



# Unemployment in High-Poverty Areas of Montana

Summary of the Senate Joint Resolution No. 20 Study by the Economic Affairs Interim Committee

Presented by Pat Murdo, Committee Staff



## SJR 20 Assigned to the Economic Affairs Committee

The Committee:

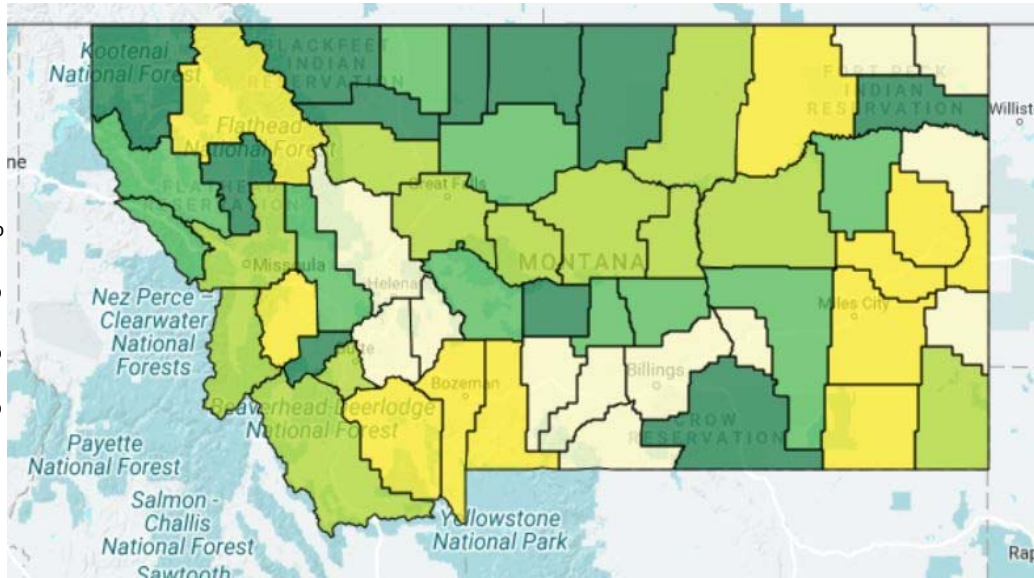
- ❖ Decided in its Work Plan to Provide Minimal Time on the Study
- ❖ Focused Attention on Understanding How Unemployment Rates are Determined
- ❖ Heard from Members of the Blackfeet, Salish-Kootenai, and Gros Ventres/Assiniboines Tribes about Job Concerns on Their Reservations
- ❖ Will be Presented with a Draft Final Report and Proposed Recommendations at the April 26 Economic Affairs Meeting

## Where are Montana's High-Poverty Counties?

County Poverty Levels 2017

- 10.6% or below
- 10.7% to 13.1%
- 13.1% to 15.5%
- 15.6% to 18.3%
- 18.4% to 28.3%

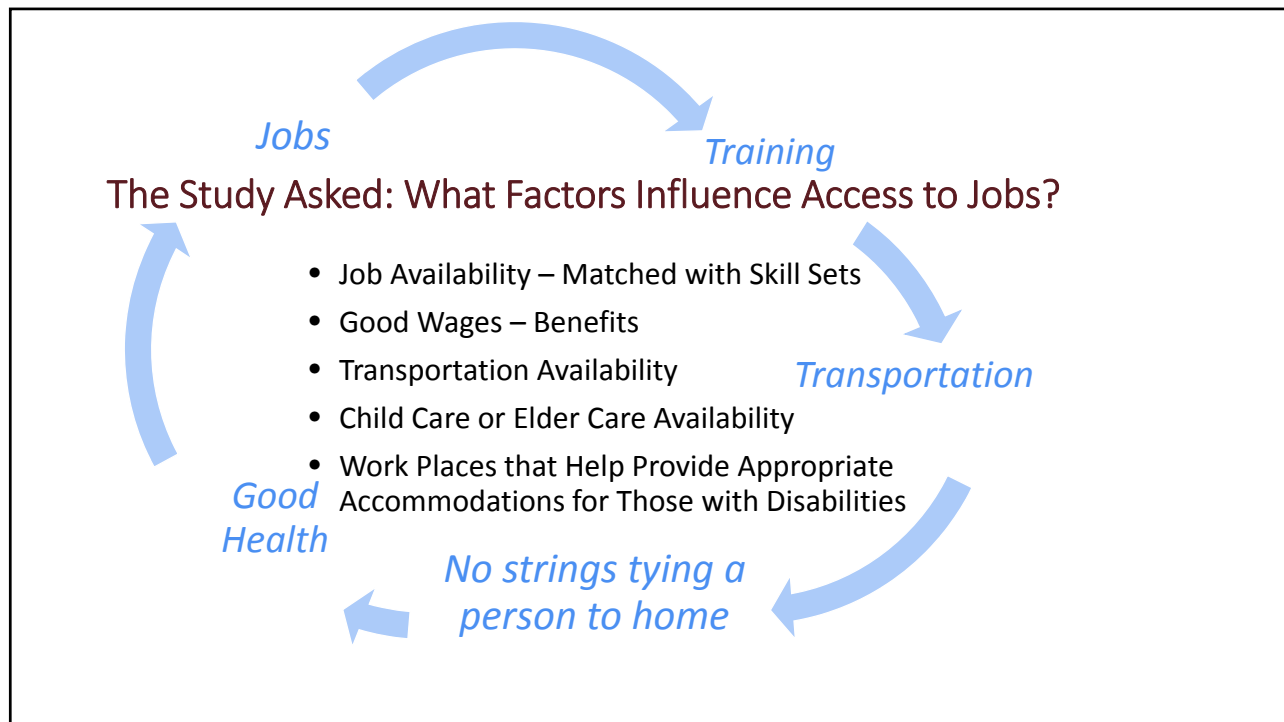
U.S. Bureau of the Census



## The Study Asked: How is Unemployment Measured?

- Standard Bureau of Labor Statistic Measurements
  - Some based on surveys (low population in Montana limits specifics)
  - Some based on sampling

U-1	U-2	U-3 The Standard	U-4	U-5	U-6
Measures those unemployed for 15 weeks or more	Measures those who recently lost a job or completed a temporary job	Measures those actively seeking work as a percent of the civilian labor force	Includes discouraged workers + those actively seeking work represented by U-3	Includes the marginally attached workers + discouraged workers + those actively seeking work represented by U-3	Includes those working part-time for economic reasons + the marginally attached + discouraged workers + those actively seeking



## Tribal Concerns Expressed in February Meeting

- Difficulty of Travel to Job Service Offices
  - Interested in Mobile Vans
- Need for More Information about Apprenticeships
- Need for Funding/Grants
- Need to Help with Substance Abuse
- Need help for applicants with learning disabilities
- Need Help with Travel Concerns
  - Distance to Travel for People to Take the General Equivalency Exams to get Their GEDs
  - Difficulty in Accessing Driver's License Stations
- Need Help with Child Care and Elder Care
- Need to Address Homelessness

## Economic Affairs Committee Asked Tribes

- To Assess What Is Most Needed to Help Tribal Employment
- To Determine What Actual Unemployment Numbers Are

Example of Unemployment Numbers That Committee Wants Explained

Reservation	State-Based Unemployment Number December 2017	Tribe-Provided Number Based on BIA and State Numbers (not a standard calculation) 2005
Blackfeet	11.0%	72%
Crow	16.0%	50%
Flathead	5%	36%
Fort Belknap	11.5%	72%
Fort Peck	5.4%	57%
Northern Cheyenne	14.0%	62%
Rocky Boy's	11.3%	76%

## CSKT Study: Finding Answers

The Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes in 2014:

- Paid \$55,662 for a study by the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research for a profile of job and training needs
- Included a survey of tribal members ages 18-60 that asked about barriers to employment + job, education, and training interests

Top 5 Barriers Listed:

1. No gas money (39.0%)
2. Discrimination (26.2%)
3. No reliable vehicle (25.8%)
4. Poor health (24.5%)
5. Lack of child care (22.9%)