



## GREETINGS FROM DANIELLE MAIDEN

Hello ROC Residents!

The ROC Program staff is looking forward to getting out to see everyone again over the coming months. We have been very lucky to work with you all remotely through the last year and stay in touch. We have been so excited to deploy grant funds and continue to work on special projects in each community - will be wonderful to see those projects come to fruition and see them in use!

There are some great training opportunities that will be coming available to all residents of ROCs, both virtual and in-person, in the coming months. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities whenever possible.

As we come out of this last year and into summer, please consider reaching out and letting us know what NWMT's ROC Program staff can do to help your community - whether that is working on volunteer events, grant applications for special projects, or trainings for Board members and residents. We can't wait to see you soon!

## New ROC Program Staff Member!



Join us in welcoming Adam Poeschl to the ROC program team! Adam is supporting ROC communities in western Montana and will be helping bring interested communities into resident ownership. Here are a few words from Adam:

"Hi Montana ROC Residents! I'm excited to be joining you as a ROC Program Specialist with NeighborWorks Montana. I'm originally from Livingston, currently live in Helena, and have only lived outside of the Treasure State for the two years I spent in Albania as a Peace Corps volunteer. I enjoy hunting, fishing, reading, and exploring Montana and can't wait to see all of your communities in person."

Looking forward to meeting you soon,  
Adam Poeschl

## Shared Equity Survey



Beginning June 1, NWMT will be conducting a survey in your community to evaluate the impact of the ROC Program. It will be helpful to know how we can best support your communities and how to communicate the benefits of resident ownership beyond financial stability.

The survey will be distributed and administered by fellow ROC residents who will go door-to-door to ask you to participate. We are hoping for a high level of participation from residents. If you complete the survey, you will be entered into a drawing with the chance to win one of three Visa gift cards of \$300, \$200, or \$50.

## Contacts at NeighborWorks Montana



**Danielle Maiden**  
dmaiden@nwmt.org  
406.407.6444



**Adam Poeschl**  
apoeschl@nwmt.org  
406.220.2361



**Autumn Tigart**  
atigart@nwmt.org  
406.604.4555



**Mary Lou Affleck**  
maffleck@nwmt.org  
406.670.9100

# Spring Greetings from Lorie Cahill

Greetings Montana ROCs!

I hope this finds all of you well and anxiously anticipating summer! I am very excited to start my third and final term as your mountain west director and want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in making that happen. We have weathered through a very tough year and I am so thankful for all of our communities in their efforts to help each other through this.

We have launched two great committees this year: our Policy and Advocacy committee and our Outreach and Education committee. If you are interested in being part of either or both of these committees, please reach out to me and I will get you connected.

There are many exciting things happening this year in regards to Opportunity to Purchase legislation and I hope you will support the effort to help others have the opportunity to do what we have. It is so important!

I urge all of our leaders out there to lift up leadership this year. Recognize and help others become leaders in your communities. It is part of what makes a great leader. Everyone has something to bring to the table. Encourage them and create an environment in your communities that encourages them to be a leader. People don't care as much what you do as they do about why you do it.

We are taking applications for the "Better Together" Grants! It is one of our favorite times of the year and I encourage your community to apply if you have not been one of the many previous recipients in the past.

I wish you all a great year in your communities and that you all have an abundance of health, happiness and may you all always have the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor!



ROC Steady!

Lorie Cahill  
Mountain West Director / ROC Association  
clorie47@yahoo.com



And don't forget to use [www.myrocusa.org](http://www.myrocusa.org) for up-to-date news and resources!

# Emergency Rent, Utility, Lot Rent Assistance Available

The Montana Emergency Rental Assistance program provides rent (including lot rent) and utility assistance to Montanans who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can apply directly for lot rental and utility assistance on your own at [www.housing.mt.gov](http://www.housing.mt.gov). If you need help applying, you can schedule a phone appointment by scrolling to the APPLICATION HELP section. If you prefer in-person help or a paper application, please contact one of the locations below:

City	Organization	Organization Address	Phone
Billings	HRDC 7	3124 1st Avenue North	406-206-2717
Bozeman	HRDC 9	32 South Tracy Avenue	406-587-4486
Butte	Action, Inc.	25 W Silver Street	406-533-6855
Butte	Salvation Army	1229 Harrison Avenue	406-782-7863
Great Falls	Opportunities, Inc.	905 1st Avenue North	406-761-0310
Great Falls	St. Vincent De Paul	426 Central Avenue West	406-761-0870
Havre	HRDC 4 Havre	2229 5th Ave #108	406-265-6743
Helena	Rocky Mountain Development Council	648 North Jackson Street	406-447-1625
Helena	Good Samaritan	3067 North Montana Avenue	406-442-0780
Kalispell	Community Action Partnership of NW MT	214 Main Street	406-752-6565
Lewistown	HRDC 6	300 1st Avenue North, Suite 203	406-535-7488
Missoula	HRDC 11	1801 South Higgins Avenue	406-728-3710
Missoula	Missoula Food Bank & Community Center	1720 Wyoming Street	406-549-0543
Whitefish	North Valley Food Bank	251 Flathead Avenue	406-862-5863

*The Montana Emergency Rental Assistance Program is funded through the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and appropriated to Montana Housing by the Montana Legislature.*

# State of Montana

Many ROCs in Montana were eligible for State of Montana grant funding in 2020. Eligible communities received a combined \$243,099 through state and private grants to support community needs and provide stability in response to the impacts of COVID-19. This funding was extremely unique and gave the residents an opportunity to complete many projects that they had been planning and fundraising for many years.

The following are a few highlights of how the communities deployed their grant funds in their ROCW:

***Buena Vista, Missoula*** - Purchased a zero-turn lawn mower to complete mowing in the community. Installed a new commercial sign at the park entrance for both the community and their commercial building. They also gave \$200 gift cards to each household in the community.

***C&C Community, Billings*** - They removed an abandoned home and prepared the lot for a new resident moving their home in. Well house, pump house, and pump repairs were completed, and food was provided for the volunteers completing the work. Office supplies were purchased in effort to keep up on communications with residents while in person meetings were not being held. They also provided all residents with gift bags that included masks, hand sanitizer, and gift cards.

***Crossroads Cooperative, Great Falls*** - They purchased a new community plow truck and a trailer. The community also had four speed limit/community rules signs designed and installed; had two concrete picnic tables placed in their playground area; refurbished their playground parking area and had parking blocks installed; had a planter designed and installed; purchased a printer and office supplies for the board; gave ACE gift cards to residents; and purchased gravel for various needs.

***Green Acres, Kalispell*** - The community was able to winter service all household furnaces, ensuring the residents have properly functioning furnaces. They also installed new lighting in the community for safety, installed new house numbers on homes so EMS services can locate homes quickly, had stairways evaluated and repaired for safety, installed a new ballot box for effective elections during COVID-19 and all households received \$200 gift cards to help them through the pandemic.

***Libby Creek, Libby*** - They were able to fully renovate their rental studio cabin that needed substantial renovations. The cabin has been completed and rented to help stabilize operations in the community. They received the Better Together Grant and installed a cover over their mailboxes and message board.



Gift bags made by  
C & C



New roof on shop in  
Clear Creek



Picnic area at River Acres



Playground at River Acres

# Grant Projects

**Missouri Meadows, Great Falls** - The community continued a long standing infill project by working with an engineer and completing three elevated foundations in preparation for new homes being brought in.

**Morning Star, Kalispell** - They provided direct cash benefits to households to allow them to use the funds to make needed preparations for COVID-19. The board members now have laptops and printers, allowing the organization to do business without contact. Improvements funded in the community include new fencing for safety along the roadway, added parking pads, repairing of the roadway, and improvements to the message boards and mailboxes.

**Mountain Springs Villa, Red Lodge** - The community purchased a \$125 gift card for each household, a laptop for their board, an outdoor message board, and rented a dumpster for a community clean up. Additionally, sidewalk repairs will be completed, making it possible for the community to safely enjoy outdoor activities.

**Northwood, Pablo** - They renovated an abandoned home for use as their community center. The center will offer access to a computer with internet, printer/scanner, as well as provide Wi-Fi for personal devices. This space will serve as a meeting space, as well as a rental space for private events. Additionally, two covered bulletin boards will be installed to help the organization share information easily to membership.

**River Acres, Missoula** - The community was able to purchase laptops for board members to hold meetings virtually. They also installed a playground for the children who are spending more time at home due to COVID-19 restrictions. The install also included a recreational space for all residents to have the ability to spend more time outdoors. A new community sign was also purchased for their entrance.

**Clear Creek, Havre** - This community paired the relief funds with the ROC USA Better Together Grant, allowing them to install a new metal roof to a shop in their community. The shop will become a community center, and the roof replacement was a great way to kick off renovation plans and efforts. Remaining funds were used to stabilize operations.

**Country Court, Kalispell** - The community purchased and is installing new playground equipment for the children since they are spending more time at home due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**View Vista, Livingston** - They are renovating their shop to serve as a community center. Supplies such as drywall, paint, printer, projector, books, tables and chairs were on the long list of items purchased. The community will be organizing a resident work-day to come together to make this vision a reality.



Lot work at  
Missouri Meadows



Community Center at  
Northwood



Hard at work at C & C



New sign at Buena Vista

# Tidbits

## The Power of a Logo



There is something special about seeing a logo and immediately recognizing the company or organization behind it. Having a custom logo designed for your community is a great way to look professional on signage, websites, letterhead, t-shirts, and more!

Would you like to have a logo designed for your community? NeighborWorks Montana can help! We will help coordinate the design through a vendor we have lined up, and cover the cost.

Please reach out to [roc@nwmt.org](mailto:roc@nwmt.org) or 406-604-4555 for more information!

# Did You Know?

The largest housing cooperative in the world is Co-op City in The Bronx, New York. Co-op City is home to more than 40,000 people and includes 35 high-rise buildings and seven clusters of townhouses.

This "city within a city" contains:

- Eight parking garages
- Three shopping centers
- Eight public schools
- Fifteen houses of worship
- Four basketball courts
- Five baseball diamonds

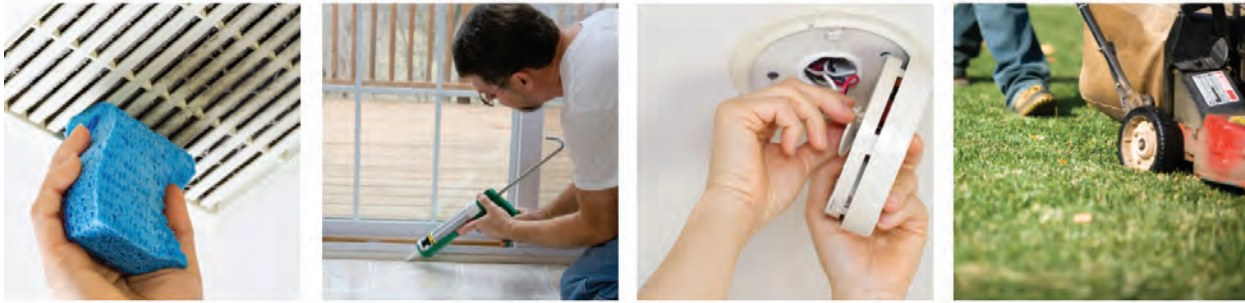


Many streets in the community are named after notable historical personalities including inventor George Washington Carver, aviator Amelia Earhart, and physicist Albert Einstein. Some of Co-op City's most notable prior residents include Queen Latifah and United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Learn more about Co-op City on Wikipedia: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co-op\\_City,\\_Bronx](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co-op_City,_Bronx)

Learn more about Cooperative Principles and Values from NAHC: [www.coophousing.org](http://www.coophousing.org)

# Summer Maintenance Tips



Summer is a great time to assess and make home maintenance repairs to ensure your home is ready for the summer season! Here are a few handy ideas for making the most of your time:

- Check your siding for loose or rotting sections and replace as necessary
- Clean your windows, inside and outside, and bring in more light
- If you have an air conditioner, be sure to have it checked and serviced
- Recaulk seals on doors and windows, as well as around bathroom and kitchen fixtures
- Clean gutters and downspouts so they can properly channel the water away from your home
- Pull out your dryer to vacuum out the exhaust duct
- Change your furnace filter every 30-45 days to maintain efficiency
- Vacuum the back of your refrigerators and freezers to allow ample air flow
- Check your roof, making any repairs needed
- Declutter, inside and outside, donating items as possible and throwing out what is beyond use
- Service your snow blower/plow to be ready for the winter months
- Check for and repair any entry points where pests are able to enter your home
- Check for mold/moisture throughout your home, but especially around pipes in your crawl space, in bathrooms and in the kitchen
- Test all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, replacing batteries as needed

*Need more ideas? There are many great sites with helpful tips that can be found on the internet, but don't forget to talk with your neighbors to see what tips they may have!*



## Seasonal Cleaning for Mental Health

Being a resident owned community provides opportunities for neighbors to help each other and keeps your community looking its best, but did you know that there are also mental health benefits? The act of working around our home and yard helps us to feel at ease because we know our home is safe, de-stress when we declutter and organize, and clears our head while doing mindless chores which are actually helping us practice mindfulness, meditation, and focus.



MONTANA

PO Box 1025

Great Falls, MT 59403

## BETTER TOGETHER GRANTS AVAILABLE

### BETTER TOGETHER GRANTS



#### 2021 IMPORTANT DATES:

**April 16:** Applications available

**June 13:** Applications due

**June 30:** Grant winners notified

**December 31:** Grant projects must be completed

#### LEARN MORE:

[ROCUSA.ORG/GRANTS](https://rocusa.org/grants)



Applications are now being accepted for 2021 Better Together Grants!

Applications are due June 13. Grant recipients will be chosen by the ROC Association Directors and will be notified by June 30. The project must be completed by December 31, 2021.

Grants are available up to \$2,000, with a total of \$20,000 to give away. Program guidelines and applications are available at [rocusa.org/grants](https://rocusa.org/grants).

ROCs who were awarded a grant last year are not eligible to apply. Please direct any questions to Sammi Chickering, ROC USA Digital Media Specialist, [schickering@rocusa.org](mailto:schickering@rocusa.org).

## #BetterTogether #ResidentOwnedCommunities