

News & Updates October 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 tell you more about Montana Shares.



Montana Legal Services Association

Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) is a private, non-profit law firm, providing non-criminal legal information, advice, and representation to thousands of Montanans each year. MLSA's services help fight scams on seniors, assist veterans who have been denied their earned benefits, help people escape abusive relationships, and represent families living in unsafe housing conditions.

The American ideal is "Equal Justice for All", but unfortunately, there is no "right to an attorney" for those facing non-criminal legal problems. For many Montanans, especially those with limited incomes, the high cost of legal assistance can prevent them from obtaining the help they need.

That is why MLSA works to provide civil legal aid to individuals throughout Montana, especially those with limited income. They ensure that equal justice for all is a reality, and not just for those who can afford it.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, MLSA and NeighborWorks Montana (NWMT) have been working to refine a more direct process to connect those who need legal help to the services that MLSA provides. MLSA now has a dedicated staff person who is available to NWMT and their partners. When someone is identified who may benefit from legal advice, NWMT and their partners are able to call or email the staff member with the person's contact information and the staff member will reach out.

MLSA has also partnered with the Montana Department of Commerce to develop a new program to provide free legal assistance to tenants facing eviction proceedings across the state. Called the Montana Eviction Intervention Project (MEIP), this program is intended to address the eviction crisis caused by COVID-19. Any tenant facing an eviction, regardless of income, can get access to an attorney through MLSA.

MLSA has an online application form, allowing those who need help to apply whenever is most convenient for them. They recognize that this is a stressful time and wait times are longer right now in general. By applying online, people can avoid the frustration of having to call MLSA to apply while also ensuring that MLSA will have adequate information before contact is made. To apply online, visit mtlsa.org/apply-for-services. Their hotline is also still available, 1-800-666-6899. Legal information and resources, including COVID-19 specific legal resources, are also available on MLSA's self-help website, MontanaLawHelp.org.

Follow them on Facebook: facebook.com/MTLegalServices
Visit their website: mtlsa.org

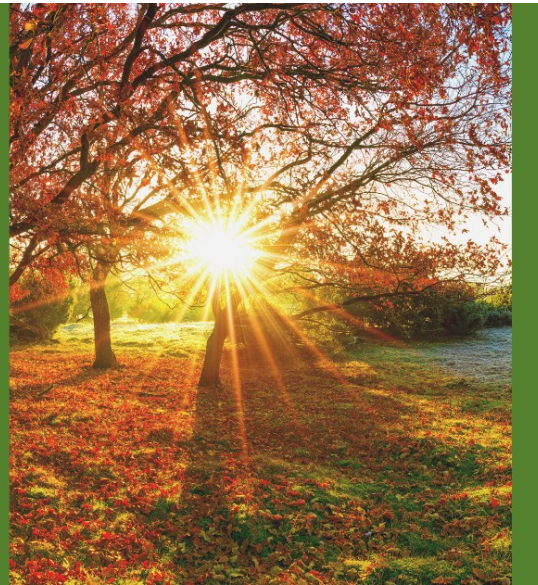
EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If your income or job have been impacted by COVID-19, please apply for relief. Applications must be received by Tuesday, November 10, 2020

NWMT.ORG/COVIDRELIEF
406.604.4500



MONTANA HOUSING



This program is available for anyone who has been financially impacted by COVID-19. Applications must be received by Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

Find program details & application link: nwmt.org/covidrelief

Help is available! Anyone needing help completing the application can call 406-604-4500 or email covidrelief@nwmt.org, and someone will contact them.



**Now more than ever
we are called to
make a difference.**

#GivingTuesday | Dec 1, 2020

Plans for Giving Tuesday

2020 has brought unprecedented events that have hit residents of Montana hard.

With the current needs of our state in mind, we will be dedicating our Giving Tuesday efforts to support the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN).

Giving Tuesday kicks off on December 1st. Look for more details about MFBN and how you can donate through NeighborWorks Montana's Giving Tuesday event in our November eNewsletter.