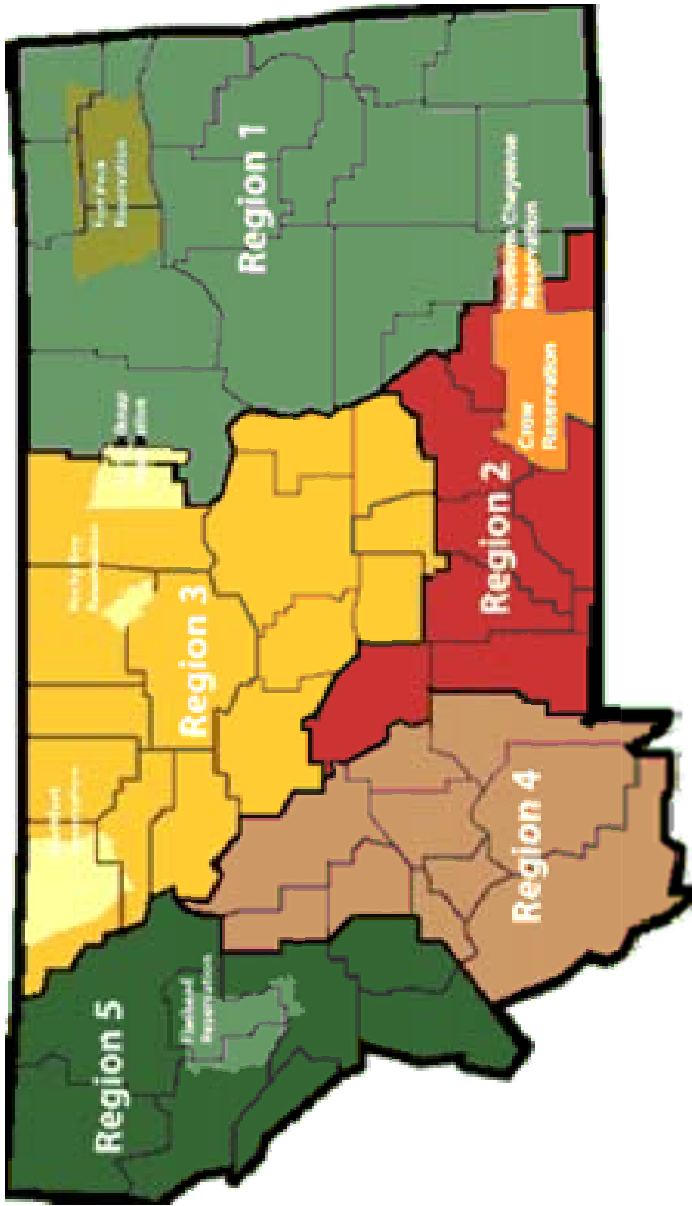


Map of MCADSV Regions



*Montana
Coalition
Against
Domestic &
Sexual
Violence*



*Membership
Packet*

Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence History

Incorporated in 1986, the Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (MCADSV) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations working together to end domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, public education, public policy, and program development. Our mission is to support and facilitate networking among member programs while advocating for social and systems change to eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Montana.

Violence against women is widespread in the United States, and Montana is no exception. The physical violence that we are subjected to takes many shapes – for example: murder, rape, battering, sexual harassment and pornography. Less obvious, yet just as insidious, are the attitudes and values that not only tolerate violence against women, but also create and reproduce it.

This violence, we believe, is firmly rooted in our society's belief in the supremacy of men over women. That belief persists in a complex series of institutional and social arrangements that continue to define and treat women as subordinate to men.

We base our actions and interactions on the following basic tenets found on page 3; we advocate for policy that supports and/or forwards them; and we work to increase public awareness on issues related to them.



Why Join Montana Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence?

- Access to numerous free training opportunities throughout the year provided by MCADSV.
- Access to our annual conference.
- Access to the numerous resources in MCADSV's library.
- Networking opportunities with other programs at MCADSV's membership meetings throughout the state.
- Participate in local regional meetings.
- Policy updates that affect domestic violence and sexual assault service providers.
- Access to Technical Assistance

Montana Coalition members usually gather three times each year for two days that include training (on topics suggested by members) along with a membership meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to share ideas and resources with fellow members and determine the Coalition's work agenda in addition to gaining knowledge and tools that can help your work.

Members are encouraged to participate in the organization's Task Forces and Regions.

Currently, the Coalition's Task Forces are:

- Children's Issues
- Rural Concerns
- Sexual Violence
- Women of Color
- Lesbian/Bi/Gay/Transgender
- Battered and Formerly Battered

Voting Rights: (According to MCADSV's By-Laws)

Active Organizational members will designate one (1) individual to represent the voice of their organization.

That designated individual shall maintain the same privileges and responsibilities of an individual active member.

All other members of the organization may join the Coalition as individual members to accrue the privileges of membership.

- Active Individual Membership Affiliated with a Dues Paying Program will have one (1) voice to represent themselves.
- Active Individual Membership Not Affiliated with a Dues Paying Program will have one (1) voice to represent themselves.
- Sustaining Organizational/Individual Members do not actively participate in operations of the Coalition and have no voice in decision making.



Basic Tenets & Goals

We believe all women have the right to live a life free of violence or the threat of violence. Women have the right to freedom from violations of their personal autonomy and physical integrity on the street, in the home, at the workplace, and in the Coalition. Furthermore, women should not have to restrict their freedom of movement, their bodies or their activities in order to be safe.

We believe all women have the right to make their own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive matters, lifestyles, finances, education and employment.

We believe religious beliefs and practices are a matter of personal conscience and individual choice, and a Montana Coalition member shall neither promote nor discourage a particular religious belief in the course of his or her work.

We believe classism, racism, ableism, ageism, homophobia (and all forms of elitism) are attitudes that serve to divide people who might otherwise join forces. As such, they interfere with women's ability to pool their efforts and reach their full potential. Our membership is open to people of all backgrounds. Furthermore, survivors of violence represent an essential constituency in our movement, and the Montana Coalition strongly encourages full participation by and equity for survivors.

In light of the above, the Montana Coalition has established the following goals:

To eliminate all forms of oppression – for example, ageism, anti-Semitism, classism, violence against women, homophobia, racism and sexism – within the Coalition and in our members' crisis centers and other programs. Also, the Coalition is committed to speaking out about the connections between domestic and sexual violence and other forms of oppression.

To provide support and networking opportunities, and training for organizations and community groups that provide domestic and sexual violence intervention/prevention services on the state, regional, and national levels.

To encourage increased awareness and understanding of domestic and sexual violence and the concerns of survivors and to explore and support innovative policy approaches to issues related to domestic and sexual violence.

Active Membership:

Active MCADSV Members are actively involved in the operations of the Coalition as defined in the membership policies and are entitled to a voice in decision-making and to hold office in the Coalition.

The following is a list of the benefits of being an Active Member:

- Have a voice/vote in the decision making process.
- May hold office on the MCADSV Board of Directors.
- May coordinate or participate in a Task Force.
- Technical assistance packets sent quarterly.
- Access to MCADSV trainings and conferences.
- Network with other programs at MCADSV's membership meetings throughout the state.
- Participate in local regional meetings.

MCADSV has 3 types of Active Membership to choose from:

1. Active Organizational Member: \$50.00

- Open to domestic and sexual violence programs, victim witness programs, other nonprofit or public organizations with an interest in addressing domestic or sexual violence.

2. Active Individual Member Affiliated with a Dues Paying Program: \$15.00

- Open to staff, volunteers, board members of domestic and sexual violence programs, victim witness programs, other nonprofit or public organizations with an interest in addressing domestic or sexual violence.

3. Active Individual Member Not Affiliated with a Dues Paying Program: \$25.00

- Open to any individual with an interest in addressing domestic or sexual violence.

Sustaining Membership:

Sustaining MCADSV Members are not actively involved in the operations of the Coalition, and have no voice in decision-making.

The following is a list of the benefits of being a Sustaining Member:

- Technical assistance packets sent every month.
- Access to MCADSV trainings and conferences.
- Network with other programs at MCADSV's membership meetings throughout the state.
- Participate in local regional meetings.

MCADSV has 2 types of Sustaining Membership to choose from:

1. Sustaining Organizational Member: \$20.00

- Open to any organization with an interest in addressing domestic or sexual violence.

2. Sustaining Individual Member: \$20.00

- Open to any individual with an interest in addressing domestic or sexual violence.

