

STATE: MONTANA	DISBURSEMENT AMOUNT: \$35,135.02 (4 th Quarter 2007 and 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Quarter 2008)																				
<p>According to the terms of your signed CIF Grant Agreement with the National Credit Union Foundation, the following categories are appropriate uses of CIF funds. Please provide an <i>approximate percentage</i> breakdown of how you have allocated your League/Foundation charitable funds (including your CIF Funds) for these activities in past 6 months, then complete the anecdotal reporting on the following page.</p> <p>Please return to Kristin Roosmalen (kroosmalen@ncuf.coop) to 608-231-4979 by Monday, January 5, 2009.</p>																					
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%; padding: 5px;">• Education of credit union employees and volunteers;</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right; padding: 5px;">_____%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">• Public education initiatives related to consumer finance;</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">24%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">• Projects and programs that support new, small or community development credit unions;</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">_____%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">• Enhancement to League/Foundation projects funded by other sources that are consistent with NCUF’s mission and purposes (To promote and improve consumer financial independence through credit unions);</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">_____%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">• Programs or projects that extend credit union services to the full range of membership, with emphasis on the unserved or underserved;</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">• Affordable housing projects;</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">_____%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">• Partnerships that provide services or carry out projects consistent with NCUF’s mission and purposes (To promote and improve consumer financial independence through credit unions); and</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">• With approval of NCUF, for other purposes consistent with the League/Foundation’s 501(c)(3) mission and purposes.</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">_____%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">• Other: _____ (Describe)</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">_____%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 5px;">100%</td> </tr> </table>		• Education of credit union employees and volunteers;	_____%	• Public education initiatives related to consumer finance;	24%	• Projects and programs that support new, small or community development credit unions;	_____%	• Enhancement to League/Foundation projects funded by other sources that are consistent with NCUF’s mission and purposes (To promote and improve consumer financial independence through credit unions);	_____%	• Programs or projects that extend credit union services to the full range of membership, with emphasis on the unserved or underserved;	70%	• Affordable housing projects;	_____%	• Partnerships that provide services or carry out projects consistent with NCUF’s mission and purposes (To promote and improve consumer financial independence through credit unions); and	6%	• With approval of NCUF, for other purposes consistent with the League/Foundation’s 501(c)(3) mission and purposes.	_____%	• Other: _____ (Describe)	_____%	Total	100%
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Please provide a detailed anecdotal report of how your CIF funds were put to use during this reporting cycle, including as much demographic information and tangible numbers as possible, in each of the categories where you spent CIF and/or other charitable funds. This information is necessary for our own reporting to investors and to auditors, as well as for continued promotion to potential new investors. (Please include any additional documentation as necessary.)

Public education initiatives related to consumer finance;

\$4,149.33 for www.Montanafreefile.org State-wide Public Awareness Campaign: In 2005 an outreach initiative was developed between three nonprofit community organizations - Montana Credit Unions for Community Development (MCUCD), Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA), and Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Montana (CCCS). The initiative was to create a state-wide public awareness campaign on the free tax filing options available to Montana taxpayers, which resulted in the development of the www.montanafreefile.org website and TV/radio Public Service Announcements.

The project partners found that because of the many free tax filing options available with varying eligibility requirements, a “one-stop” location was necessary to help filers determine which option best suited them based on the age, location, and financial status of the taxpayer. Montana is fortunate to have many resources available, including AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly sites, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, the do-it-yourself I-CAN!E-FILE service at www.icanefile.org, in addition to various IRS and state approved free file sites. All have different eligibility requirements. Having the different free-file options accessible in one location makes the process much easier for the taxpayer.

The following shows the success of the program, and potential for future campaigns:

	2006	2007	2008
Number of web hits	2,306	18,757	27,717
Number of PSA airplays	4,953	13,482	16,088
Montanans using a free tax preparation site	7,200	9,854	12,324
Montanans using the do-it-yourself filing system at www.icanefile.org	324	1,388	3,104
Project partners:	MCUCD MT Legal Services Assn CCCS of Montana	MCUCD MT Legal Services Assn CCCS of Montana Montana Dept of Revenue	MCUCD MT Legal Services Assn CCCS of Montana Montana Dept of Revenue Montana HRDC Assn
Project budget:	\$9,000	\$15,000	\$16,000

Partners play a unique and vital part to this project:

- Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA): Served as the direct contact to the public (both the PSA and the website refers to the MLSA toll-free hotline), answering questions on the different free tax filing options, helping locate the closest VITA and/or Tax Counseling for the Elderly site, how to use I-CAN!E-File (www.icanefile.org), and who qualifies for the Earned Income Tax Credit. MLSA also prepared the final project report, is the coordinator for the I-CAN!E-File free tax filing service in Montana, and generously allowed use of the probono.net web system for MontanaFreeFile.org.
- Montana Credit Unions for Community Development: Developed and maintained www.montanafreefile.org website, served as project fiscal agent, produced outreach materials, and coordinated PSA production and distribution.
- Montana Department of Revenue: Developed the PSA message, coordinated a press conference and placed a MontanaFreeFile.org link on the State of Montana home page (www.mt.gov).

The above partners, plus Consumer Credit Counseling Service and HRDC Association, provide financial support for the program.

\$4,200 for BizKid\$ on Montana PBS: Starting early in 2008, PBS television stations in Montana have committed to broadcast the *Biz Kid\$* television series exclusively underwritten by America's Credit Unions. MCUCD provided \$1,000 of its CIF funds toward this effort. Additionally, MCUCD purchased a complete DVD set of the first season for every Montana credit union, at a cost of \$3,200 in CIF funds. A copy of the letter that accompanied the DVD set is included with this report.

279 PBS stations in 43 states launched Biz Kid\$ in January and February. *Biz Kid\$* runs for 26 consecutive episodes. Two seasons of 13 episodes each have been combined and comprise represent Seasons One and Two. In many cases the show is scheduled to air one or two times, but will also repeat at other times and dates in the future. *BizKid\$* began airing in January on Saturdays at 9:30am, Sundays at 3pm and Mondays at 12am

Produced in high definition by the Emmy Award-winning creators of *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, *Biz Kid\$* is a fun, fast-paced series designed to teach kids about money. Every episode will begin and end with a narrator reminding viewers that “*Production funding for Biz Kid\$ is provided by America's Credit Unions, where people are worth more than money.*”

Programs or projects that extend credit union services to the full range of membership, with emphasis on the unserved or underserved

\$10,662.54 for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program: MCUCD allocated over \$10,000 to the VITA program this tax season, with 11 credit unions hosting 13 IRS "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance" (VITA) sites across Montana. 1,531 tax returns were filed and returning \$1.1 million in refunds back to the communities. This is an increase from eight credit unions and 859 returns in 2007, and two credit unions and 92 returns in 2006. Hosting credit unions provide space, supplies, equipment and management for the VITA program. MCUCD provides financial support and technical assistance for the volunteers and credit unions.

Participating credit unions are: 1st Liberty FCU, Bear Paw CU, EDTECH FCU, EnerGComm FCU, Fort Peck Community FCU, Heritage FCU, Mile High FCU, Mountain West FCU, Park Side FCU, Richland FCU, and Russell Country FCU. VITA sites can't serve everyone. The IRS certified volunteers are trained to do basic tax returns for people who earn \$40,000 or less. For clients served in Montana, the average adjusted gross income was just over \$14,500.

\$14,123.14 for AmeriCorps*VISTA Support: CIF funds were used to pay for the cost-share and related expenses associated with hosting three Americorps*VISTA members that build capacity of MCUCD programs. VISTA members work on the VITA project (see previous section), BSAFE (see below), and a consumer education project. For the consumer education project, the cost share was paid in 2008 but the member will not begin until 2009.

BSAFE stands for "Building Security through Assets and Financial Education" and is an Individual Development Account (IDA) program. An IDA is a matched savings account that helps low-income individuals purchase assets. IDA participants make monthly deposits to establish a savings pattern. Participants' deposits are matched – dollar for dollar – by contributions fundraised within the community. The BSAFE Program is dedicated to helping low-income survivors of domestic violence gain economic self-sufficiency and independence through financial education and asset attainment. The BSAFE Program recognizes that financial and economic literacy are empowering tools for survivors of domestic violence. These tools help survivors to purchase assets that supply additional sources of income, which in turn increase survivors' capacity to provide safety and stability for themselves and their families. BSAFE offers survivors of domestic violence a chance to attain a more stable and secure future.

The BSAFE Program is sponsored by Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) and Montana Credit Unions for Community Development (MCUCD). The BSAFE Program consists of two Advisory Councils located in Helena and Missoula, Montana. BSAFE provides the opportunity to invest hard-earned dollars in productive assets. BSAFE also assists survivors in building their financial skills through individualized financial counseling and connecting participants to financial services in credit unions, which help survivors to regain confidence and security.

For the past four years, the Helena Advisory Council has led eight participants through the BSAFE program. The Missoula BSAFE Program is currently fundraising and has raised \$40,000, and aims to enroll 10 participants by 2009.

Partnerships that provide services or carry out projects consistent with NCUF's mission and purposes (To promote and improve consumer financial independence through credit unions)

\$1,000 for Student Assistance Foundation's College Goal Sunday: MCUCD provided two \$500 education scholarships in conjunction with the Student Assistance Foundation's College Goal Sunday program. This year a record number of 1,679 students and families attended SAF's College Goal Sunday event geared toward assisting students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This year scholarships were awarded to students in Wolf Point and Chinook, Montana; their thank you letters are included with this report.

\$1,000 for Financial Packets in Partnership with MSU Extension: MCUCD provided financial support for the production of Financial Packets through the Montana State University Extension. A copy of the press release is included with this report. At the time of this writing there were already 170 requests for packets.

Please return to Kristin Roosmalen (kroosmalen@ncuf.coop) or fax to 608-231-4231 by Monday, January 5, 2009. Reports not submitted by deadline may result in the withholding of 4th quarter disbursements.

Signed: *J. Saarinen* Date: 12/31/08

Print Name: Jeanne Saarinen, Executive Director, Montana Credit Unions for Community Development

Phone: (800) 745-5546, ext. 131 Email: jeanne@mcun.org

Montana Credit Union Network

Montana
Credit Union
League

League
Service Group

Montana
Credit Union
Advocacy Council

Montana
Credit Unions
for Community
Development

1236 Helena Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

406.442.9081
800.745.5546

Fax: 406.442.9085

www.mcun.org
(or) www.montana
creditunions.coop
(and) www.you.coop

To: Member Credit Unions
From: Jeanne Saarinen, Executive Director
Montana Credit Unions for Community Development
Date: September 2008
Re: Biz Kid\$ DVD Set



MCUCD is happy to provide you with this DVD set of the first season of **Biz Kid\$**! **Biz Kid\$** is a fun, 30-minute PBS television series about entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Using kids as "real-life" examples, **Biz Kid\$** connects the financial world to kids' day-to-day lives, and in doing so, teaches them fiscal responsibility, career possibilities and connection to the community as well. It's about getting kids to realize they are the catalysts in creating their financial futures.

Exclusively underwritten by America's Credit Unions—**Biz Kid\$** includes a customized curriculum developed by Junior Achievement (JA) Worldwide that corresponds with each episode. It is produced by the Emmy Award-winning creators of the PBS/Disney series Bill Nye the Science Guy. Posters and other **Biz Kid\$** promotional materials can be downloaded at www.ncuf.coop.

Every **Biz Kid\$** episode begins and ends with a narrator reminding viewers that: "*Production funding for Biz Kid\$ is provided by America's Credit Unions, where people are worth more than money.*" **Biz Kid\$** has been airing on Montana PBS stations since spring 2007.

MCUCD was able to purchase this 26-episode set for every member credit union through money raised in the Community Investment Fund (CIF). In the CIF, a credit union makes an investment through Treasure State Corporate Credit Union and half of the interest on the investment, up to 2%, is split between MCUCD and the National Credit Union Foundation for state and national outreach programs. Currently, 31 Montana credit unions, Treasure State Corporate CU, and the League are CIF investors.

We encourage you to include this DVD series in your youth education efforts. Or, do like Melody Loken, manager of Carter County FCU in Ekalaka, has done by giving her set to a local elementary school teacher for classroom use. **Use this opportunity to build a relationship with your local schools and offer your assistance in teaching financial education to their students!**

If you have any questions about **Biz Kid\$** or how to start a financial education program, contact MCUCD's Director of Outreach Services Karen Smith at karen@mcun.org. For questions on MCUCD or the CIF, contact me at jeanne@mcun.org. Thank you!

MONTANA CREDIT UNIONS
for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TOGETHER
We can make a difference!

MCUCD's mission is to improve the social and economic well-being of Montanans through credit unions.



MSU News Service

Free info packet just right for Christmas or the New Year

December 22, 2008

Several organizations have teamed up to provide free stocking-stuffers that can help you make good financial decisions for 2009.

Montana State University Extension, the Montana Credit Unions for Community Development and the First Interstate BancSystem Foundation are providing packets to help you manage finances more effectively, said Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist.



Marsha Goetting photo by Kelly Gorham

Goetting, who authored the contents, said the packets can be used as holiday gifts or as New Year's Resolution gifts for those who want to become more effective money managers in 2009.

"Not only would this be an unusual holiday gift, but it has the added benefit of saving the cost of purchasing other 'stuff,'" Goetting said. "Best of all, the packets are free in recognition of the financial stress that many Montanans are experiencing."

The packet contains a checkbook "register alternative" that helps track all expenses, a tool that lets users see the financial consequences of paying the minimum on credit cards, a savings goals register, credit card tracker, schedule of non-monthly expenses, as well as a list of other resources available from MSU Extension, and many more helpful tips.

Goetting said her favorite from the group is the register that is about the size of a checkbook and helps track cash, check, debit or credit cards expenses. The register is accompanied by a fact sheet that describes how to use the system.

"With this information, you can know at a glance where your money is going," Goetting said. "That helps you make realistic decisions about the adjustments you want to make in the various family living categories such as food and transportation during this financially stressed time."

Goetting said one Montana grandmother has purchased 10 of the registers each year for several years to use as holiday gifts for her grandchildren. This year, because of financial support of the Montana Credit Unions for Community Development and the First Interstate BancSystem, the

check registers are included in the packet without charge to Montanans.

Another resource is the Credit Smarts Slide Calculator. This tool lets you see the consequences of paying just the minimum on your credit cards. For example, one study says that the average credit card debt load is about \$10,000. If you only make the minimum payment each month, you end up paying over \$9,420 dollars in interest and it would take 20 years to pay it off. And this assumes that you don't make additional credit card charges.

If you would like to receive a packet e-mail Goetting at goetting@montana.edu, call (406) 994-3511, or write Goetting at MSU Post Office box 172800, Bozeman, MT 59717. You can also contact your local Extension office to give the agent your mailing address and the number of packets you want to receive.

This story has one sound bite, 21 seconds, available on the web.

Marsha Goetting (pronounced "Getting"), MSU Extension family economics specialist, says this is the perfect time to take control of your finances (:21)

<http://www.msuextension.org/msunews/Soundbites/MGpackets1208.mp3>

Contact: Marsha Goetting (406) 994-5695 or goetting@montana.edu

© Montana State University

Dear Montana Credit Unions for Community Development,
Thank you so much for sponsoring my
\$500 College Goal Sunday Scholarship. As I
will be attending Montana State University
in Bozeman, majoring in elementary
education, this money is greatly appreciated
and will be put to good use. In this
day and age, furthering one's education is
quite expensive; every little bit helps, and
this amount is very generous. I encourage
you to continue your admirable support for
education. Thank you again so very much
for making this scholarship possible!

Amanda
Schmoke

April 1, 2008

Scholarship Committee
Montana Credit Union for Community Development

Re: Montana College Goal Sunday Scholarship

Dear Scholarship Committee:

I am writing this letter to thank you for the Montana College Goal Sunday Scholarship I was awarded. It was an honor to be chosen as a recipient of this prestigious award. Your support has kept me from worrying so much about the cost of tuition as an out-of-state student, and it has made it possible for my widowed mom to take out a lesser amount in private loans. I will truly value my education at Jamestown College, and this scholarship had afforded me the opportunity to continue with my educational pursuits.

Throughout my youth, I have always looked forward to a career in the field of medicine, and I investigated many universities during my senior year in high school. I came to the conclusion that Jamestown College had the quality education I was seeking. I have not been disappointed and plan to continue my sports career and have been blessed with wonderful coaches that have taught me much.

Thank you again for your generosity. I look forward to the time that I can help others as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hoversland

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Hoversland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".