

As Governor, Steve Bullock has worked to build a strong foundation for Montana's future.

Bullock worked with Republicans and Democrats to make record investments in public schools, upgrade high-speed Internet connectivity so rural students have the same opportunities as everyone else. Bullock expanded career training and apprenticeship programs to help students earn while they learn skills in over 1,000 different occupations.

With new tax credits, he's helping Montana businesses hire veterans and train them for highly skilled careers. Now, he's working to help Montana's main street businesses and workers weather this crisis.

As Senator, Bullock will do even more to help Montana businesses grow and to help more students get the skills and career opportunities they need to succeed. Because that's how we build an economy that works for everyone, not just big corporations.

BULLOCK WORKED WITH REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS TO MAKE RECORD INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, UPGRADE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

BULLOCK WORKED WITH BOTH PARTIES TO MAKE HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BULLOCK WORKED WITH REPUBLICANS TO INCREASE SCHOOL FUNDING AND FREEZE PROPERTY TAXES

Bullock Worked With Republicans To Increase School Funding And Freeze Property Taxes. "Gov. Steve Bullock on Monday signed into law some major spending bills to fix Montana's troubled pension systems, raise state employees' salaries and pay for some new and renovated university system buildings. He also signed a major proposal to overhaul Montana's school funding and to provide some property tax relief. [...] School funding. Bullock signed into law SB175, by Sen. Llew Jones, R-Conrad, which rewrites the state's public school funding system, holds down local property taxes and increases state funding for schools by \$75 million over the next two years. The bill also increases state lump-sum payments to school districts affected by oil and gas development in eastern Montana, while freezing local school property taxes for the next two years."

- **HEADLINE: IR: "Bullock Signs Pension Fixes, School Funding Bill."** [Independent Record, [5/6/13](#)]

BILLINGS GAZETTE: THE BILL WAS A "HISTORIC" REWRITE OF PUBLIC-SCHOOL FUNDING IN MONTANA

Billings Gazette: The Bill Was A "Historic" Rewrite Of Public-School Funding In Montana. "A bipartisan coalition in the state House on Monday amended and then endorsed a historic rewrite of public school funding in Montana, likely setting the bill on path to Gov. Steve Bullock for his signature into law. After more than 90 minutes of debate and a series of close votes, the House voted 60-40 to endorse Senate Bill 175, which has been nearly two years in the making and is supported by school districts across the state." [Billings Gazette, [4/15/13](#)]

- **HEADLINE: Billings Gazette: "Bipartisan Coalition Pushes Major School-Funding Bill Through House – And Likely To Governor."** [Billings Gazette, [4/15/13](#)]

BULLOCK WORKED TO UPGRADE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN SCHOOLS

BULLOCK ANNOUNCED A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT BROUGHT BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE TO SCHOOLS

YPR: Bullock Announced A Public-Private Partnership That Brought Broadband Internet Service To Schools At "Little-To-No-Cost." "Governor Steve Bullock held an event in Bozeman to highlight a new public-private partnership working to bring broadband internet service to schools across the country at little- to no-cost. A public-private partnership is working to bring broadband to schools across the country at little- to no-cost." [Yellowstone Public Radio, [9/14/15](#)]

- **Headline: YPR: "Gov. Bullock Highlights Partnership To Improve Internet In Montana Schools."** [Yellowstone Public Radio, [9/14/15](#)]

BULLOCK ANNOUNCED THAT 100% OF MONTANA'S CLASSROOMS HAD ACCESS TO THE FCC'S RECOMMENDED BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTION BANDWIDTH

Bullock Announced That 100% Of Montana's Classrooms Had Access To The FCC's Recommended Broadband Internet Connection Bandwidth. "Montana is working to increase students' access to broadband across the state, with Gov. Steve Bullock announcing Wednesday that all of Montana's K-12 schools now meet the Federal Communications Commission's minimum recommendation for broadband of 100 kilobits per second — a measure of bandwidth — per student [...] The availability of broadband in Montana classrooms, up to 100% from 98% last year, and 78% in 2015, is one step toward increasing digital learning opportunities for the state's students, although many schools still fall short of internet speeds needed for digital resources. 'We need to continue to bridge the gap between urban and rural schools and ensure that every classroom is equipped with 21st-century technology to allow our teachers to be innovative and for students to be better prepared for a modern and changing workforce,' Bullock said in a press release." [Missoulian, [10/22/19](#)]

- **Headline: Great Falls Tribune: "State Touts Broadband Access For All Schools."** [Great Falls Tribune, [10/22/19](#)]

BULLOCK EXPANDED CAREER TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS TO HELP STUDENTS EARN WHILE THEY LEARN SKILLS IN OVER 1,000 DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS

BULLOCK EXPANDED WORKFORCE TRAINING

Bullock Worked With Republicans To Create A Workforce Training Program. "Today, Governor Steve Bullock was joined by Commissioner of the Montana Department of Labor & Industry Pam Bucy, and HELP Act sponsor Senator Ed Buttrey (SD 11, Great Falls) to announce the launch of HELP-Link at the Great Falls Job Service. 'Making workforce training and employment services available to more Montanans puts our state on the path of continued economic growth,' said Governor Bullock. 'As our economy continues to grow, the Montana HELP-Link plan provides employment opportunities for more hard working Montanans and creates a larger workforce for expanding businesses in Montana.'" [Montana Department of Labor and Industry, accessed [5/9/20](#)]

- **The Program Connected Medicaid Enrollees With High Quality Workforce Training.** "HELP-Link is a free workforce program for Montanans covered by Medicaid under the Montana HELP Plan. Created by the HELP Act, HELP-Link connects Medicaid enrollees with high quality workforce training, employment services and job openings in local communities." [Montana Department of Labor and Industry, accessed [5/9/20](#)]

BULLOCK EXPANDED APPRENTICESHIPS

Bullock Signed A Bill That Created An Apprenticeship Tax Credit Program. "Gov. Steve Bullock held a ceremonial bill signing in Great Falls on Thursday for his apprenticeship tax credit program, which he hopes will encourage businesses to grow, create jobs and build employee skills. 'Small businesses are the heart of Montana's economy and the job creators of today and tomorrow,' Bullock stated in a news release about House Bill 308. He said the bill is another opportunity to help employers have access to a trained workforce to aid growth of Montana businesses and boost earning potential for Montanans statewide." [Great Falls Tribune, [6/1/17](#)]

- **Bullock Said It Was An Opportunity To Boost Employer Access To A Trained Workforce And Boost Earning Potential For Montanans.** "He said the bill is another opportunity to help employers have access to a trained workforce to aid growth of Montana businesses and boost earning potential for Montanans statewide." [Great Falls Tribune, [6/1/17](#)]

Bullock Created The American Indian Success-Tribal College Apprenticeship Program To Bolster Career Training Opportunities At Montana Tribal Colleges. [Jobs for America's Graduates, [9/2/15](#)]

Bullock Announced A Public Private Partnership Between Montana Rail Link And The Montana Registered Apprenticeship Program To Train More Workers. "Gov. Steve Bullock, D-Mont., issued the following press release: Governor Steve Bullock, along with Montana Rail Link President Tom Walsh and Commissioner Pam Bucy today highlighted a new private-public partnership between Montana Rail Link and the Montana Registered Apprenticeship program at the Montana Department of Labor & Industry. This new partnership will help train more Montana workers, giving them the skills and tools they need to succeed in today's job market." [Governor Steve Bullock, press release, [5/19/16](#)]

APPRENTICESHIPS PROVIDED EARN-WHILE-YOU-LEARN TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN ALMOST 1,000

Great Falls Tribune: “Apprenticeships Provide Earn-While-You-Learn Training Opportunities In Almost 1,000.” “Apprenticeships provide earn-while-you-learn training opportunities in almost 1,000 occupations.” [Great Falls Tribune, [6/1/17](#)]

WITH NEW TAX CREDITS, BULLOCK HELPED MONTANA BUSINESSES HIRE VETERANS AND TRAIN THEM FOR HIGHLY SKILLED CAREERS

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THE BILL PROVIDED BUSINESSES WITH A \$750 TAX CREDIT PER PERSON HIRED AND A \$1500 TAX CREDITS PER VETERAN HIRED

The Bill Provided Businesses A \$750 Tax Credit For Every Person Hired Where The Worker Was Offered On-The-Job Training Through The Montana Registered Apprenticeship Unit. “HB 308 will provide Treasure State businesses with a \$750 tax credit for every person hired where the worker is offered on-the-job training through the Montana Registered Apprenticeship unit.” [Great Falls Tribune, [6/1/17](#)]

Great Falls Tribune: For Every Veteran Hired And Given An Apprenticeship Opportunity, Businesses Were Provided A \$1,500 Tax Credit. “For every veteran hired and given an apprenticeship opportunity, businesses will be provided a \$1,500 tax credit. The apprenticeship tax credit will allow veterans to use skills and leadership they learned while serving in the military to industry sectors.” [Great Falls Tribune, [6/1/17](#)]

SUPPORTERS SAID THE BILL WOULD INCREASE AWARENESS OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILLED TRADES IN MONTANA

The Bill Was Supported By 40 Testimonies. “The bill had its first hearing on Wednesday. Schreiner said 40 testimonies were received on its behalf, and it received no opposition from the legislature. The bill will go to vote on Feb. 10, where Schreiner hopes it will pass.” [Great Falls Tribune, [2/10/17](#)]

Supporter Said The Bill Would “Provide Further Incentives For” Apprenticeships Across The State. “‘Having a strong apprenticeship program has helped our company grow our operations with the trained and skilled workers we need,’ said Barry Reddick with Collision Pro in Helena. ‘The apprenticeship tax credit will provide further incentives for businesses across the state to see the same benefits we have at Collision Pro.’” [Governor Steve Bullock, press release, [2/8/17](#)]

Supporters Said The Bill Would Increase Awareness Of The Job Opportunities For Skilled Trades In Montana. “Central Plumbing & Heating President Mike Waldenberg said the tax credits will increase awareness of the job opportunities for skilled trades in Montana.” [Great Falls Tribune, [6/1/17](#)]

THE BILL PASSED WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

The Bill Passed With Bipartisan Support. “HB 308 is part of the governor’s Quality Jobs Plan to help businesses to grow and create jobs. HB 226, another bill part of the plan, gives local governments the option to waive up to 75 percent

of new or expanding businesses' equipment tax obligation for the first five years of operation, also passed with bipartisan support." [Great Falls Tribune, [6/1/17](#)]

THE BILL WAS PART OF THE GOVERNOR'S QUALITY JOBS PLAN

The Bill Was Part Of The Governor's Quality Jobs Plan To Help Businesses To Grow And Create Jobs. "HB 308 is part of the governor's Quality Jobs Plan to help businesses to grow and create jobs. HB 226, another bill part of the plan, gives local governments the option to waive up to 75 percent of new or expanding businesses' equipment tax obligation for the first five years of operation, also passed with bipartisan support." [Great Falls Tribune, [6/1/17](#)]

NOW, HE'S WORKING TO HELP MONTANA'S MAIN STREET BUSINESSES AND WORKERS WEATHER THIS CRISIS

BULLOCK ANNOUNCED LOANS AND GRANTS FOR MONTANA'S BUSINESSES DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

BULLOCK ANNOUNCED A NEW LOAN DEFERMENT PROGRAM TO HELP MEDIUM AND LARGER BUSINESSES

6/17/20: Bullock Announced A New Loan Deferral Program To Help Medium And Larger Businesses. "Gov. Steve Bullock held a news conference to 'address an uptick in new cases' of COVID-19 as the state reopens. He also announced a new loan deferral program aimed to 'help medium and larger sized businesses free up capital and promote sustainability over the long term,' according to a press release." [KPAX, [6/17/20](#)]

- **Bullock's New Program Would Allow Businesses To Defer Payments On Loans For Six To Twelve Months And Relief Funds Would Be Used To Provide Payments To Lenders And Cover Interest Payments.** "The Montana Loan Deferral Program will allow businesses and other entities to defer payments on existing loans for six to 12 months and free up a significant amount of otherwise dedicated capital for the borrower to leverage on a monthly basis. If a borrower is approved for the program, coronavirus relief funds will be used to provide payments to participating lenders to cover interest payments for six-to-12 months, up to 6% or \$150, 000." [KPAX, [6/17/20](#)]
- **Bullock Said The Coronavirus Relief Fund Had Helped Montana Businesses And Met The Needs Of All Sectors Of Montana's Economy.** "'Through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, we've been able to consider and begin meeting the needs across all sectors of the economy and in all corners of the state,' Governor Bullock said. 'The funds we've distributed have gotten Montanans back to work, stabilized businesses, provided a safety net for individuals, and jumpstarted industries while considering what support should be available to ensure long term sustainability.' The amount currently dedicated to this program could help defer between 5,000 and 10,000 loans and free up capital to bring stability for businesses and other entities in the long term, according to a news release." [KPAX, [6/17/20](#)]

BULLOCK ANNOUNCED GRANTS FOR MONTANA'S SMALL BUSINESSES

5/5/20: Bullock Announced \$123 Million For Nine New Emergency Coronavirus Relief Grant Programs For Montanans Hit Hardest By The Pandemic. "On Tuesday, Gov. Steve Bullock announced nine new emergency grant programs for Montanans hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. In a press release, the Governor's Office said the grants will make available \$123,550,000 funded through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Individuals can apply as of this Thursday, May 7 for financial relief aimed at helping Montanans out of work, families with limited resources, small businesses, health services centers, non-profits and others statewide." [KBZK, [5/5/20](#)]

- **Bullock Announced \$50 Million For A Montana Business Stabilization Grant Program To Provide "Working Capital" For Montana-Owned Small Businesses With 50 Or Fewer Employees That Had Lost Revenue Due To The Pandemic.** According to a [KBZK](#) article about Bullock's coronavirus emergency relief grants: "According to the press release, these nine new programs join the state's suite of existing support services and direct federal appropriations: The Montana Business Stabilization Grant program will provide working capital for Montana-owned small businesses with 50 or fewer employees that have sustained a loss of revenue due to COVID 19. Current funding available is \$50 million, the maximum award amount per business is \$10,000." [KBZK, [5/5/20](#)]

- **Bullock Announced \$5 Million For A Montana Innovation Grant Program To Help Companies "Scale Up, Improve Capabilities Or Drive Expanded Distribution Of Products Or Services Developed In Response To COVID-19."** According to a [KBZK](#) article about Bullock's coronavirus emergency relief grants: "The Montana Innovation Grant program is intended to help companies scale up, improve capabilities, or drive expanded distribution of products or services developed in response to COVID-19. Non-profit and for-profit businesses of less than 150 employees with primary operations in Montana that have created an innovative product or service intended to directly confront the COVID-19 emergency can apply for grants of up to \$25,000. Current funding available is \$5 million." [[KBZK, 5/5/20](#)]
- **Bullock Announced \$500,000 For A Montana Food And Agriculture Adaptability Grant Program To Help Food And Agricultural Businesses Increase Community Resilience Amid The Pandemic.** According to a [KBZK](#) article about Bullock's coronavirus emergency relief grants: "Montana Food and Agriculture Adaptability Program grants are available to food and agriculture businesses to help increase community resilience amid the COVID-19 pandemic and other economic disruptions. Examples of eligible projects include those focused on accessing new markets, projects which strengthen and expand local food systems, and other business adaptations that decrease food and agricultural waste. Current funding available is \$500,000, with a maximum grant award of \$10,000." [[KBZK, 5/5/20](#)]

Bullock Announced Emergency Loans Were Available For Small Businesses. "He also said emergency loans are available for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. He said businesses can apply for 30-year loans of up to \$2 million, which have an interest rate of 3.75%. This will ensure small businesses that have temporary closures can bounce back 'is certainly paramount to all of us.' The governor also extended by 90 days the time to renew driver's licenses." [[Great Falls Tribune, 3/18/20](#)]

BULLOCK ANNOUNCED FUNDING FOR WORKERS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

BULLOCK ANNOUNCED THAT WORKERS THAT WERE QUARANTINED OR TEMPORARILY LAID OFF DUE TO COVID-19 TO ACCESS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

Bullock Announced That Workers That Were Quarantined Or Temporarily Laid Off Due To COVID-19 To Access Unemployment Insurance Benefits. "Gov. Steve Bullock unveiled several measures Tuesday to help unemployed workers and the uninsured during the coronavirus outbreak, and noted the state continues to try to slow the spread of the illness and take care of fellow Montanans. [...] He said Montana received approval Tuesday from the U.S. Department of Labor to allow workers quarantined or temporarily laid off due to COVID-19 to access unemployment insurance benefits immediately. Bullock said the requirement for a one-week waiting period will be waived." [[Great Falls Tribune, 3/18/20](#)]

BULLOCK ISSUED DIRECTIVES TO WAIVE THE ONE-WEEK WAITING PERIOD TO MINIMIZE THE TIME MONTANANS AWAIT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

Bullock Issued A Rule That Expanded And Expedited Unemployment Claims For Montanans. "Last week Bullock issued emergency rules that were meant to expand those qualified for unemployment and expedite claims. Bullock's emergency rules expanded the number of workers who qualified for unemployment, like those temporarily laid off due to the new virus, or who were ordered to be quarantined by an employer, or who needed to miss work to care for a sick family member. [...] In an attempt to get payments out faster, Bullock's emergency rules waived the typical one-week waiting period, allowing disbursement after claims are approved." [[Billings Gazette, 3/27/20](#)]

Bullock Issued Directives To Waive The One-Week Waiting Period To Minimize The Time Montanans Await UI Benefits. "In addition to the expansion of UI benefits under the CARES Act, Governor Bullock has issued directives to waive the one-week waiting period to minimize the time Montanans await UI benefits, and waived the requirement that claimants search for a job during this time." [[KPAX, 4/14/20](#)]

April 2020: Montana Began Paying The Additional \$600 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefit Established With The Passage Of The Recent Federal Stimulus Package. "Montana has begun paying the additional \$600 Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit established with the passage of the recent federal stimulus package -- the CARES Act. According to the state Department of Labor and Industry, Montanans using direct deposit should expect to see the funds within two to three days, if not sooner." [[KPAX, 4/14/20](#)]

Bullock Said The State Was Not Including Gig Workers Or Self Employed In Unemployment Payments, But Received Federal Guidance To Expand Benefits To Those Workers. "Gov. Steve Bullock said Tuesday the state

is not yet including gig workers or self employed in unemployment payments. Bullock says late last week Montana received federal guidance on expanding the benefits to those workers.” [Montana Public Radio, [4/14/20](#)]

BULLOCK ISSUED A DIRECTIVE THAT PROHIBITS TENANTS FROM BEING EVICTED AND FROM PEOPLE LOSING UTILITY SERVICE DURING THE OUTBREAK

Bullock Issued A Directive That Prohibits Tenants From Being Evicted And From People Losing Utility Service During The Outbreak. “Gov. Steve Bullock issued several directives Tuesday, one of which helps hospitals financially survive during the coronavirus outbreak and another that prohibits tenants from being evicted or from people losing utility service while his stay-at-home order is in place. Bullock said his directive not only prohibits tenants being evicted for not paying the rent during the stay at home order, but also prohibits charging of late fees or other penalties. He said his order also prohibited utilities from being shutoff. This includes electricity, gas, sewage disposal, water, telephone or internet services.” [Great Falls Tribune, 4/1/20]

BULLOCK ISSUED A DIRECTIVE THAT STOPPED INVOLUNTARY SALES OF HOMES, FORECLOSURES, LIENS PLACED ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES OR LATE FEES CHARGED DUE TO INABILITY TO PAY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS ON TIME

Bullock Issued A Directive That Stopped Involuntary Sales Of Homes, Foreclosures, Liens Placed On Residential Properties Or Late Fees Charged Due To Inability To Pay Mortgage Payments On Time. “Tuesday's directive also stops involuntary sales of homes, foreclosures, liens placed on residential properties or late fees charged due to inability to pay mortgage payments on time for the duration of the directive, Bullock said. It does not relieve tenants from paying rent or borrowers from paying mortgages or other financial obligations related to homeownership.” [Great Falls Tribune, 4/1/20]

BULLOCK ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP FAMILIES WITH LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Bullock Issued A Directive To Provide Emergency Rental Assistance To Help Families With Limited Financial Resources In Order To Help During The Economic Situation Caused By COVID-19. “Governor Bullock issued a directive on Monday to provide emergency rental assistance to help families with limited financial resources in order to help during the economic situation caused by COVID-19. ‘COVID-19 is taking a significant economic toll on families, businesses and our entire state, and finding ways to mitigate those hardships is one of my top priorities,’ Governor Steve Bullock said. ‘For families that can’t make their housing payment right now because they’ve lost income due to COVID-19, this Directive will help prevent a months-long rent backlog from coming due all at once.’” [KECI, [4/13/20](#)]