

**JOBS FOR MONTANA’S GRADUATES  
PROPOSAL FOR SWIB GOVERNOR’S WIA SET ASIDE FUNDS**

At the Jobs for America’s Graduates National Training Seminar in July, Jobs for Montana’s Graduates (JMG) was named the #1 JAG program in the country out of 30 other state-wide programs. Based on the outcomes of the JAG performance standards, this award is an incredible honor and shows the amazing and life-changing results of the JMG program.

The JMG program is just too good not to invest in. JMG is a program that can prepare the students who are the emerging workforce. Not only does JMG positively affect the students but this, in turn, is positive for Montana’s economy and communities. With employment of young people at a historic low, JMG is still producing individuals that are finding jobs and having positive outcomes one year after graduation.

JMG served 1150 students last year in high school and middle school programs. Students need to explore careers and make career plans before they graduate from high school. The JMG program helps students determine a career path, develop employability skills needed in the workplace including teamwork and leadership skills while assuring that they graduate and are working or going to school. The graduates are mentored for a year after graduation. This program, through the hard work of the teachers, truly helps the students become successful in the workplace or post-secondary education and helps them to become involved community members.

Based on the outcomes of the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) performance standards, Montana attained the highest outcomes of the 30 states that currently have a JAG program.

***PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES***

<b><i>Performance Category</i></b>	<b><i>JMG Final Report May 31, 2010</i></b>	<b><i>Schools On or Serving Reservations</i></b>
● Senior graduation rate	95.43 %	87.30%
● Senior positive outcome rate	92.82 %	87.27%
● Senior job placement rate	77.99 %	67.27%
● Senior post secondary education/training	43.30 %	43.64%
● Senior full-time placement rate	93.87 %	91.89%
● Non-senior return to school rate	95.00 %	100.00%
● Middle school return to school rate	98.16%	97.45%

Cost per student - \$515

OPI is currently funding 4 programs in reservation schools – 1 high school program and 3 middle school programs.

## **JOBS FOR MONTANA'S GRADUATES**

### **PROPOSAL FOR SWIB GOVERNOR'S WIA SET ASIDE FUNDS**

Total Request - \$99,500

#### ***Middle School program:***

##### **Regional Adventure Day – 3 Regions - \$4500**

An Adventure Day is recommended in the Middle School model program to allow the students the opportunity to learn leadership and teamwork skills as well as the opportunity to meet students from other schools and participate in conference type activities.

T-shirts – given to those attending the Regional Adventure Day  
Facility/Travel/Lunch/Prizes

#### ***High School program:***

##### **Student Scholarships – \$6000**

The additional funding would provide for six more scholarships of \$1000 each. Forty-three percent of the JMG seniors went on to further education. Many of these students don't have the grades or activities for most scholarships so the JMG scholarships are available to them. Student Assistance Foundation currently provides \$2500 to JMG for student scholarships.

##### **Student Conferences – \$15,000**

JAG National Student Leadership Conference, Washington D.C.  
Career Development Conference, Billings MT  
Fall Leadership Conference, Helena MT

Additional funding for the conferences would allow the conferences to remain the highlight of the student organization activities and allow students the opportunity to participate in conference activities, many of them, for the first time. Traditionally, JMG has paid for 4 students to attend the D.C. conference. With the 35% cut to out-of-state travel, it will not be possible to take 4 students. We would like to give the experience to more students – not less. We have cut out some of the activities and meals so the conferences will not be so expensive.

#### ***Career Specialists:***

##### **JAG National Training Seminar – \$6000 - 3 Specialists**

Travel, Per Diem and Registration

Specialists that have attended NTS have stated that it is the best training they have ever attended plus they come away motivated and excited about JMG/JAG

##### **Winter Training Professional Development - \$3000**

Enhance the winter training for the Specialists. This could include speakers specializing in dropout prevention, at-risk behaviors and teaching at-risk students. Experts in the development of project based learning for working with the Specialists on enhancing JMG curriculum.

### ***Supplemental Funding for Schools - \$15,000***

The additional \$15,000 would allow JMG to offer select schools additional funding so they can retain the program at its current levels.

As examples, Billings Career Center has a full-time teacher dedicated to JMG and serves over 100 students. Plains School District has all Seniors enrolled in JMG and all of their 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Lincoln High School, Eureka, is implementing JMG for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders, approximately 80 students. They will not have the funding to continue their program at the current level. The principals believe that all the students in JMG are appropriately targeted. Supplemental funding for these programs is a necessity.

### ***School Aid – \$50,000 per year***

Anaconda High School started with a full-time JMG teacher and 85 JMG students. They initially had a full-time JMG teacher but with dropping enrollment and funding, the position was eliminated. They would like to have a full-time JMG program again. The principal is totally committed to JMG as he was a JMG teacher and knows that many students at Anaconda HS need JMG. This would be a great demonstration project for a school wide approach to JMG.

## **OUTCOMES OF 2009 SWIB FUNDING – ARRA 2 YEAR FUNDING**

### ***EXPANSION:***

For the proposed \$25,000, JMG could expand the program into approximately 5 new schools using the additional funding to cover school grant costs and additional overhead and indirect costs.

#### **New Schools:**

- ✓ Polson High School
- ✓ White Sulphur Springs Middle School
- ✓ Lincoln High School, Eureka
- ✓ Fromberg Middle School
- ✓ Roberts Middle School
- ✓ Brockton High School
- ✓ Sidney High School

#### **OPI, Indian Education, is now funding:**

- ✓ Lame Deer High School
- ✓ Lame Deer Middle School
- ✓ Wolf Point Middle School
- ✓ Lodge Grass Middle School

### ***SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS:***

The additional funding would allow JMG to offer select schools additional funding so they can retain the program at current levels.

#### **Additional Funding:**

- ✓ Billings Career Center
- ✓ Plains High School

### ***DATA ENHANCEMENT:***

A contract with a database proficient person is needed to improve the database collection of information for high schools and middle schools for progress tracking.

Database Person hired.

### ***STUDENT CONFERENCES:***

Additional funding for conferences would allow the conferences to remain the highlight of the student organization activities and allow students the opportunity to participate in conference activities, many of them, for the first time.

With 35% cut in out-of-state travel, 5 students still traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the JAG Student Leadership Conference. One of the students took first place in the Employability Skills student competitive event.