

News & Updates July 2020



Network Training & Peer Sharing

Continued education is an important component in the relationship between NeighborWorks Montana and the network of housing educators and counselors we work with across the state. Due to COVID-19, this year's partner training quickly transitioned to a virtual training. Partners met for two hours each day honing-in on key topics.

We covered topics like lending products, examination of data regarding their service areas, a continued planning session of collaborative virtual statewide homebuyer education, organizational strategies, building programmatic services, and relationship building.

The peer to peer sharing of information was achieved through Zoom. Even though virtual is not the preferred training method, it was great to have these passionate people in the same "room" to share expertise and ideas! The partner network and NWMT are excited to implement some of the ideas brainstormed from the week-long training and continue the conversation as to how to best serve Montanans, especially during this uncertain time.

[Learn more about our partner network](#)



Emergency Housing Assistance Available

COVIDRELIEF.MT.GOV

Montanans 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.

- The program provides rent, security deposit and mortgage payment assistance
- Applicants may be eligible for up to \$2,000 per month
- Monthly assistance is available dating back to April
- Program pays the difference between 30% of the household's current gross (before taxes or deductions) monthly income and their eligible housing assistance costs
- Household income limits range \$75,000 to \$125,000 based on family size
- You may still apply if participating in a loan forbearance program

NeighborWorks Montana has partnered with Montana Housing to offer technical support to renters and homeowners needing assistance applying for the program. More information will be available on the NWMT website mid-August.

If you or someone you know assistance at this time, visit COVIDRELIEF.MT.GOV, or call (406) 841-2840.



The Intersection of Community Development & Mental Health

A new resource from NeighborWorks America and Build Healthy Places Network highlights the important role that community development has in addressing some of the major health challenges that our communities face because of lack of access to safe and affordable homes. Learn why health and community development partnerships are key to improving the mental and physical well-being of communities across the U.S.

[LEARN MORE!](#)



The 2020 Montana Shares raffle is underway and you won't want to miss the chance to win some of the great prizes. The raffle drawing will be held on Friday, September 18; you need not be present to win.

NeighborWorks Montana is one of over 40 participating members of Montana Shares which is a partnership of Montana-based nonprofit groups devoted to improving the quality of life in the communities throughout the state. Through work-place giving and fundraising, Montana Shares has raised over \$6.5 million for their member groups over the last 32 years.

This raffle is one of the main fundraisers offered each year to raise money for member organizations. There are 33 awesome prizes, including fourteen prize packages (each prize package worth \$200-\$300)! Raffle ticket prices are \$10 per ticket, 3 tickets for \$25, 6 tickets for \$40 or 18 tickets for \$100. Visit our WEBSITE for full prize details. NeighborWorks Montana has partnered with Montana Housing to offer technical support to renters and homeowners needing assistance applying for the program. More information will be available on the NWMT website mid-August.