January 2023





# **NEWS & UPDATES**



The Montana Housing Partnership is excited to invite you to the 2023 annual housing conference, which will be held in-person May 15-17, 2023, in Helena.

The Montana Housing Partnership is a group of housing professionals from across the state. This conference is a well-established and highly anticipated event for affordable housing organizations, housing developers, government agencies and staff, and other housing stakeholders.

Planning is underway and we are thrilled to be back in person for the 2023 conference. National, regional, and local experts are being lined up

to address a wide variety of affordable housing issues including rental housing and homeownership, homelessness, rural communities, economic development, and community development.

Registration will open with early bird pricing on March 8, 2023. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Questions? Reach out to Michelle at mrogers@nwmt.org.



Sponsorship opportunities are available! As a sponsor, you will have physical exhibit space at the venue to meet attendees face-to-face, making this a great opportunity to put your products and services on display.

Visit **mthousingpartnership.org/2023-conference-sponsorships** or click below to view the sponsorship information page to learn more about all the great benefits of becoming a sponsor.



On Friday, January 13, 2023 the Montana Department of Commerce announced that the Montana Emergency Rental Assistance (MERA) program would stop accepting new applications on January 20, 2023. The program will continue accepting continuing assistance application as long as funding allows. This decision was made in anticipation of limited federal funding supporting the Emergency Rental Assistance effort in Montana.

With the unexpected change of this program, we thought it would be helpful to offer a few alternative resources for anyone who could benefit from housing support. Housing Stability Services (HSS) is a program being offered through Human Resource Development agencies statewide. HSS supports people who are housing instable and may be in crisis by connecting them with a Housing Navigator. Housing Navigators are able to connect people with community resources, as well as develop a housing plan to take steps toward housing stability.

Housing Stability Counseling Program (HSCP) is available through NeighborWorks Montana counseling partners. While HSS is available to help people through crisis and into more stable housing, HSCP focuses on financial independence to ensure stability is maintained. HSCP financial coaches can help people clients budget and plan for their current and future needs. HSCP also offers foreclosure counseling support for homeowners who are struggling to pay their mortgage. This program is available to anyone in Montana, regardless of income level. Visit **nwmt.org/housing-stability-counseling** for more information.



2022 was a really amazing year for us at NeighborWorks Montana. What follows is a small selection of highlights. 2023 is our 25th year! As part of celebrating this milestone we will be sharing more of our work and stories with you in the coming months.

#### Homeownership

- Served 2,844 clients with HUD-certified housing education and counseling services
- Launched the Housing Stability Counseling program and served 327 households
- Launched our Matched Savings program with over 50 clients initially enrolled

#### Real Estate Development & Acquisition (REDA)

- Received our first Capital Magnet Fund award of \$2M
- Hired our first REDA Lending Specialist
- Deployed \$13.25M to 11 individual projects preserving and creating 218 homes

## **Resident Owned Communities (ROC)**

- Hired a second ROC Program Specialist and have a team of four
- Converted three communities to resident ownership with 93 household
- Received six sponsorships from municipalities for infrastructure grant requests

## Marketing & Operations

- Completed the third virtual housing conference with 392 registrants
- Established a partnership with MSU Extension for work with smaller rural communities

## Finance & Administration

- Had a record year with 36% growth in our balance sheet
- Over \$20M in transactions, with \$16M paid out in expenses, loans to borrowers, and grants to partners

## Staff & Organizational Capacity

- Completed a new 5-year strategic plan
- Worked through development of a new cooperative and land trust model with the first project expected to close in early 2023
- Worked with local partners in Bozeman on a new regional loan pool investment approach expected to launch in early 2023