

Why EmpowerMT



Mission

EmpowerMT creates a more just and inclusive society by developing youth and adult leaders who work to end mistreatment, correct systemic inequalities and strengthen communities across Montana.

Vision

EmpowerMT envisions a Montana where each person is respected, where differences are understood, where youth, institutions, and communities share a commitment to correct injustices, and where all people have the opportunity to thrive without the risk of violence or oppression.



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Developing Leaders



Strengthening Communities



Ending Mistreatment



Youth & Schools



EmpowerMT provides tailored peer-led violence prevention and anti-bullying workshops for students and professional development for school staff. Our evidence-informed workshop model serve as a Montana Behavioral Initiative Tier 1 and 2 interventions. These workshops strive to enhance schools into learning environments where students are valued for their unique selves, have the skills and confidence to be allies to one another, are seen and valued as leaders by peer and educators, and every student has the opportunity to achieve academic success.

Afterschool Programs

It is our belief that every young person deserves a safe and welcoming environment. Our afterschool programs seek to break isolation and build allies across group lines, understand the causes of oppression, strengthen connection to school through mentorships, and increase skills and confidence in diffusing conflict.

Our school based programs are **Empowering People Inspiring Change (EPIC)** and **Boys Respecting all Diversity (B-RAD)**. Both of these leadership development programs utilize best practices, guest speakers, and cutting edge curriculum to explore topics of inequalities and skill development.

Youth Forward is a safe and supportive drop-in space for youth 13-18 who identify as LGBTQ+. This group provides peer-to-peer support that focuses on exploring topics of LGBTQ+ culture, history, and positive identity development.

Organizations



Whether your business is concerned with improving customer service or strengthening the effectiveness of your team, EmpowerMT can help. EmpowerMT works with organizations across Montana, providing customized workshops for employees working in law enforcement, health care, the private sector, government agencies, social services, and other settings. Training and consulting includes:

- **Building more welcoming and inclusive programs**
- **Developing cultural competency plans**
- **Advancing staff leadership**
- **Improving communication**
- **Resolving interpersonal and intergroup conflicts**

“Well done - So glad we had this training, I truly think this will help me become a better coalition builder and more compassionate and empowered person.”

- National Food Corps member



Community



EmpowerMT believes that each of us plays an individual role in creating a community that is safe, welcoming, and inclusive of all people. We work to strengthen communities throughout the entire state of Montana by empowering marginalized groups, teaching allyship skills, and increasing communication and understanding across group lines. Each year, we partner with several agencies to provide community events and workshops locally, regional-ly and statewide.

“I think this would be beneficial for virtually everyone.”

-University of Montana Neighborhood Ambassador

Our community work includes collaborating with businesses and groups for our two, annual, signature celebrations: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Diversity Day.

EmpowerMT also helps facilitate community conversations around divisive issues. Examples include leading a three-month process involving more than 200 people in the controversial issue of siting a new location for the city’s emergency homeless shelter, and facilitating the U Matter forum on Sexual Assault for The University of Montana.