

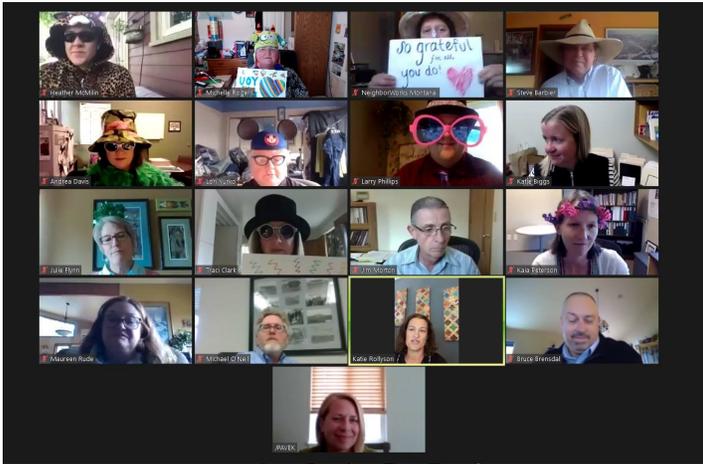
News & Updates

June 2020

Montana Housing Partnership Virtual Conference Wrap Up

This year's housing conference looked a bit different, but the spirit remained the same. Montana Housing Partnership is grateful to everyone who helped make the conference such a great experience!

Throughout the day we focused on four main areas: Federal and State Responses, Housing and Healthcare, Housing Development, and Client Services. Each panel talked about the housing landscape, both pre and post COVID-19. Conference MC and Executive Director of NeighborWorks Montana, Kaia Peterson, gave final reflections, "Health, housing, and food security continue to be this trifecta that so many of our clients and communities are challenged with. Seeing meaningful and deep collaboration across these sectors is really encouraging to me."



The Cheer Squad for the Awards Ceremony held at the end of the conference.

The conference concluded with awards and a cheer squad (pictured above). Awards given out included:

- Legislator of the Year awards to both Representative Tom Welch of Dillion and Representative Dave Fern of Whitefish for their work and commitment to get House Bill 16 passed in the 2019 legislative session. House Bill 16 resulted in the Multifamily Coal Trust Funds program, which made \$15 million dollars available for the development and preservation of affordable rental homes.
- Lifetime Achievement Award given to Maureen Rude. Maureen recently retired after spending over 30 years dedicated to creating safe and stable homes for Montanans. Her determination and dedication are an inspiration to her colleagues.
- LIFT Top Producing Lender awards were presented to Kari Francisco of First Security Bank in Bozeman, Nicole Hanni of Wells Fargo in Butte, and Mason Walker of Opportunity Bank in Great Falls for their commitment to the NeighborhoodLIFT program.
- Montana Housing Champion of the Year was presented to Wells Fargo for the resources and support they have brought to homeownership, and to so many housing organizations across the state.
- NWMT Lender of the Year award was presented to Carol Holman of Stockman Bank in Hamilton.

Please visit mthousingpartnership.org for all the conference recordings and resources shared during our time together.

SAVE THE DATE: Next year's annual Montana Housing Partnership Conference will held May 17-19, 2021 in Helena.



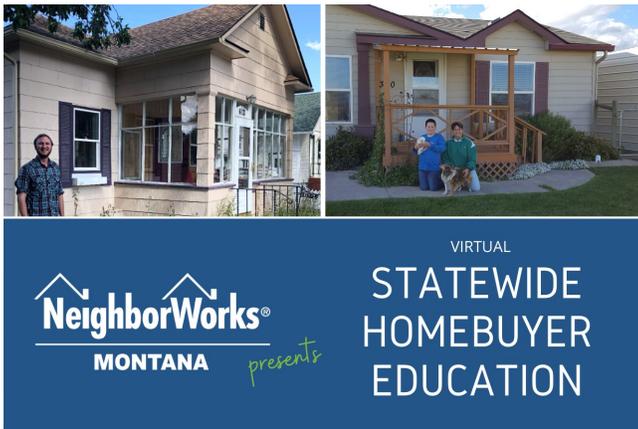
Montana Housing Preservation Summit Wrap Up

On June 24th, NeighborWorks Montana and Enterprise Community Partners came together to hold a virtual Housing Preservation Summit to address current housing preservation needs and opportunities in Montana. The summit focused on what the risks of losing existing affordable housing, particularly in rural areas. Through data-sharing, case studies and discussion the summit examined unique approaches for housing preservation.

Following the summit, NeighborWorks Montana Executive Director, Kaia Peterson said “The Preservation Summit established a strong understanding of the need and opportunity for preservation of existing affordable homes. North Fork Development and NeighborWorks Great Falls gave us great examples of how these projects can work. We are fortunate to have such collaborative developers willing to share their expertise and encourage others to get involved in the important work of preservation. I was also impressed with the amount of participation we had from legislators. The state has played an important role in preservation through the Multifamily Coal Trust program, and we hope to see continued state support. We look forward to continuing this work with Enterprise Community Partners and so many great partners across the state.”

We do hope that this will turn into a lasting conversation and collaborative effort, so please stay tuned for opportunities to join the efforts.

[VIEW RECORDING OF THIS EVENT](#)



Virtual Statewide Homebuyer Education Class a Success!

This past week, NWMT planned and facilitated the first ever virtual statewide homebuyer education course. This course was a collaborative effort with four of our partner organizations (HRDC 9 in Bozeman, Headwaters RC&D in Butte, Homeward in Missoula, and Great Northern Development Corporation in Wolf Point). Through the four-day course, participants had the option to attend all four sessions to earn a Certificate of Completion. Each day, there was a different facilitator from a participating partner organization. There were consistently 50 participants in attendance each day.

The course was able to reach individuals in more rural locations in the state as well as provide critical homebuyer education during the pandemic. There was incredible feedback from the participants:

- “I was concerned about the online element, but that turned out to not be a problem at all. All of the presenters were not only informative but also engaging. The presentation team was so strong, and they made the content interesting!”
- “Before this class, I had no idea where to start and all the jargon scared me into a standstill. Now I feel that I have 100x more confidence in my ability to navigate the homebuying process and get my future rolling!”
- “Having people from all over the state was a cool experience!”
- “This was incredible! Thank you all for your time, knowledge, and help! This was SO helpful and informative. I feel so much more prepared for this experience.”

It was exciting to see the virtual class bring people together from across the state. After receiving such positive feedback from the participants, as well as the involved counselors, NWMT is looking to see what steps can be made to continue to facilitate this type of training moving forward.