



## Lending & Education News



## Matched Savings Program Now Available!



Scan for details



NeighborWorks Montana now has a Matched Savings Account program available!

A matched savings program is a powerful tool to help build a habit and practice of saving. Our program combines the savings match with quality financial education and counseling from our network of certified housing counselors, giving participants the tools they need to have healthy finances and be prepared for unexpected expenses.

## **Who should participate?**

Anyone is able to participate. This program is not tied to homeownership.

## **How the program works**

From our experience, we know financial coaching can help Montanans improve their credit score, decrease their debt, and increase their savings. Here are the program details:

- 1:1 match - you save up to \$500 over a 6-month period and NWMT will match that \$500 for a total savings of \$1,000
- The minimum saving period will be 6 months (\$83 per month), or at least \$42 per month over a year period
- No maximum income limit, but you do need to have a consistent income
- You cannot be behind with your rent/mortgage or utilities

## **Saver requirements**

- You will need to attend counseling sessions throughout the first 6 month saving period with a financial counselor
- Agree to tracking and reporting of savings, debt, and credit score over that 6-month time frame
- Set up a bank account or designate an account already set up
- Show at least 6 deposits over at least 6 months that add up to the goal with no withdrawals or missing months

## **Participating financial counselors**

Please encourage your clients, family, and friends to take advantage of this program. This program gives the participants the peace of mind that comes with a stable budget and a savings account they can count on. Counselors in our network are able to meet in person, over the phone, and often over video chat.

A list of participating financial counselors can be found by scanning the QR code above or visiting [www.nwmt.org/matched-saving-program](http://www.nwmt.org/matched-saving-program).

# Service Changes

For counties: Hill, Liberty, Blaine, Toole, Pondera, and Choteau

NeighborWorks Montana (NWMT) strives to build an education and counseling network that provides access to education and counseling services no matter where in the state people reside. NWMT and its partner network successfully serve the state of Montana with the help of online education as well as remote and web-based counseling services. In-person education is generally available to Montana residents that live in a place where a NWMT partner is located.

NWMT partners have experimented with different ways to provide in-person education options to residents in more rural geographic areas over the years – from having an educator travel annually to various rural locations, to providing live remote classes via Zoom, NWMT counseling partners have a good understanding that it is important to figure out how to provide people with access to an in-person education option.

### **Education & Counseling Services**

NWMT partner, NeighborWorks Great Falls (NWGF) is piloting a different concept by housing a NWGF housing counselor and home buyer educator at HRDC 4 in Havre. Ashley Graham is a NWGF employee and is working out of an office space provided in partnership with HRDC 4 in Havre. Ashley is a HUD-certified housing counselor and is providing Havre residents an opportunity to access counseling and education services in-person. This unique pilot is an exciting concept that will expand the reach of in-person education and counseling services.

### **Lending Services**

NeighborWorks Montana will continue to serve Hill, Liberty, Blaine, Toole, Pondera, and Choteau counties through lending. NWMT is excited to support NWGF in this effort and will use its success as a model for other organizations to explore expanding reach into the most rural parts of the state.

## **UPCOMING HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASSES**

[Logos link to registration information](#)



October 8th (full-day Sat. class)  
In-person class  
HRDC 7, Billings  
(406) 206-3419



October 15th (full-day Sat. class)  
In-person class  
NeighborWorks Great Falls  
(406) 761-5861



October 15th (full-day Sat. class)  
In-person class  
HRDC 7, Miles City  
(406) 206-3419



October 17th - 18th (2 evening class)  
Virtual class  
HRDC 9, Bozeman  
(406) 585-4895



Homeward

Sustainable Communities for All

October 22nd (full-day Sat. class)  
Virtual class  
Homeward, Missoula  
(406) 532-4663



October 25th - 27th (3 evening class)  
Virtual class  
RMDC, Helena  
(406) 447-1680



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## CONTACT US!



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