Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center is a collaborative formulated under Harwood Memorial Park, Inc., a local non-profit organization and the Laytonville School District. The Center is located at Harwood Memorial Park in Laytonville, California and serves the greater Laytonville area. According to the 2010 Census, 1,227 people live in this region. Ethnically the population of Laytonville is 14% Native American and 8% Latino, and 78% White. Twenty-five percent of the population is under the age of 18.

Laytonville is located in the unincorporated area in Mendocino County and has no county agencies/satellites offices to provide health and human services for children and families. In 2002, some of the most pressing issues identified for this northern inland area were: alcohol and other drug services, lack of access to health care and child abuse and neglect. Today the Center also identifies the need for transportation services, services for adults and seniors and affordable childcare and housing in the Laytonville area.

Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource center was established in 1997 with a California Healthy Start grant aimed at assisting families whose children attended Laytonville schools. The FRC is open to the public Monday through Thursday and closed on Friday. Laytonville Healthy Start provides a wide variety of family strengthening services. The primary target populations for the Center are school children, youth and their families but the Center does its best to serve anyone who walks through the door. In 2010, Laytonville Healthy Start and its programs served over 1,000 Laytonville children, teens, adults and seniors.

The 2012 projected budget is $300,000 with funds primarily from a Federal Drug Free Communities Grant for the agency’s coalition, Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) reimbursement, “BRONCO” Safe Schools/Healthy Students program, Mendocino County Department of Social Services (Office of Child Abuse Prevention funds) and First 5 Mendocino. In addition, Laytonville Healthy Start relies on community donations and fundraising to support programs. Harwood Memorial Park, Inc. employs several people in community-based positions such as: Long Valley Dance and Fitness Center, Homeless Liaison, After–School program staff and Teen Staff for various programs.

Laytonville Healthy Start has a strong connection to Laytonville Schools as five of the on-site staff are employed by the school district.

Laytonville Healthy Start relies on a strong collaboration with other local area and county agencies to serve the Laytonville Community. Some of these partners include: Harwood Memorial Park, Inc., Long Valley Health Center, Cahto Tribe, Laytonville County Water District, Tapestry Family Services, First 5 Mendocino, Mendocino County Department of Social Services and Public Health, Project Sanctuary and the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Department. Laytonville Healthy Start is also an active member in the Family Resource Center Network of Mendocino County, and the center’s director serves as the Chair of the Network.

The future dream/vision for the center is to sustain or enhance services in order to address the unmet needs in the community. Since Laytonville is a rural and isolated community in Northern Mendocino County, many of the residents rely on the Family Resource Center to provide services such as Medi-Cal and Healthy families insurance sign-ups, Food Stamps (Cal Fresh) and provide referrals and information to outside agencies.

Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center’s vision is “a safe, supportive community environment that promotes prosperity, self-reliance, and positive relationships among community members.”