

## Youth Leadership Council to convene in Helena

*20 middle and high school students convening to address childhood hunger in Montana*

HELENA, MT – The 2018-2019 Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council will convene at the Capitol on Friday, November 30 to discuss ways to address childhood hunger, the Governor's Office of Community Service announced today. The 20 members represent middle and high schools in 19 different communities across Montana, from Billings and Bozeman to Trout Creek and Nashua. They will meet with First Lady Bullock, learn about food insecurity in Montana, and begin planning projects to address the issue.

**“Childhood hunger is an important issue for my husband and me. Too many Montanans experience it firsthand,”** First Lady Lisa Bullock said. **“It’s inspiring to see young people like these students take the initiative to fight childhood hunger and ensure that kids in Montana get the food that they need to be healthy, happy, and successful.”**

Now in its fifth year, the Youth Leadership Council will convene at the Capitol and culminate in projects addressing childhood hunger during Fight Childhood Hunger Week next April 8-14, 2019. Past projects have included “Fill the Freezer” campaigns, food drives, educational programs, and mobile applications.

2018-2019 Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council members:

- *Deidra Beads Don't Mix, Crow Agency 12th grade*
- *Erika Hernandez, Hardin, 12th grade*
- *Katie Kaiser, Glasgow, 12<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Taylor Olsen, Charlo, 12<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Leif Clark, Butte, 12<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Brielle Aklestad, Galata, 11<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Kelsyn Lohr, Shelby, 11<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Hank Rugg, Missoula, 11<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Joh Hertz, Billings, 11<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Kaylee Yeager, Miles City, 11th grade*
- *Nina Friedman, Whitefish, 11th grade*
- *Riley Gilsdorf, Billings, 10<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Elaina Patten, Helena, 10th grade*
- *Cheyenne Farris, Baker, 9th grade*
- *Sidney DeLong, Hamilton, 9th grade*
- *Ruby West, Bozeman, 8th grade*
- *Elaina Keast, St. Ignatius, 8th grade*
- *Gabrielle Higbee, Glendive, 8th grade*
- *Kaitlyn Miller, Nashua, 8<sup>th</sup> grade*
- *Hattie Neesvig, Trout Creek, 7th grade*

More information can be found at [www.fightchildhoodhunger.com](http://www.fightchildhoodhunger.com).