



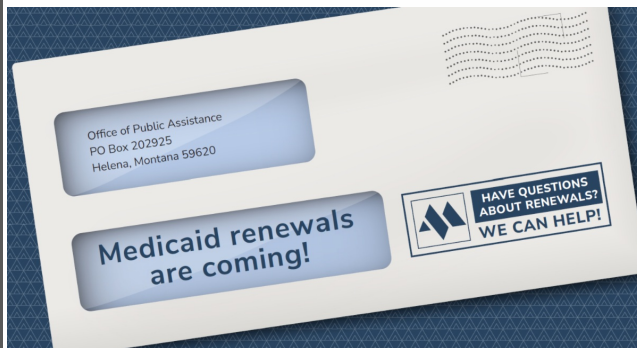
**Hello! We still have snow on the ground in most of Montana, but it is time for the Spring Edition of the Montana Legal Services Association's Client Newsletter!**

**This letter was created with you in mind.**

Every few months MLSA will send information that may be relevant to you and your families via email. You are receiving this newsletter because you asked to be added to MLSA's newsletter list. You can unsubscribe at anytime.

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## Medicaid Changes



- The Medicaid redetermination process is impacting nearly 320,000 Montanans.
- Montana Public Radio published a helpful article titled [What You Need To Know About Medicaid Eligibility and Redetermination](#). MLSA's Deputy Director, Megan Dishong, was interviewed for the article.

If you are enrolled in Medicaid or HMK, it is important that you make sure your contact information is updated with the Office of Public Assistance. You can update your contact information several ways:

- Online at [apply.mt.gov](http://apply.mt.gov);
- By calling the public assistance helpline at 1-888-706-1535;
- Visiting your local office of public assistance; or
- Find local, in-person assistance at [covermt.org](http://covermt.org).

MLSA may be able to assist with appeals questions and the administrative appeals process. More information on applying for services below.

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# The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

Did you know that MLSA is a part of HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)? The YHDP provides support and resources for youth and young adults, 16-24 year olds, who are housing unstable.

For more information on MLSA's youth program, check out [MontanaLawHelp.org](http://MontanaLawHelp.org)

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## MLSA's Tribal Advocates Incubator Program (TAIP)

**The next session of the TAIP is starting in May! Become a Tribal Lay Advocate for tribal members in Montana.**

The TAIP seeks to partner with Tribal Courts in Montana to recruit, train, mentor, and support Tribal Lay Advocates (non-attorneys). Tribal Lay Advocates can represent tribal members in Tribal Court. They can help with common civil legal issues, including divorce and custody, landlord-tenant disputes, wills and probate, real estate and land issues.

When speaking with the Missoulian, one TAIP student said, "For anyone planning to advocate for their community, this is a must-take program," she said. "Without it, you're not able to be anywhere near as effective."

Read the article in the Missoulian here: [New Course Makes Legal Help More Accessible to Tribal Members.](#)

**To learn more or connect with the TAIP Coordinator, Valerie Falls Down, check out the Missoulian article above.**

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## HUD Protections for Domestic Violence Survivors

Applicants and tenants of certain HUD rental assistance programs may **not** be denied housing, evicted, or have their housing assistance terminated because they have experienced:

**Domestic or Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking.**

Additionally, survivors are able to ask for an emergency housing transfer for safety reasons. These protections fall under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

HUD has a new VAWA webpage that features FAQs on housing protections. It also has forms and resources for survivors. You can check it out at [hud.gov/vawa](http://hud.gov/vawa).

Want to see more information like this? We share helpful tips and information on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Make sure to follow us!

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# La Justicia Vive Aquí

¿Sabía que proveemos ayuda legal gratuita a los trabajadores agropecuarios? MLSA tiene personal y abogados que hablan en Español y quienes se especializan en proveer ayuda legal gratis para personas que trabajan en granjas, ranchos, colmenas de abejas, viveros, bosques y/o que procesan o transportan productos agrícolas.

Ayudamos a clientes con asuntos de empleo, deuda de salarios, condiciones de trabajo, vivienda, asistencia pública, y más. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce quisiera aplicar para obtener nuestros servicios en Español, llame al 406-442-9830 ext. 123 o llame o envíe mensaje de texto por WhatsApp al 406-438-1027.

MLSA reconoce la importancia de las contribuciones de los trabajadores agropecuarios en nuestro gran estado. ¡Gracias trabajadores agropecuarios!

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Did you know we provide free legal help to farmworkers? MLSA has Spanish speaking staff and attorneys who specialize in providing free civil legal help for people who work in farming, ranching, apiaries (with bees), nurseries, forestry, and/or processing or transporting agricultural products.

We help clients with employment, unpaid and low wages, working conditions, housing, benefits, and more. If you or someone you know would like to apply for services in Spanish, call 406-442-9830 ext 123 or call/text our WhatsApp at 406-438-1027.

MLSA recognizes the important contributions of farmworkers in our great state. Thank you farmworkers!

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## Eviction Assistance Updates

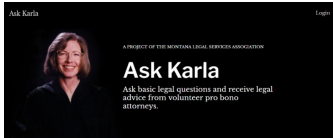
- As of Friday, March 24, 2023, the Montana Department of Commerce is no longer accepting applications for the Montana Emergency Rental Assistance Program (MERA).
  - The Montana Eviction Intervention Program (MEIP) is still providing free resources for tenants facing eviction. Folks can apply at [www.mtlsa.org](http://www.mtlsa.org) or call our HelpLine at 1-800-666-6899. HelpLine calls are answered Tuesday - Thursday 9am to 1pm. If applicants are not able to reach us by phone, we encourage them to apply online or try us again during operating hours.
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## Check Out Our Websites!



[MontanaLawHelp.org](http://MontanaLawHelp.org) - here you can find free legal information, forms, and other resources. We are excited to share that we are revamping our Montana

Law Help site and it will launch this summer! All information, forms, and links will remain the same, but the new site will be more user friendly to ensure all Montanans can access free legal information.



[AskKarla.org](http://AskKarla.org) - on this website, Montanans who meet the financial requirements can ask a volunteer attorney a civil legal question and receive an answer through email.



[MTCrimeVictimHelp.org](http://MTCrimeVictimHelp.org) - this is where crime victims and their advocates and supporters can access free resources. The website also has a Live Chat option in the bottom right hand corner where you can ask a MLSA advocate for help finding the information you need.



[MontanaDebtOptions.org](http://MontanaDebtOptions.org) - the Montana Debt Options Tool helps Montanans know their rights when dealing with consumer debt.



[Mtlsa.org](http://Mtlsa.org) - folks can go here to apply to services, learn about our work, catch up on news, and donate to support free legal information for all Montanans



[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mlsa) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/mlsa). Make sure to follow us for up to date information about what we are up to and important news for our community!

## How to Apply to MLSA

MLSA provides legal information, advice, and legal representation free of charge to low income Montanans with civil legal needs. Some examples of what we help with include:

- Housing Rights;
- Public Benefits;
- Money Problems;
- Domestic Violence; and more.

The best way to find out if we can help is to apply:

- Go to [www.mtlsa.org](http://www.mtlsa.org) and click the blue "Apply Here" button. The online application is available 24/7; or
- Call the HelpLine at 1 (800) 666-6899, Tuesday through Thursday, 9am to 1pm. If you are not able to reach a representative by phone, you can apply online or try us again during operating hours. Please note that helpline hours are limited.
- If you have a deadline, please make sure note it in your application.

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## What to Do While You Wait

We do our best to process applications as quickly as possible, but we have been experiencing a very high application volume recently. While you wait for MLSA to process your application, there are things you can do to help yourself:

- Visit [MontanaLawHelp.org](https://montanalawhelp.org) for free legal forms and information.
- Visit [MTCrimeVictimHelp.org](https://mtcrimevictimhelp.org) for free resources for crime victims and their advocates.
- Contact the [nearest Self Help Law Center](#) for free help with legal forms and information. Please call ahead to find out how the centers can help over the phone.

If you have not heard back from us in 3 to 5 business days, you are welcome to call our HelpLine to check the status of your application at 1-800-666-6899. Staff are available to answer the phone Tuesday through Thursday, 9am to 1pm.

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### Montana Legal Services Association

#### Funding provided in part by:



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