

MEETING NOTES FOR MEMBERS TO USE AND SHARE

This document is posted at: <https://housing.mt.gov/Meetings-Events-and-Training/Housing-Coordinating-Team>

Housing Coordinating Team (HCT) Agenda

Monday, May 11, 2020, 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Attend via GoToWebinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2822605082251680769>

Cheryl Cohen, Operations Manager, Montana Housing:

- Request participant's approval to record audio of meeting, so we can post detailed minutes for the group's use after the meeting
- Welcome, Announcements, Introductions as necessary.

Meeting goals and objectives for :

- Share COVID-19 resources available for Montanans
- Hear from members and partner organizations about resources they offer

Emergency Housing Assistance program

Montana Housing Guidance on COVID-19:

- Consumer Protections, including temporary halt on evictions and foreclosures, and cancellation of utility services
 - Information for tenants and for landlords
 - [COVID-19 Housing Choice Voucher Program Regulatory Waivers Adopted](#)
 - [Emergency Housing Assistance program](#)
 - Changes to compliance and inspection requirements for Montana Housing programs
 - Links to Notices, FAQs and HUD resources
 - HUD Resource: [COVID-19 FAQs for the Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher \(HCV\) \(including the Project-based Voucher Program \(PBV\)\) and Native American Programs](#)
 - HUD Resource: [Addressing Tenant Concerns Regarding Rent and the Temporary Suspension of Evictions for Nonpayment of Rent](#)
- *** Question about implementing a rent increase, during this moratorium.**
- Advice was given to check with your agency's legal council
 - If rent increase was discussed pre-Covid moratorium, we think it is allowed
 - Another alternative is to offer a new 12 month

List of Housing Assistance Programs:

- <https://commerce.mt.gov/Montana-Coronavirus-Relief/Housing-Assistance>

Montana Coronavirus Relief

- this Commerce webpage includes information and a link to apply for the following:
 - Business Assistance
 - Community Assistance
 - Housing Assistance
 - Health and Human Services
 - Resources
 - Federal Programs

[Coronavirus Relief Fund Advisory Council](#)

[Coronavirus Relief Fund Public Comment](#)

- explains how and why Montana is using it's funds as we are.
- Includes good links to several sectors and SBA programs

[Governor's Coronavirus Task Force](#)

- Current reporting for coronavirus safety in Montana
- Resources for citizens, businesses, employers, media, community partners, and state employees
- Get the latest Montana State Government news
- Information about Symptoms & Testing

Current Business

[Census:](#)

- Self-Response Phase: online, phone and mailed self-responses continue throughout the data collection process. Deadline has been revised to October 31, 2020
- [CENSUS STORY OF THE WEEK](#)
 - Why an accurate Census Count is important for Montana and what we each can do to make sure that happens.
 - Housing Resource Guide

New Business

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Team Member updates ~ what is happening with your organization and programs?

- How is the COVID-19 epidemic affecting your community? the Economy? Housing Needs?
- New programs

Stay Connected grants - Tuesday, June 16 | 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

- Grants ranging from \$500-\$2,000 per applicant are available to reduce social isolation among Montana's seniors. Eligible applicants include area agencies on aging, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and tribal elder services. Grant funds can be used to fund technologies and other efforts to encourage physically distant forms of social interaction for elderly Montanans during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Current funding available is \$400,000
- Link to apply online is on this page: <https://commerce.mt.gov/Coronavirus-Relief>

[Economic Impact Payments](#)

- a useful IRS website, offering to assist with stimulus checks
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[Where Can I Find a Bank That Can Open an Account Online?](#)

- This useful information is on the FDIC website
- specifically for helping those who need assistance and have no bank account

[Sanders County is conducting Housing Needs Assessment](#)

RMDC is a source of information for their community

- [Rocky Mountain Development Council is still providing for seniors](#)
- [Montana organizations seeing more requests for energy assistance](#)
- [Red Alder Residences](#)

Human Resource Development Agencies

NeighborWorks Montana

- [Link to COVID-19 information](#)
- [Homebuyer Education & Counseling by housing partners across the state](#)

NeighborWorks Great Falls

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

- [COVID-19 resources and notices](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Affordable housing solutions](#)

COVID-19 tobacco QuitLine link

- Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW

Good Samaritan Ministries

- Housing Navigator
 - [Subsidized Housing Cheat Sheet](#)
 - [Housing First](#)

Community Development Division

- TSEP Application Deadline Extended
 - Due to the repercussions of COVID-19, the Montana Department of Commerce has received many public comments expressing concern over the May 1, 2020 TSEP Construction application deadline.
 - Commerce has: (1) extended the application deadline to June 12, 2020; and (2) will allow TSEP Construction Application public meeting documentation to be submitted any time up until August 3, 2020.
 - <https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/TSEP/ProjectGrants/ApplicationForms>

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Help FDIC Provide Resources for Remote Account Opening and Safe and Swift Economic Impact Payments
 - CARES Act includes a provision for supplying relief monies to qualifying individuals and families. Most recipients will secure their payments electronically from the IRS, which will use the bank account information on file from the recipient's last tax return.

Unbanked recipients will wait for paper checks, which can be lost or stolen. The FDIC encourages everyone to use insured bank accounts.

The FDIC has developed resources that will make it easier for unbanked consumers to open a bank account online so that they too may receive their payments securely and

timely. To that end, we have launched a webpage entitled [Receiving IRS Economic Impact Payments](#) aimed at helping consumers get the information they need to open a bank account and receive their relief monies electronically.

The FDIC webpage includes a link to a special Bank On webpage that includes a list of banks with certified accounts that offer remote account opening online or through a mobile device. ABA and ICBA links connect consumers to lists of banks that offer remote account opening all across the country. The webpage offers additional resources including how to submit account information to the IRS through the [IRS Economic Impact Payments Portal](#) so that payments may be deposited electronically to the recipient's account.

Here is how you can help:

- Add the [Receiving IRS Economic Impact Payments](#) link to your webpage
- Add the [FDIC Video - How to Open a Bank Account](#) to your webpage and share via social media
- Share the [FDIC Official Twitter Channel](#) – Retweets are appreciated

These articles underscore the urgency of reaching unbanked consumers as quickly as possible:

- [14 million Americans risk major delays in their stimulus checks](#)
- [Stimulus check issues for more than 8 million Americans without a bank account](#)

I look forward to meeting all of you.
Thanks, again!

Jackie Girard

State Director

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Field Policy and Management

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Check out our new website! www.HUD.gov

Billings HA

- Having trouble with the confusion that has been generated by the moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, both the Governor's and the HUD version.
- Taking action to inform and connect renters and homeowners to resources for paying rent or mortgage and with documentation they require
- Working with Continuum of Care and County officials to help as many community members who are suffering
- Housing Authority staff have been gathering fruit and vegetables to disperse to senior tenants and others who cannot get out to shop for their own
- Patti Webster may be a resource for those seeking "out of the box" ideas and sources of funding, she and her staff seem to have dug deep to find help for their community.

Montana Housing received a request from a K9 Trainer who is seeking a vacant unit or a vacant building to train her dogs. Here is her request:

- I have sort of a unique question for you! I train police dogs here in town (Helena). I train with various K9 teams around Montana (including Jefferson County, Butte, Bozeman, and Gallatin County). Part of the dogs' required training is to detect narcotics in buildings. I am curious if any of the low-income housing programs in Helena would be willing to let me train K9s in any empty apartments or buildings. Maybe between tenants and before deep cleaning? I ask because there are a few complexes in other cities have allowed us access to some of their properties. It is a huge benefit for our training, but the property managers also love to use us as a little bit of a deterrent against drugs. In a typical training session, we plant narcotic detection training aids and then bring the dogs in to locate the pseudo drugs. The dogs are trained to sit when they find the drugs, and then they are rewarded with a toy. Training typically takes 30 min-1 hour
 - **If you are interested, contact Molly and chat.**
 - Trainer: Molly McKinney
 - Organization: McKinney K9 Training
 - Email Address: mollymrowland@gmail.com
 - Phone: (949) 579-0816
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- Program Application Deadlines
 - Upcoming Meetings and Webinars and Training Opportunities

Montana Housing Partnership Virtual Conference

- Plan to join us for this free one-day VIRTUAL event.
 - Tuesday, June 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - To learn more and to register, visit <https://www.mthousingpartnership.org/>
 - Save the date for next year's conference: May 17-19, 2021 in Helena

Meeting Schedule for 2020

- Monday, September 21, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, December 14, 2020, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.