



# Montana Early Care Initiative

*Strategic Investments for Early Childhood Development*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Additional Information:

Mike Schechtman <> 406/443-5860

### **Big Sky Institute Releases Report on Philanthropy and Early Childhood Development**

November 14, 2012 <> Billings, Montana -- Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits (BSI) has released its study on Montana foundations and their interest and experience in grantmaking in early childhood development. The report, *Opening the Window of Opportunity: A Report on the Montana Early Care and Education Survey of Funders* is based on a first-ever survey of 190 Montana and regional foundations' work and interest in early childhood development. "Our research findings demonstrated far greater experience and interest in grantmaking to early childhood development by Montana foundations than leaders in the field previously thought was the case," stated BSI's William Pratt, the report's author. Pratt added "BSI is sharing its report with the Montana philanthropic community as part of a larger statewide effort to encourage more Montana foundations to invest in early childhood development."

"Like financing for K-12 education," said Mike Schechtman, BSI's Executive Director, "government funding plays a very substantial and critical role in supporting early childhood services. BSI is calling upon Montana's new governor, and all the legislators who will convene in January for the 63rd Montana Legislature, to be champions of support for early childhood services. At a time when many are working together to encourage philanthropy to play a stronger role in early childhood, reduction of government funding could have a chilling effect."

"The report is being released in conjunction with a Funders Briefing on philanthropy's changing role in the early childhood development field being held in Billings today, sponsored by the Billings Community Foundation in partnership with BSI," noted Pratt. "The seminar is the first of a series to be conducted across Montana in response to the findings that experienced funders are willing to share their knowledge, and many funders want to learn more about this vitally important topic," added Pratt. [Click Here](#) for a copy of the full report.

Founded in 1999, BSI strengthens the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors in Montana and other Philanthropic Divide states nearby. BSI creates and shares knowledge about nonprofit and philanthropic capacity building in rural states and regions through pioneering research and documentation of our successful programs. We collaborate with nonprofits, public agencies and family, corporate and community foundations to communicate the importance of investing in the development of core infrastructure that supports organizational and network capacity building and expands philanthropic resources.

#####

Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits <> P.O. Box 1514 <> Helena, MT 59624