2018 Housing Partnership Conference Wrap Up
Forging Ahead Together

Whew! Can you believe it has been three weeks since we were together at the housing conference? We give a huge thank you to the sponsors, those who donated auction items, and everyone who had a hand in putting this event together. Thank you, too, to those who were in attendance.

This year's silent auction raised over $1,400 that will be shared between Action Inc., Habitat for Humanity in Butte, and the Butte Rescue Mission. The money from the silent auction will be combined with money from the Community Give Back sponsorship and add to what these organizations are receiving!

Every year at the conference we are truly reminded of the statewide impact we have as housing organizations in Montana.

Tremendous efforts are being made across the state to try to ensure that every Montanan has a secure roof over their head, but we would not be able to do what we all do without collaboration - we truly are better together!

This annual event is great opportunity for everyone to come together and reaffirm that we all work for the same purpose...a healthy and productive Montana.

If you missed this year's conference, you WON'T want to miss next year's conference in Billings!

Manufactured Home Fair in Missoula

NeighborWorks Montana was thrilled to team up with a number of Missoula organizations to put on the first ever Manufactured Housing Resource Fair. Home
ReSource and the Missoula Urban Demonstration Project (MUD) invited residents of manufactured homes to attend and learn about resources available for home rehab and improvements. Climate Smart Missoula and their Green Corps volunteer Max Longo have been leading a year-long effort with NWMT, Home ReSource and the Missoula Human Resource Council to find new ways to support manufactured home owners as they seek to maintain and improve their homes.

In addition to the hosting and coordinating organizations for the fair Homeword, the Montana Legal Service Association, and MoFi attended to share their resources with residents, and the Montana Department of Health and the Missoula Federal Credit Union had flyers and information available about home health and home financing respectively. The Missoula Human Resource Council provided a great home improvement and energy efficiency workshop. And thanks to generous support from the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) attendees received free weatherization, energy and health related home supplies such as LED lights, weather stripping, pipe wraps and window kits.

### Manufactured Homes in Missoula County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Statistics</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of manufactured homes</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufactured homes built prior to 1979</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufactured homes built between 1980 and 2000</td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufactured homes estimated to be lost by 2025</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average price to rent a lot in a Missoula Manufactured Home Community</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average price of renting a 2-bedroom apartment in Missoula</td>
<td>$750</td>
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</tbody>
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Manufactured housing represents the largest supply of unsubsidized affordable housing in the country. Supporting residents as they work to improve the safety, health, energy efficiency, livability and longevity of their homes is one important way to preserve existing affordable housing.
Homebuyer Education

Please encourage prospective homebuyers to take a homebuyer education class in their area to prepare for home purchases. The June schedule is below. Keep in mind, we also have an online version for anyone not in a class area, or who may be closing between classes.
Since the Dodd Frank Consumer Protection act was enacted in 2010, HUD has been planning to provide a standardized test that all housing counselors and homebuyer educators will need to pass in order to remain HUD-certified.

All current housing counselors are required to take and pass the exam before August 2020. After August 2020, any counselor that has not passed the exam will not be allowed to provide housing counseling services until the exam is passed. The exam will be a requirement of all new housing counselors entering the network.
NeighborWorks Montana brought in a NeighborWorks America instructor to Great Falls and sponsored meals, travel, and lodging for all partner housing counselors to travel to Great Falls and take the two-day course.

Because NeighborWorks Montana has been very proactive in getting counselors trained and comfortable with the material, we have six housing counselors that are already HUD-certified. HUD has reached out to a few of our counselors and their experience and study advice have been featured on different nation-wide calls about the exam.

NeighborWorks Montana’s goal is that all partner housing counselors will have taken and passed the exam before the end of calendar year 2018.

We want to congratulate the following counselors in the NWMT network of partners who have passed the class:

Sara Ann Briggs - Bitter Root RC&D in Hamilton
Brendan Moles - Homeword in Missoula
Shera Carlascio - HRC11 in Missoula
Carrie Sharp - The Home Center in Billings
Sarah DeJong - HRDC9 in Bozeman
Colleen Phillips - RMDC in Helena

**WHY?**

Beyond being required, getting certified by HUD also:

- Gives our customers the confidence of knowing that their counselor is well equipped to help them
- Ensures we are offering accurate, industry standard information

nwmt.org