

# Missoula County Media Release

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## **Missoula County Receives \$450,000 Grant for YWCA Family Housing and Shelter Facility**

The Montana Department of Commerce recently awarded a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant to Missoula County to help fund development of a new YWCA family housing and shelter facility in Missoula.

This 36,725-square-foot mixed-use facility, located at 1800 S. Third St. W., will provide 31 rooms of family housing, 13 rooms of domestic violence shelter and a service center. The 9,000-square-foot service center will include offices, meeting rooms and program space and also will serve as the YWCA's new headquarters.

"Families experiencing housing insecurity in Missoula have limited options for emergency housing, and this facility will provide that for Missoula's most vulnerable families," said YWCA Missoula Executive Director Cindy Weese. "We've also been searching for a new facility location for more than 10 years since we outgrew our domestic violence shelter and service center. This grant moves us closer to making all of this a reality."

In addition to the county's CDBG award, the project will be funded with an additional \$350,000 CDBG award from the City of Missoula. CDBG awards are administered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funding secured by the YWCA in the form of grants, property sales and a capital campaign will cover the remainder of the project, which is estimated to cost at total of \$12.7 million, with \$7.9 million of that going toward construction.

"Support from the county commissioners and collaboration between Missoula County and the YWCA Missoula helped make this application successful," said Sindie Kennedy, Missoula County grants administrator. "It was easy to support this project, given the YWCA's proven leadership in serving Missoula's most vulnerable populations."

The project is the result of a special collaboration between YWCA Missoula and the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, along with many other community stakeholders, including Missoula County, City of Missoula, Missoula County Public Schools, Mountain Home and WORD. This collaboration was the result of a working group of stakeholders, neighbors and community leaders formed in 2015 to address homelessness and domestic violence many Missoula families experience.

For more information, call Kennedy at 406-258-3688 or email [skennedy@missoulacounty.us](mailto:skennedy@missoulacounty.us).

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