

## Zero to Five Montana's Family Forward Montana initiative relaunches with new website, resources for employers

*Empowering Montana's Workforce:*

*Family Forward Montana to help employers reimagine work-life balance*

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The Family Forward Montana initiative, re-launched by Zero to Five Montana at the Montana Child Care Business Connect Summit in August, is moving one step closer to reaching more employers across the state, thanks to a newly updated website with resources, toolkits, and case studies to showcase ways Montana employers are working to support the needs of employees with young children.

This initiative was first spearheaded by Zero to Five Montana, with state and local partners, to offer practical tools, strategic guidance, and a forum for collaboration among Montana businesses eager to enhance their workplace culture to illustrate that investing in family-friendly policies not only enriches the lives of employees but also bolsters business outcomes through increased recruitment, retention, satisfaction, and overall productivity.

Family Forward Montana is founded on the principle that the well-being of employees and their families is integral to the success of businesses and Montana's economy. By empowering employers across the state with resources, guidance, and a supportive community focused on implementing family-friendly workplace policies, we move toward a more sustainable future for Montana.

"It is extremely stressful for working parents who are raising young children to navigate care for their children, especially when child care options are limited in the community," said Caitlin Jensen, executive director of Zero to Five Montana. "The Family Forward Montana initiative aims to help employers discover the many possible solutions available for employees with young children. We want to tell the story of the efforts employers and community partners are making every day to make Montana a great place to work *and* raise a family. When families thrive, we all thrive."

Family Forward Montana embodies the commitment of businesses and organizations across the state working to fostering supportive workplace cultures that benefit Montana families, businesses, and their employees.

### **Why Employers Should Participate:**

Participation in Family Forward Montana places businesses at the forefront of a growing movement towards more inclusive, supportive, and flexible workplace environments. Benefits include access to customized resources, networking with like-minded business leaders, and the opportunity to be recognized as a champion in fostering family-forward practices in the Montana business community.

For more information about Family Forward Montana and how you can be a part of this transformational initiative, please visit [familyforwardmt.org](https://familyforwardmt.org) or contact Shelby Whelan at [familyforward@zerotofive.org](mailto:familyforward@zerotofive.org).

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*Zero to Five Montana is a statewide early childhood organization focused on increasing access to early care and education, supporting and strengthening families, uplifting voices, and empowering small businesses and communities. We are nonpartisan and focused on solutions that work toward a Montana dedicated to every child. Our promise is to stabilize, innovate, and build the early childhood system in Montana so all families and communities can thrive. Learn more at [zerotofive.org](https://zerotofive.org).*

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