

## News & Updates February 2022



Montana Housing Partnership invites you to get involved in the 2022 Montana Housing Partnership Conference! Current participation opportunities include being a conference sponsor and leading as conference session.

### Lead a Conference Session

We're looking for a mix of session content and formats. Breakout sessions can be 60 or 90 minutes. New this year: Subject-focused Coffee Talk periods that will be 30- minute discussions. We'll weigh both the relevance and importance of the topic to our audience, as well as the format and attendee engagement approach of proposed sessions.

We plan to schedule enough breakout sessions to keep group sizes to about 65 attendees; breakouts could be smaller/larger than the targeted average. Examples of last year's sessions are [HERE](#). Proposals are due March 4. Contact Katie Biggs with questions.

### Become a Conference Sponsor

The conference organizers are nonprofit groups which rely on sponsorships to plan/hold the conference. Your support is vital to our ability to provide attendees with the best training and networking experience our industry can offer.

As a sponsor, you'll have a virtual, customizable exhibit space to interact with attendees. You'll also have ad space in our virtual conference program, and your logo will be displayed on banner ads throughout the conference platform.

Sponsorships have been filling up quickly; don't delay! The sponsor deadline is May 2. Contact Michelle Rogers with questions.

This year's conference will be held virtually June 14-15, utilizing the Whova platform which allows sponsors and attendees a great deal of access and amenities. Registration will open March 16.

For more information visit [mthousingpartnership.org](https://mthousingpartnership.org).

## Welcome Our Newest Team Member



Please join us in welcoming our newest team member, Naomi Valentine! Naomi is joining us as a Housing Stability Specialist and will be working with Montanans to improve their financial situations, find housing they can afford, and give them the tools to be successful renters and homeowners.

Naomi brings an extensive background of helping people in vulnerable situations and will be an excellent addition to the NWMT staff.

## HUD Annual Grant Awarded



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made their annual housing counseling grants to national, regional and local organizations helping families and individuals with housing needs. NWMT received \$584,768.

NeighborWorks Montana is the only direct HUD grantee in the state of Montana receiving the HUD housing counseling grant and will disburse that money to its partner network of 15 community organizations across the state delivering housing education and counseling services to Montanans.

## Hideaway Community Joins the MT ROC Family



The homeowners who live in Hideaway Community have bought the community from the previous owner, preserving 29 homes that are affordable to low-income residents. Hideaway Community is now a resident owned community (ROC) meaning the residents now own and manage their own community.

NeighborWorks Montana guided residents through the purchase process and continue to support them as they build the skills and leadership they need to manage their community. In most manufactured-home parks, homeowners own their homes and pay lot rent to the park owner for the use of the land. In resident owned communities the lot rent goes to the resident cooperative and is managed to meet community needs and maintain affordability.

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