

News & Updates

August 2020

Over the next several months, NWMT will be taking the opportunity to introduce you to some of the non-profit organizations we partner with to serve Montanans. Today we are pleased to showcase the Montana Cooperative Development Center.

Montana Cooperative Development Center

Building Together What Would Be Impossible To Build Alone



The Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to promote and develop cooperatives to meet the economic and community needs of rural Montana. For 20 years, MCDC has delivered quality technical assistance to cooperatives and communities across Montana.

As Montana moves into the recovery phases left in the wake of COVID-19, MCDC is working on building resiliency within communities across the State. The objectives for MCDC this year are to:

- Create an atmosphere for resilient communities through the development of "Home Economics" Cooperatives; grocery stores, distribution and supply chains, childcare, and housing.
- Recover Montana communities through value-added, production, and sustainable agricultural practices utilizing the Cooperative Business model, specifically addressing the shortage of meat processing facilities and the need to preserve working farm and ranching landscapes.
- Build vitality for Montana Main Streets by providing an outlet for retiring business owners to convert their companies to worker cooperatives and through education on how investing cooperatives could revitalize communities.
- Innovate and empower communities to meet their economic needs, through the collaboration of businesses to build shared-serve cooperatives for efficiency and sustainability.
- Expand the economic impact of the Montana Cooperative Development Center thru collaborations and initiatives across all of Montana and within the seven tribal reservations.
- Strengthen the cooperative ecosystem in Montana and build sustainability for the Montana Cooperative Development Center by expanding services and educational opportunities for cooperatives and the professionals who serve them.

Montana Cooperative Community is vibrant and diverse. Cooperatives serve all sectors, all industries, and can be found in every corner of the State. With the support and dedication of the established electrical, telecommunications, credit unions, and agricultural service cooperatives, new cooperatives are emerging and are creatively bringing solutions to communities.

Learn more about MCDC!
 Follow them on Facebook: facebook.com/mcdc.coop
 Visit their website: mcdc.coop

Emergency Housing Assistance Program



MONTANA HOUSING



Montanans who are having difficulty paying their rent or mortgage due to COVID-related loss of income are urged to apply for the Emergency Housing Assistance Program through the state of Montana.

This program provides rent, security deposit, mortgage payment assistance, and/or hazard insurance for those who have lost their job or substantial income due to COVID-19, up to \$2,000 per month.

- The program pays the difference between 25% of the household's net monthly income and their eligible housing costs.
- Annual income limits range up to \$125,000 based on family size.
- Applicants are eligible to apply even if they have now returned to work or regained income.

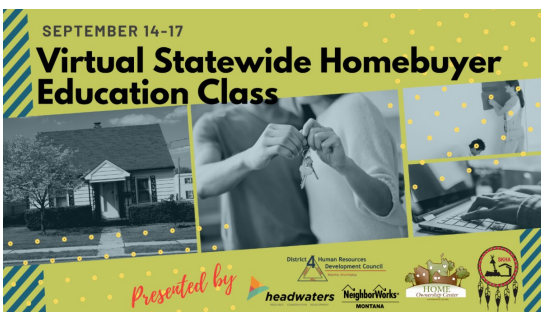
Please help spread the word!

nwmt.org/covidrelief

406.604.4500

covidrelief@nwmt.org

NeighborWorks Montana has partnered with Montana Housing to offer support to renters and homeowners needing assistance applying for the program. If you, or someone you know, qualifies for the Emergency Housing Assistance Program but has either been previously denied or is having difficulty filling out the application, please contact NeighborWorks Montana at covidrelief@nwmt.org or 406-604-4500.



NeighborWorks Montana is hosting a virtual statewide homebuyer education course next month! We will be joined by partner organizations who will be leading the sections throughout the course, giving valuable statewide perspective. Our first virtual class held in July was a great success with over 50 people attending from around the state. We really looked forward to helping more Montanans prepare for their home purchase!

The four sessions will be held September 14-17 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Registration is required. If attendees complete all four sessions and have a one-on-one with a housing counselor, they will be issued a certificate of completion. However, it is not a requirement to complete all four days. Anyone is welcome to join for the topics that most interest them to gather pertinent information but will not be issued a certificate.

Cost will be \$35 (up to two people). For more information and to access the registration for each session, please have them visit nwmt.org/virtual-HBE. Schedule of topics:

- September 14 - Assessing Homeownership Readiness with Budget & Credit
- September 15 - Financing a Home
- September 16 - Shopping for a Home
- September 17 - Maintaining a Home and Finances

If you have questions, reach out to NWMT Housing Network Assistant, Logan Smith, lsmith@nwmt.org.