

Missoula County Media Release

Contact: **Sindie Kennedy**

Grants administrator and environmental certifying officer

skennedy@missoulacounty.us

406-258-3688

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County Seeks Public Input on Housing and Community Development Projects

MISSOULA – The Missoula County Division of Grants and Community Programs will host a Community Needs Assessment from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Monday, April 23, to gather public opinion and data as it prepares to apply for grants that would fund housing and community-development projects.

The public meeting at Hellgate Lions Park, located at 1305 Haaglund Drive in West Riverside, is an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts on county needs, suggest potential community projects and help the county prioritize funding. County staff also will collect important assessment data that could contribute to proposals for the Montana Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnerships Program grant. Residents also can provide input via an [online survey](#).

The state Department of Commerce will soon solicit grant proposals from Montana communities for the CDBG and HOME grants, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Both grants help communities expand, maintain or improve the supply of housing; promote economic development; and construct or rehabilitate public facilities and infrastructure. Applicants must demonstrate community need to be considered for funding.

“The Community Needs Assessment public meeting is part of the process for defining how state HUD funds could be used, and determining what other resources should be explored to meet Missoula County’s needs,” said Sindie Kennedy, grants administrator with the Division of Grants and Community Programs. “This meeting is crucial for local government to gather public input on how our federal grants should be used. Funds have helped provide shelter, affordable housing, economic development, wastewater improvement and many other projects for low- and moderate-income residents and neighborhoods – all projects that have helped strengthen our county.”

The [State of Montana Consolidated Plan, 2015-2020](#), outlines the state’s specific objectives for its CDBG and HOME allocations, and more information about both funding

opportunities will be available at the meeting. The state's CDBG application process is expected to open this summer, while the HOME application process is ongoing.

For more information or to request special accommodations to participate in the meeting, call Community and Planning Services at 406-258-4657 or email caps@missoulacounty.us. People using a TTY device can contact the Montana Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1.

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