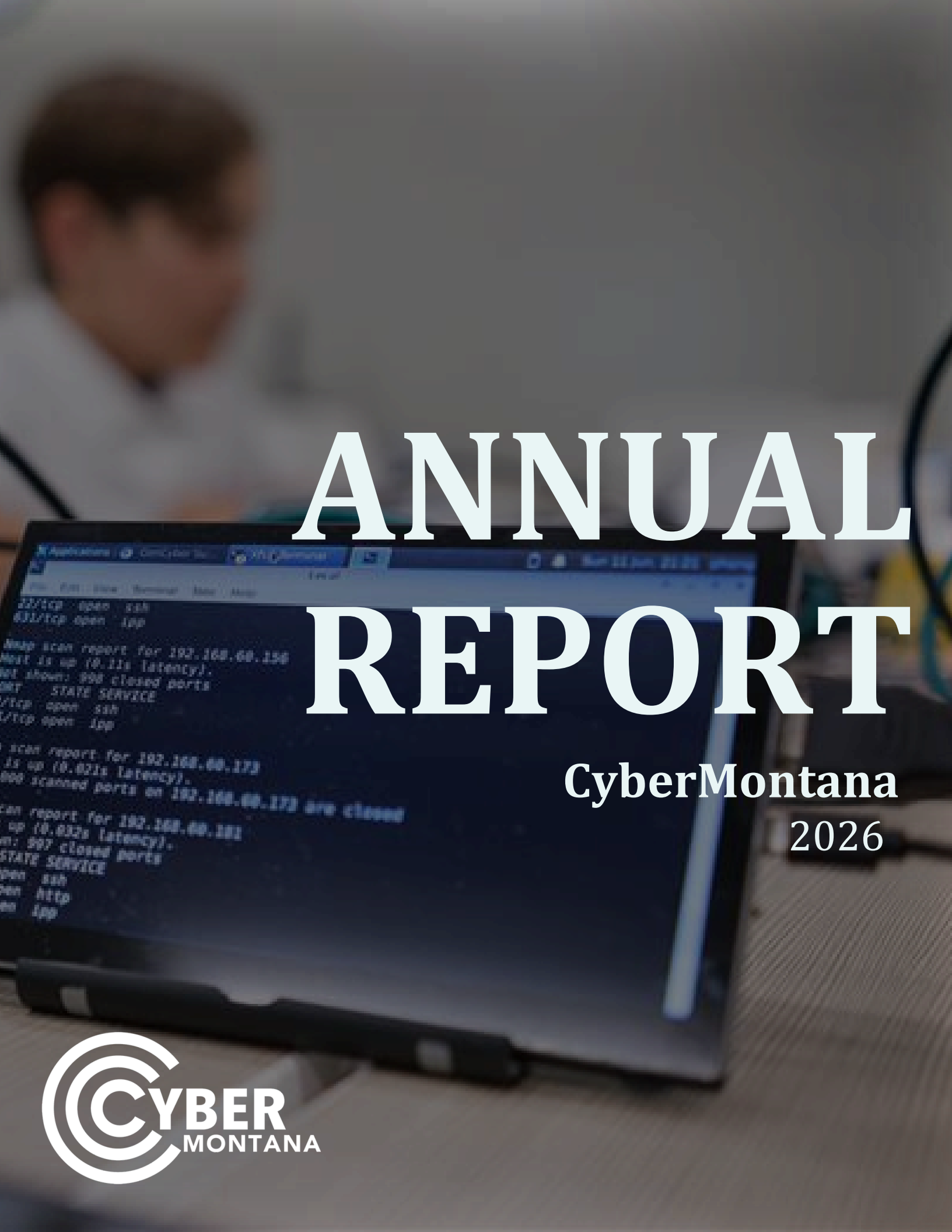
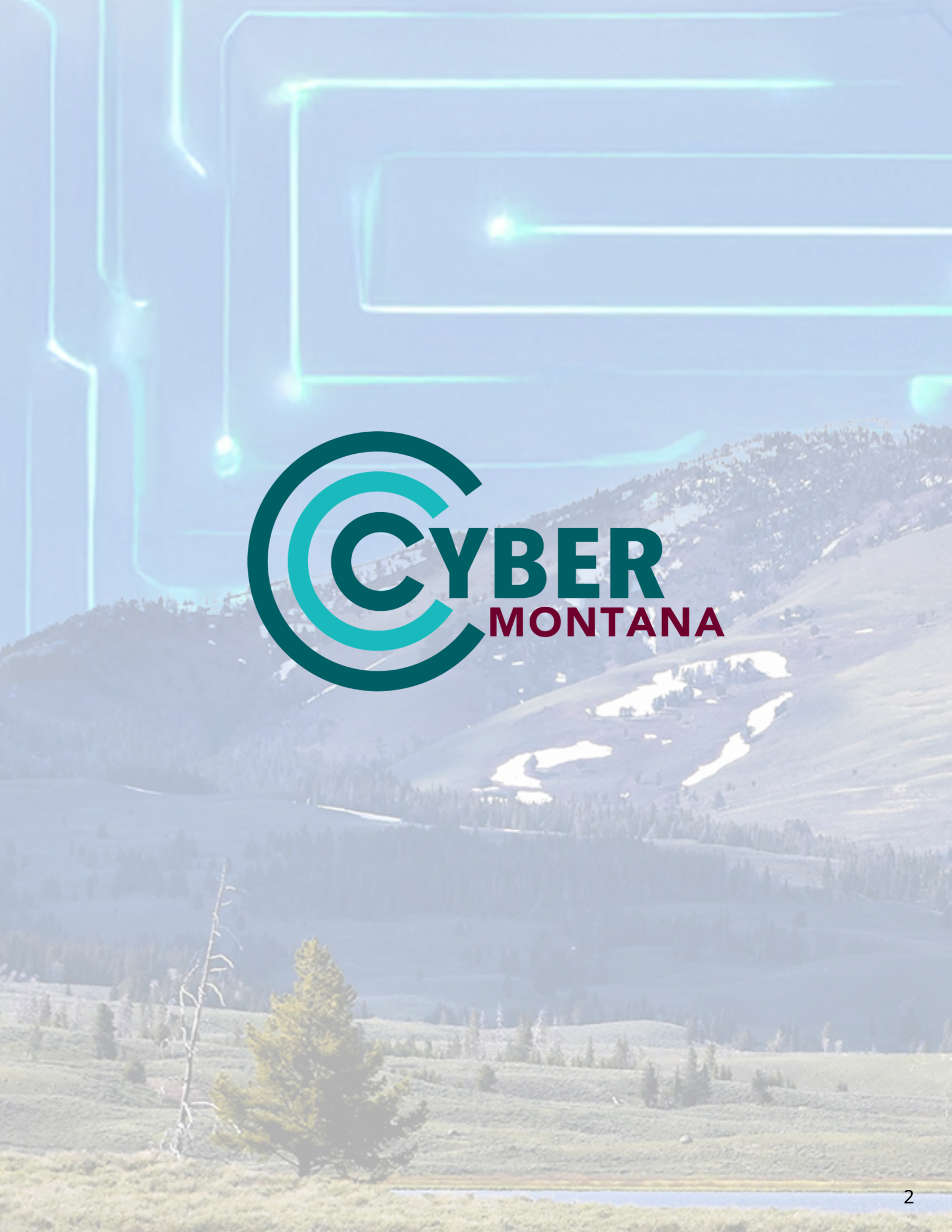


# ANNUAL REPORT

## CyberMontana

2026


CYBER
MONTANA



# Building cybersecurity awareness, capacity, & resilience.

# WHO WE ARE

## *Vision*

CyberMontana is an interdisciplinary program that addresses Montana's cybersecurity challenges through the lenses of people, programs, and policy with a focus on education.

## *Mission*

Strengthen Montana’s cybersecurity workforce by increasing Montana's cyber awareness, capacity, and resilience with a focus on organizations that can least afford a cyber incident.

## *Intent*

Engage and align Montana’s university, government, industry, and nonprofit stakeholders to increase capacity and share expertise.



# CONTENTS

## CYBERMONTANA

CyberMontana is a statewide, legislatively funded cybersecurity initiative founded in 2021. Through education, training, and partnerships, CyberMontana builds cybersecurity awareness, capacity, and resilience across Montana. Its programs help people and organizations protect against cyber threats, strengthen the state's security posture, and prepare professionals to meet cybersecurity workforce needs.


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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Cybersecurity is a team sport. No school, county, utility, or clinic can defend itself alone, and no single agency or university can defend Montana for them. You cannot delegate accountability. Your IT director, IT department, or your cybersecurity service provider will not succeed without your engagement.

CyberMontana exists to drive collaboration. In fiscal year 2026, CyberMontana and its partners delivered 176 service activities to 738 participants. Since 2021, we have served 50 of Montana's 56 counties. This work has taught us that **awareness alone is no longer enough**. Organizational leaders and their staff must understand the cybersecurity challenges they face, which includes their risks, dependencies, and the decisions they may need to make under pressure.

Three partnership highlights show how we are acting on that:

**Protecting Montana's Kids** with the Montana Safe Schools Center. Together we created a shared K-12 cybersecurity specialist position to support school programs and reach parents and teachers, so cyber safety receives the same attention as physical safety.

**Building Montana's Workforce** through a CyberMontana cybersecurity apprenticeship program in collaboration with the Montana Department of Labor & Industry (DLI), with Buffalo Horse Inc. and Fort Belknap IT serving as pilot employer sponsors. CyberMontana plans to expand the program statewide, engaging additional employers and creating new pathways to cybersecurity careers.

**Development for Montana's Leaders** through the Montana Cybersecurity Policy & Training Academy. The Academy will partner with MSU Local Government Center to train Montana's leaders and build capacity in the state's small, rural, and resource-constrained communities, moving them from awareness toward readiness.

Each of these efforts depends on Montana's cybersecurity enterprise working in alignment: universities, government, tribal partners, industry, schools, and nonprofits. Our team-of-teams model exists to align that expertise instead of duplicating it or letting it sit unused, especially for the organizations that can least afford a cyber incident.

Thank you to every partner who makes this work possible.

Joe Hodgson,
Director CyberMontana & University of Montana Center
for Cybersecurity Workforce & Rural Policy

# TIMELINE

**FY21**

## Laying the groundwork

First Cybersecurity STEM (CySTEM) Camp launches in Missoula in May 2021. This program serves as an introduction to cybersecurity for middle schoolers around the state. University and nonprofit partners make this program successful year-over-year.

**FY22**

## CyberMontana is established

Founded in July 2021. U.S. Cyber Range, high school dual enrollment, and in-person cyber awareness clinics begin.

**FY23**

## Programs take shape

Cybrary, cybersecurity competitions, and online Security Awareness Training launch as CySTEM Camps continue.

**FY24**

## Programs and partnerships grow

CISA-facilitated tabletop exercises strengthen cybersecurity preparedness across Montana communities. These services help public institutions strengthen their cybersecurity readiness through scenario-based training and policy development.

**FY25**

## Training and hands-on learning expand

The OPI cybersecurity endorsement pathway launches with GenCyber. Security Operations Center (SOC) and PISCES work-based learning is piloted.

**FY26**

## Statewide programs expand

Everyday Cyber Safety Clinics, library webinars, and Google Academy training expand access. The Policy and Training Academy launches; apprenticeship development expand workfroce pathways.

**FY27**

## Planned: close gaps and build depth

Expand apprenticeships, continue student and teacher camps. Begin Academy sessions, develop Safe Schools outreach, and strengthen capacity-building partnerships.

FY = fiscal year

FY27 includes planned and projected activities.

# CUMULATIVE IMPACT

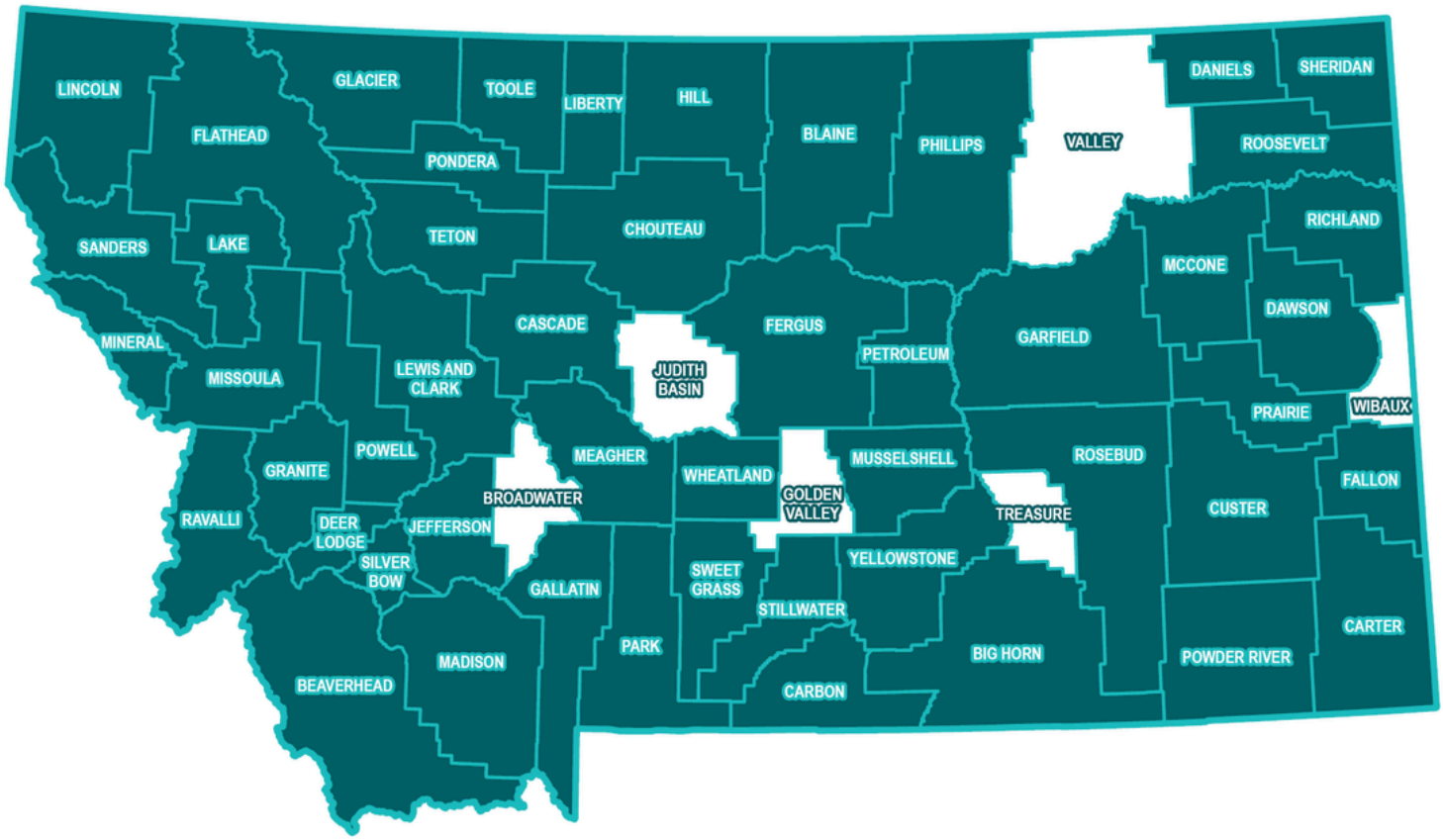
**2021-2026**

**50**
Counties served

**6,815**
Montanans trained

**511**
Entities reached

## Counties served 2021-2026



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Build your Cybersecurity Awareness, Capacity, and Resilience

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Youth CySTEM Camps
Early College & Dual Enrollment
Cybersecurity Credentials & Certificates
Internships & Apprenticeships
Work-based Learning | The SOC & PISCES
Continuing Education | Teacher Summer Camp
Cloud-based Training Platform | U.S. Cyber Range

## CYBER AWARENESS OUTREACH

Online Security Awareness Training | KnowBe4
Everyday Cyber Safety Clinics | In-Person
Everyday Cyber Safety Webinars
***Montana Safe Schools Center*** Programs

## COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Leader & Staff Awareness Workshops
Table-Top Exercises
Cybersecurity Assessments
State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

### Workforce Development Pipeline

Create a sustainable cybersecurity talent pipeline through education and industry engagement across all education and professional levels.

### Cyber Awareness & Outreach



Educate citizens, businesses, schools, and community organizations about modern cyber threats.

### Community Capacity Building

Support resource constrained rural and small buisness and organizations to boost resilience and response capabilities.

MONTANA CYBERSECURITY POLICY AND TRAINING ACADEMY

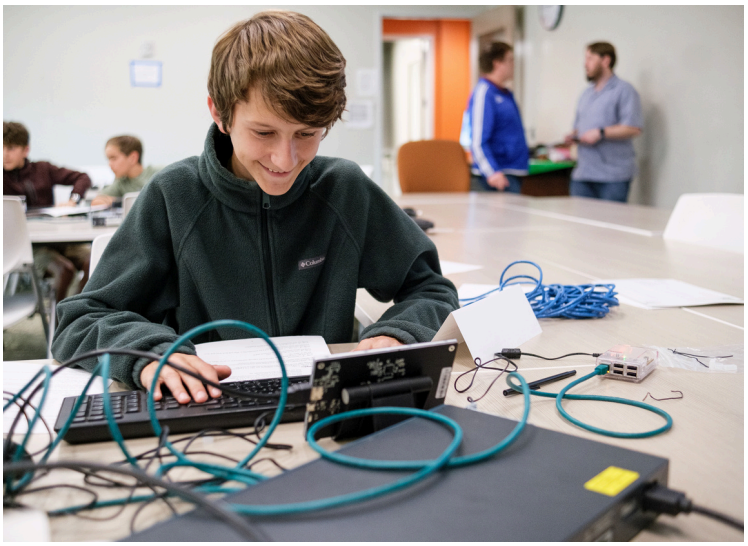
### Collaborative 'Team of Teams' Model

Align universities, government, industry, and nonprofits to improve efficiency and share expertise.

# CLOSING AWARENESS & TRAINING GAPS

## SAFE SCHOOLS IN MONTANA

*Cybersecurity Specialist for Montana Safe Schools Center*



This summer, CyberMontana started an essential collaboration with the Montana Safe Schools Center to strengthen cyber safety in Montana's K-12 schools.

The two programs created a shared K-12 Cybersecurity & School Safety Specialist position, based primarily at the Safe Schools Center. The Specialist will serve as the Center's dedicated point of expertise on cybersecurity, ensuring it receives the same attention as physical security, emergency preparedness, and behavioral health in comprehensive school safety planning.

The role is focused on building online awareness, cybersecurity, and school safety expertise in rural and under-resourced districts that often lack dedicated staff in these areas. The Specialist will also develop age-appropriate cybersecurity curricula and consult with districts on cybersecurity hygiene and digital safety practices.

The collaboration will help provide training, workshops, and professional development for K-12 educators, administrators, and school staff. Planned initiatives include Parent & Kid Online Safety Clinics, statewide online workshops and training for educators, and a Video-in-a-Box competition in which students create original videos that promote online safety among their peers.

The collaboration widens the reach of both organizations, avoids the cost of separated positions, and strengthens connections with the Office of Public Instruction and Montana’s public safety organizations.

# CLOSING AWARENESS & TRAINING GAPS

## CYBERSECURITY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM FOR MONTANA

*New paths for progressing cybersecurity careers across Montana.*



This year, CyberMontana developed a new cybersecurity-registered apprenticeship program in collaboration with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). This program gives Montanans a structured, hands-on path into IT and cybersecurity careers.

The program offers eight industry-recognized credential pathways that prepare apprentices for 64 IT and cybersecurity positions. Each apprentice completes 2,000 to 3,000 hours of on-the-job training and more than 600 hours of learning.

Apprentices earn credentials with a government agency at the state, local, or tribal level, or an industry service provider. Graduates can earn up to five separate credentials through current ISC2 and CompTIA pathways, and CyberMontana is working to expand to Google, AWS, Microsoft, and SANS credentialing.

DLI serves as the program's quality assurance partner and official registrar. CyberMontana is also partnering with Buffalo Horse, Inc., ThreatMinder, and Fort Belknap IT to pilot the program. To reach students earlier, CyberMontana is developing a pre-apprenticeship program for high school students that’s designed to enhance or provide alternatives to existing early college and dual enrollment programs.

To start an apprenticeship, or to learn about low-cost and no-cost cyber credentialing and professional development training, **contact Shane Kravik**, CyberMontana Career Development Manager, at shane.kravik@mso.umt.edu or (406) 243-7879.

# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

**July 2025 - June 2026**

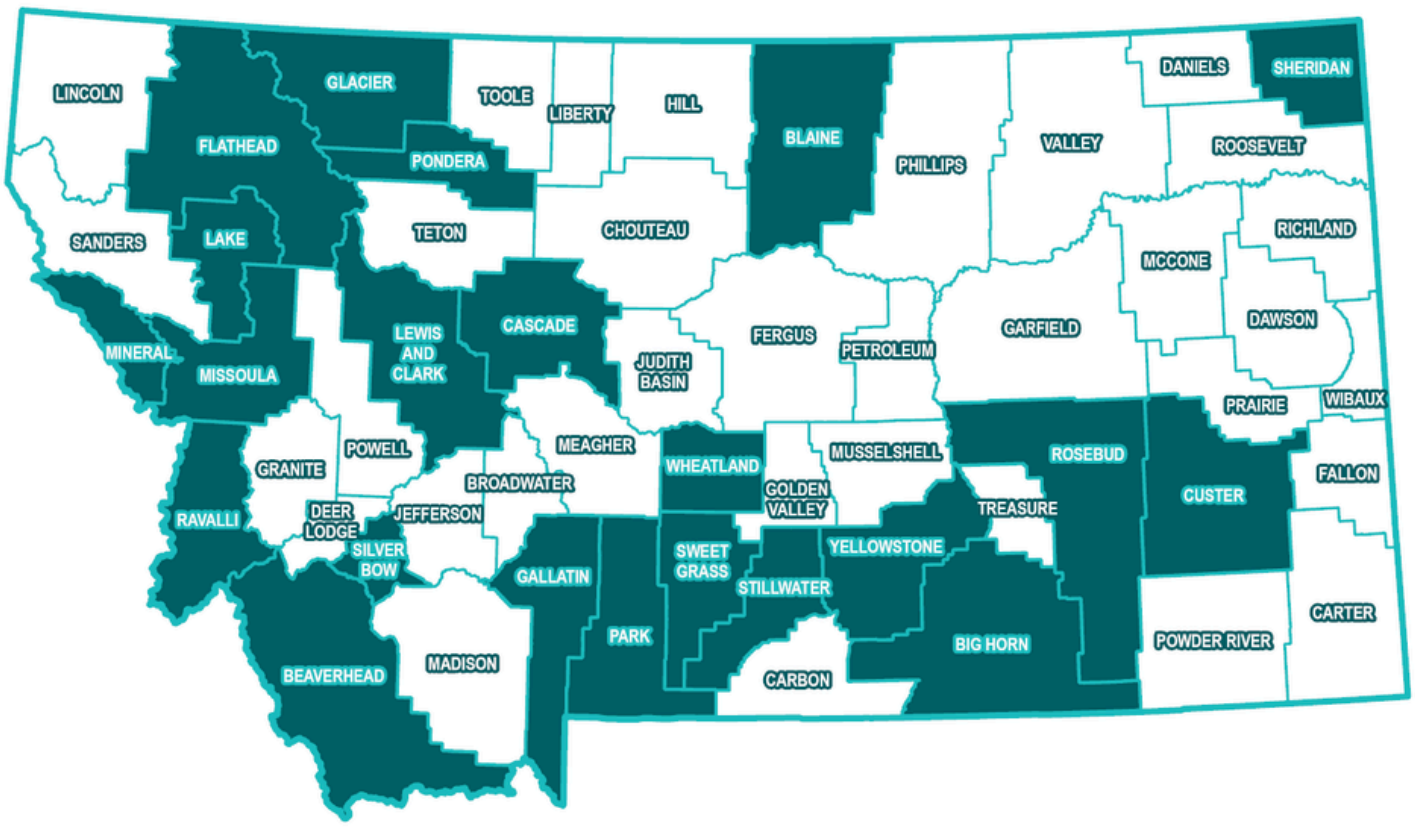
## Building cybersecurity awareness, capacity, and resilience

Across Montana, CyberMontana connected people and organizations with education, training, and community support in fiscal year 2026.

| Community Capacity Building | Cyber Awareness & Outreach | Workforce & Professional Development | Youth Outreach |
|---|---|---|---|
| **20** | **404** | **5,889** | **12** |
| Organizations across **9 counties** | People enrolled | Hours delivered | CySTEM Camps reaching **195 youth** |

## Statewide Reach

Counties and municipalities served in FY2026






# CYBER AWARENESS OUTREACH

**July 2025 - June 2026**

## ONLINE SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING

The Security Awareness Training offered by CyberMontana gives organizations and employees the knowledge they need to mitigate risk. Each month, staff members can dive into a new online training lesson, each of which provides an approachable introduction to a current cybersecurity threat and the best practices to avoid it. Organizations can start building security awareness and take the steps needed to avoid cybersecurity losses in the future.

**143**
Security Awareness Users

Launched simulated phishing campaigns

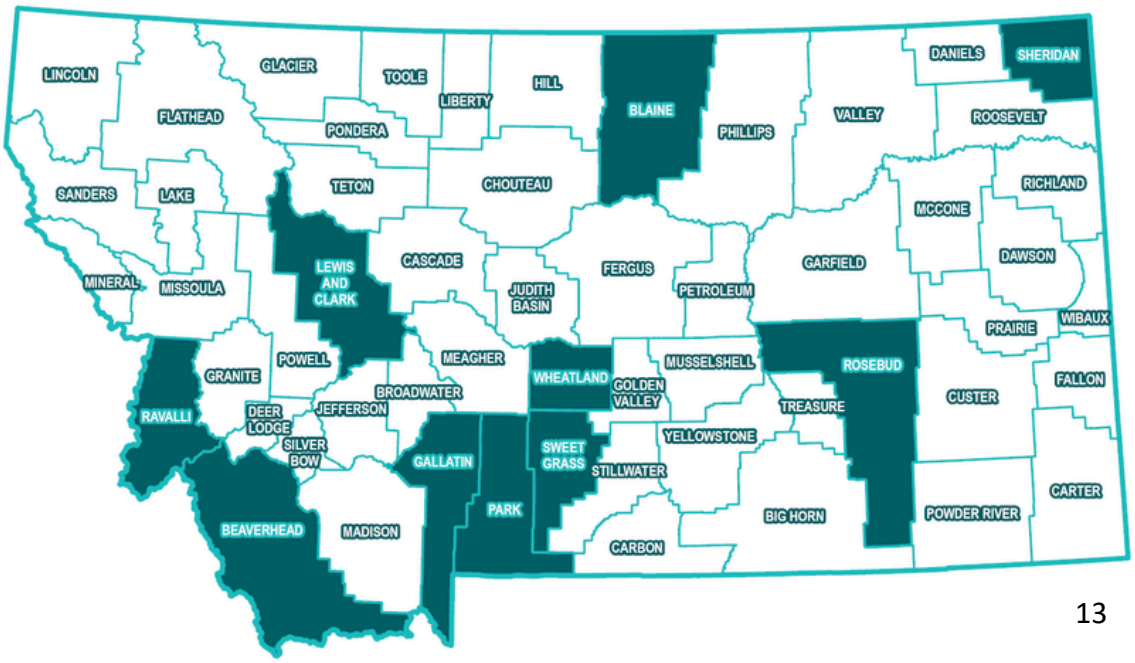
**11**
Companies participated in Trainings through KnowBe4

## EVERYDAY CYBER SAFETY CLINICS

The Everyday Cyber Safety Clinics are built to walk everyday citizens and resource-constrained communities through cybersecurity awareness. These clinics teach a practical understanding of the threats people face and the behaviors that counter those threats.

**12**
Everyday Cyber Safety Clinics delivered statewide

**261**
People reached through clinics across Montana





# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE

**July 2025 - June 2026**

## YOUTH CySTEM CAMPS

The cybersecurity focused STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Camp, educates middle school students by summer camps covering technology and cybersecurity at locations across Montana. The program builds these camps by supporting colleges and other organizations that wish to host with curriculum and marketing support and grant funding. This program is CyberMontana's way to connect youths to Montana's University system.

**12**
CySTEM Camps throughout Montana

**8**
Counties hosted CySTEM Camps

**195**
Montana Youth participated in FY26 camps

## TEACHER SUMMER CAMP | CONTINUING EDUCATION

This free professional development opportunity, offered by Missoula College, prepares middle and high school teachers to deliver cybersecurity content and support dual enrollment, early college, and other educational programs. Through GenCyber, teachers build the knowledge and skills to expand cybersecurity learning opportunities in their classrooms while meeting Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) continuing education requirements and working toward OPI endorsement.

**21**
Teachers completed the Teacher Summer Camp

Montana's only OPI-approved K-12 Cybersecurity Endorsement

**11**
Different counties represented

## EARLY COLLEGE & DUAL ENROLLMENT

Eligible high school and homeschool students can sign up for two dual enrollment courses, or up to six credits, at no cost. Students facing financial hardship can apply for scholarships to cover tuition for additional dual enrollment courses. Once a student has used their 1-2-Free benefits, CyberMontana will pay for additional credit hours leading to the completion of the CTS Program, and will provide two vouchers to be used toward the CompTIA Network+ and the CompTIA Security+ Industry.



## APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Cybersecurity Apprenticeship Program is an initiative designed to help Montana employers develop and advance employees into cybersecurity and related technology roles. The program develops occupation-aligned skills that can be applied to an employee's current role or future career progression. Current partners include the Fort Belknap Tribal Council, Montana Department of Labor and Industry, ThreatMinder, and Buffalo Horse, Inc.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **8** career development pathways | **64+** cybersecurity and IT occupations | **5** credentials on average per pathway | **625** average hours of learning per student | **2,000+** hours of on-the-job training per apprentice |

## CYBERSECURITY CREDENTIALS & CERTIFICATES

CyberMontana serves as a statewide hub for noncredit education and workforce development in cybersecurity and information technology. CyberMontana offers career-focused training pathways that prepare learners for industry-recognized certifications, professional credentials, and in-demand IT and cybersecurity careers. This is made possible through partnerships with leading industry training providers, including CompTIA, ISC2, Google, and Cybrary.

These pathways support individuals entering the workforce, transitioning careers, or advancing their existing skills. With self-paced, online learning options and hands-on training opportunities, CyberMontana helps remove traditional barriers to education while building a credentialed workforce that meets Montana's evolving cybersecurity needs.

## U.S. CYBER RANGE

The U.S. Cyber Range is a virtual, cloud-based, immersive learning platform designed to prepare students to handle real-world cybersecurity threats. It provides K-12 and postsecondary educators with customizable, hands-on training resources that help students develop practical cybersecurity skills in a safe, virtual environment.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **108** Students enrolled in the 2025-2026 school year | **7** instructors teaching | **4** courses taught |



# COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

**July 2025 - June 2026**

## LEADER & STAFF WORKSHOPS

These workshops provide organizational leaderships, their staff, and key decision-makers with a collaborative, discussion-based environment to prepare for cyber incidents before they happen. Through organization-specific scenarios, participants work together to evaluate decision-making, clarify roles and responsibilities, identify communication gaps, and strengthen their incident response capabilities in a safe setting. Participants leave with a stronger foundation in cybersecurity practices.

In March of 2026, an Academy Leader Awareness Workshop was delivered at Fort Belknap for senior staff and a follow-up Table-Top Exercise planned. This set a new precedent for CyberMontana to host more workshops in the future.

## WORK-BASED LEARNING | THE SOC & PISCES

The Montana Cybersecurity Policy and Training Academy houses the CyberMontana Security Operations Center (SOC), a student-operated Security Operations Center where Montana's college and university students gain hands-on experience as SOC analysts. Students learn to monitor network access, analyze threats, and report suspicious activities to authorities, providing both essential security services and invaluable workforce development for Montana's cybersecurity future.

The Missoula College SOC and PISCES detected a live threat at the Whitefish Water Treatment Plant.

| 18 | 3-5 | 7 |
|---|---|---|
| Student SOC analysts per semester | contact hours per week | community participates served |



## STUDENT SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING | NEOED

In support of Jonathan Neff, Chief Information Security Officer for the University of Montana and its affiliate campuses, CyberMontana has begun planning online security awareness training for newly enrolled UM students. Initial work includes drafting proposed syllabi and coordinating with the team that will build the training in NEOED. The training will help students recognize online threats and protect their personal information and university accounts. The long-term goal is to make the training mandatory for incoming students and expand its use to UM's affiliate campuses.

## STATE & LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Montana State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) is a $12,000,000 federally funded program that specializes in cybersecurity protection and training services. The SLCGP serves public-sector organizations to strengthen cybersecurity across the State of Montana, with a focus on resource-constrained, small, and rural local governments. The University of Montana Center for Cybersecurity Workforce & Rural Policy coordinates the program in collaboration with Montana Disaster and Emergency Services.

In FY2026, the Montana Cybersecurity Policy and Training Academy was formally launched. As CyberMontana's dedicated mechanism for community capacity building, it consolidated five coordinated services.

**60**
Organizations awarded

**11,878**
Endpoint-protection deployments

**15**
Network sensors

**13,029**
Security-awareness licenses

**4,802**
Multi-factor authentication devices

**14**
Counties as direct awardees

# LOOKING AHEAD

Remainder of FY27 Q2 (October - December 2026)

## Workforce Development

- Summer 2027 CySTEM Camp outreach, applications close January.
- Summer 2027 Teacher Camp outreach: OPI Cybersecurity Endorsement.
- K-12 Montana & Missoula College internships.
- Fort Belknap apprenticeship program.

## Cyber Awareness Outreach

- **15 and more** Everyday Cyber Safety Clinics scheduled.
- Montana State Library monthly Cyber Awareness Webinars and Everyday Cyber Safety Clinics.

## Community Capacity Building

- SOC & PISCES Ribbon Cutting at Missoula College.
- Regional, multisector tabletop exercises focused on counties and towns.

## Partnership & Collaboration

**TEAM OF TEAMS MODEL**

- PISCES experiential learning & community protection project.
- Funding all NEOED training for faculty and staff and providing online security awareness training to more than 2,000 newly enrolled Univeristy of Montana students.
- Buffalo Horse & Fort Belknap IT apprenticeship pilot.
- Montana Safe Schools Center: K-12 Cyber Awareness & Safety project. Montana State Library Cybersecurity Awareness project. SecureMontana & CISA.
- K12 Montana & Missoula College cybersecurity & IT internships.

# STAY CONNECTED

## CYBERMONTANA


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Applications
22/tcp open
631/tcp open
Nmap scan report
Host is up (0.11s
Not shown: 998 cl
PORT STATE SERVI
22/tcp open ssh
631/tcp open ipp
Nmap scan report for
Host is up (0.021s la
All 1000 scanned ports
Nmap scan report for 19
Host is up (0.032s late
Not shown: 997 closed po
PORT STATE SERVICE
22/tcp open ssh
80/tcp open http
631/tcp open ipp