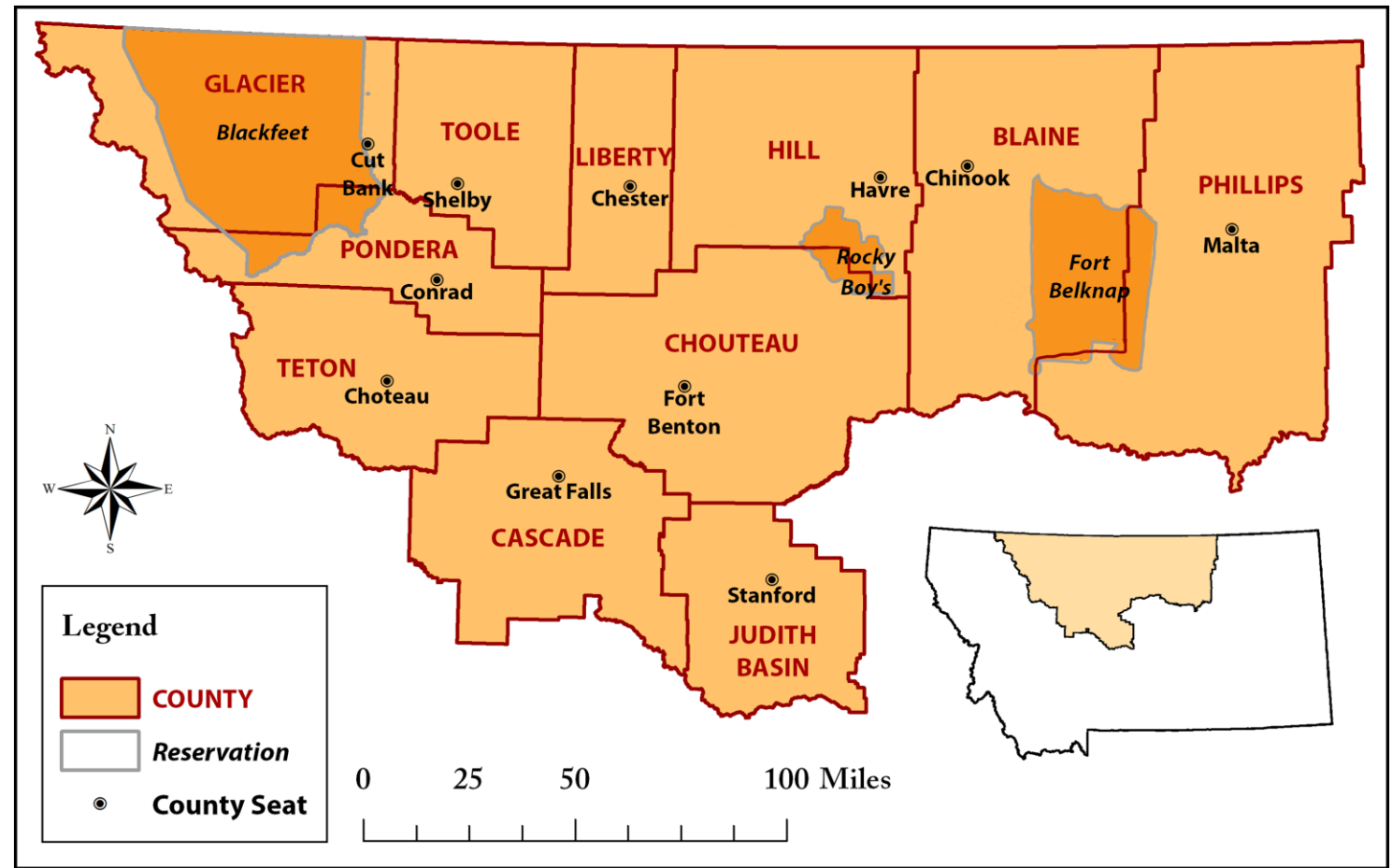


# North Central Montana Region



OPPORTUNITY LINK, INC.

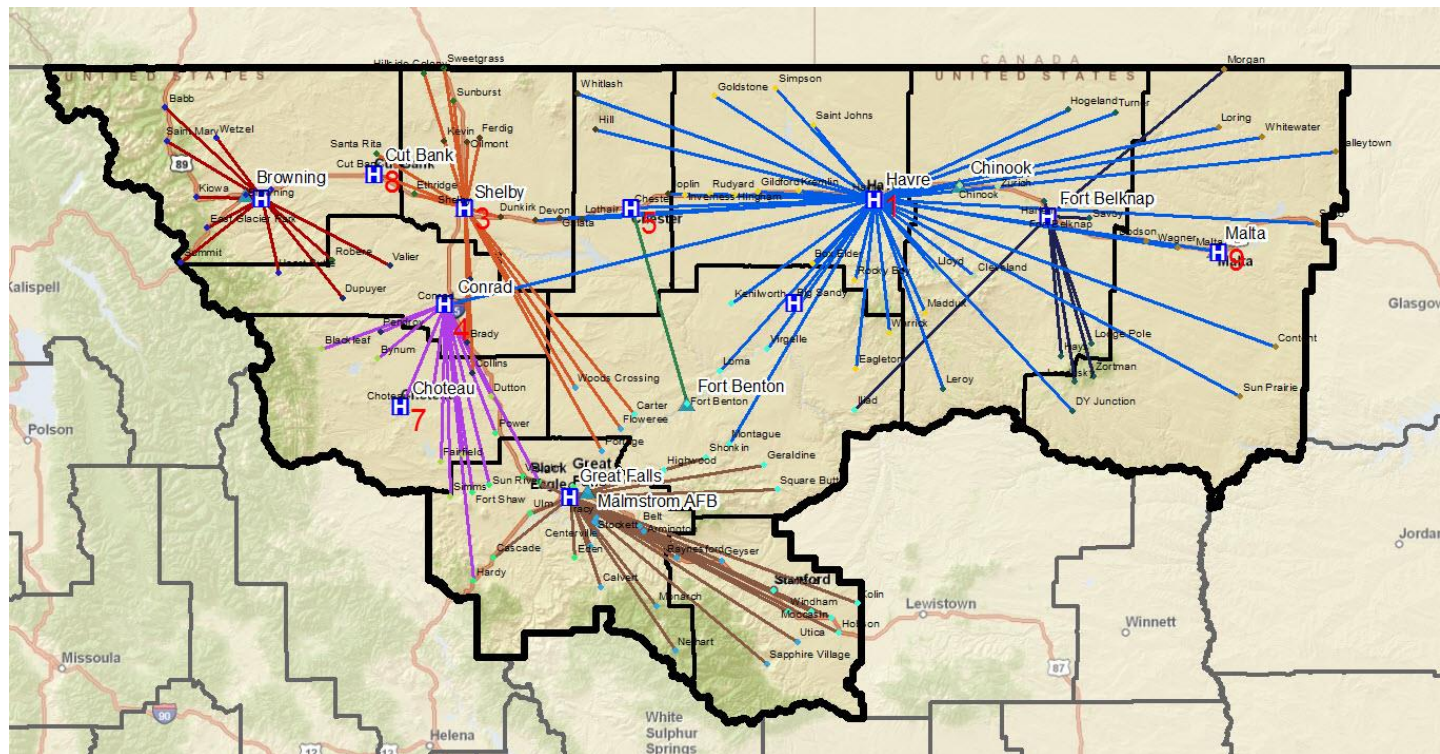
[www.vibrantfuturesmt.org](http://www.vibrantfuturesmt.org)



# Greatest Project Successes

- Communities have started to think and work together as a region (REGIONAL THINKING)
- Communities recognized that goals, strategies, and actions call for a “systems approach” where each component is dependent on another and each community is interdependent on the other (SYSTEMS APPROACH)

Where our residents go for medical services



# Greatest Challenges Faced

- Tradition of rural communities to work alone (or not at all) rather than combining resources to advance large projects
- Distrust of top-down government planning, and of another regional planning project
- Scale of region

Themes		Solutions						
		Community Meetings	Scenario Workshops	Growth Policy Review	CEDS	Surveys	Catalyst and Expert Groups	Community Ventures
Regional Prosperity	Job Growth	X	X	X	X	X		X
	Tourism	X	X	X	X		X	X
	Workforce Training	X				X	X	X
	Entrepreneurship			X	X			X
	Downtown Main Street	X	X	X				
	Broadband Internet	X		X			X	X
	Renewable Energy	X	X	X	X		X	X
	Oil and Gas				X		X	

# Requested Support for Implementation



1. Continued support of communities invested in the planning process through
  - Preferred Sustainability Status
  - Technical Assistance from Capacity Building Team
  - Implementation Assistance from Partnership
2. Support continuity of community engagement and plan implementation
  - Leverage community partners and networks from regional planning process by continuing to support Opportunity Link for plan implementation
  - Provide modest funding to Opportunity Link to continue its role as resource coordinator for the region
3. Recognize our concerted effort
  - Credit region-level collaborative efforts, awarding priority to projects who aggregate rural and tribal communities and that coordinate investment across multiple jurisdictions

# In 20 years, North Central Montana...

- Has scaled up investments in housing, infrastructure, healthy food systems
- Is connected through multiple transportation options with a highly networked rural tourism
- And young families live with more telecommuting options
- Continue to work regionally



*"There is community awareness, but taking action is key to helping the community thrive."*

Source: Vibrant Futures Survey Comment

