

NeighborWorks®

MONTANA

Creating opportunities for families and individuals to live in affordable homes in strong communities across Montana.

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 Homeward, 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 Key Statistics	
Number of manufactured homes	6,000
Manufactured homes built prior to 1979	3,000
Manufactured homes built between 1980 and 2000	2,100
Manufactured homes estimated to be lost by 2025	1,200
Average price to rent a lot in a Missoula Manufactured Home Community	\$350
Average price of renting a 2-bedroom apartment in Missoula	\$750



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.

HOMEBUYER EDUCATION ACROSS MONTANA

JUNE 2018

Statewide Partner	Contact	HBE Dates
Bitter Root RC&D - Hamilton	406.363.5450	June 16
CAPNM - Kalispell	406.758.5420	June 2, June 13
Headwater RC&D - Butte	406.782.7333	June 5 & 6 June 12 & 13
Homeward - Missoula	406.532.4663	June 2
HomeOwnership Center - Bozeman	406.585.4895	June 16 June 25 & 26
HRDC 4 - Havre	406.265-6743	June 11 & 12
NeighborWorks Great Falls	406.761.5861	June 20 & 21
RMDC - Helena	406.442.1236	June 23
Salish Kootenai Housing Authority - Pablo	406.675.4491	June 28
The Home Center - Billings	406.206.2717	June 2 June 16 June 30



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Staying HUD Certified



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.

There are a number of organizations offering prep-courses for the HUD exam. NeighborWorks Montana has sponsored counselors' travel to take some of these

courses. In February, 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

