

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

DRAFT 2016-2017 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & REPORT (CAPER)
PUBLIC MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Heard before Stephanie Crider, Presiding Officer
Montana Department of Commerce
Room 228, 301 South Park Avenue
Helena, Montana

June 19, 2017
1:05 p.m.

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1 WHEREUPON, the proceedings were had as follows:

2 MS. CRIDER: Good afternoon, everyone. My name
3 is Stephanie Crider. I am with the Department of Commerce
4 here in the Community Development Division.

5 If there is someone on the phone, will you please
6 state your name and which organization you are
7 representing. And if your phone is muted, you can press
8 star 2 to unmute it.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. CRIDER: For people who are on the webinar
11 with GoToWebinar, will you please either let us know you
12 can hear us through the questions or comments sections on
13 GoToWebinar or please let us know through the phone.
14 Again, star 2 will unmute your phone.

15 MS. TORGERSON: So on the phone is Mary Melton.

16 Mary, can you hear us?

17 Excellent. Thank you. Star 2 will unmute you if you
18 want to announce that you're on the phone and the
19 organization you're with for our public record.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. CRIDER: All right. So if Mary can hear us,
22 we're going to go ahead and get started.

23 We are here today to go over the Draft 2016-2017
24 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation & Report,
25 otherwise known as our CAPER. Again, if you have comments

1 on the CAPER, we ask that you provide them during the
2 section at the end; we have time. If you are on the
3 webinar, you can provide the comments in the question
4 section and Leslie will read them into the record for you;
5 or if you want to give them verbally, we will make that
6 available.

7 There are five HUD programs here in Montana: The
8 Emergency Solutions Grant, the HOME Investment
9 Partnerships Program, Community Development Block Grant,
10 Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDs, and the Housing
11 Trust Fund. Both ESG, Emergency Solutions Grant, and
12 HOPWA, the Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDs, are
13 administered by the Department of Public Health & Human
14 Services. And the HOME Investment Partnerships Program,
15 HOME, the CDBG, which is the Community Development Block
16 Grant, and HTF, the Housing Trust Fund, are administered
17 by the Department of Commerce.

18 These five programs do their planning within what's
19 called the Consolidated Plan. It is a five-year document
20 for federal housing, community and public facilities, and
21 economic development investment in the state. It combines
22 both the planning and application, citizen participation,
23 and reporting requirements for CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, HTF, and
24 ESG.

25 There are three components of what's considered the

1 Consolidated Plan. There is the five-year document, which
2 we are currently operating under the 2015-2020
3 Consolidated Plan. There is the Annual Action Plan, which
4 is an update each year to the Consolidated Plan, giving
5 specifics on the allocations, distribution, and planning
6 efforts for the five programs. And then there is the
7 Consolidated Annual Performance & Evaluation Report or
8 CAPER, which reports on the activities, goals, and
9 objectives of the Annual Action Plan.

10 Currently we're going to be talking about the report
11 for Plan Year 2. So our CAPER is, again, detailing the
12 project accomplishments and expenditures. These are for
13 the program year of April 1st, 2016, through March 31st,
14 2017. We are currently in our public comment period,
15 which started on June 12th and ends on June 26th. Once
16 the public comment period is ended and all comments are
17 responded to, we will be submitting the CAPER to HUD at
18 the end of the month.

19 The CAPER is available on this link right here at
20 commerce.mt.gov. The CAPER is a compilation of
21 information gathered by generating reports through the HUD
22 database for all of our HUD-assisted projects.

23 So we are in Program Year 2 of the 2015-2020
24 Consolidated Plan. The Housing Trust Fund or HTF is
25 mentioned in the CAPER, but it does not have any results

1 to report for Program Year 2. This is because our
2 allocation letter from HUD was received in December 2016
3 and applications were just accepted on June 8th. So it is
4 likely that the next CAPER will have some information
5 reported on the Housing Trust Fund.

6 With the Department of Commerce in the Community
7 Development Division, our division administrator is
8 Jennifer Olson, our grants bureau chief is
9 A.C. Rothenbuecher, our planning bureau chief is
10 Anne Cossitt. And to get ahold of the Community
11 Development Division, our contact information is shown on
12 the screen.

13 During Plan Year 2, CDBG Planning Grants, this is a
14 list of the CDBG planning grants awarded. It's a
15 truncated list; it's not all of them. The full list of
16 grants awarded are in the CAPER. There's quite a variety
17 of planning grants that we award, ranging from
18 transportation plans, capital improvement plans, growth
19 policies, zoning regulations. It's a mixture of planning
20 documents and grants that we award.

21 CDBG Economic Development, Housing, and Public and
22 Community Facilities awarded this list of grants here,
23 which are, some, to renovate a boys and girls club,
24 construct a senior center, conduct ADA improvements at
25 county fairgrounds facilities, improvements to wastewater

1 systems, improvements to water systems, remodeling a
2 public health services building, and a rehabilitation of a
3 county health center.

4 The HOME Program awarded grants for a multifamily
5 rental rehabilitation, for new construction of three
6 apartments for senior housing, and then home buyer
7 assistance grants, which include down payment and closing
8 cost assistance.

9 The Housing Trust Fund has not awarded any grants
10 during Program Year 2, as applications were accepted on
11 June 7th -- or June 8th. I'm sorry.

12 The Montana Department of Public Health and Human
13 Services, the Emergency Solutions Grant is administered --
14 or the division administrator is Jamie Palagi, the bureau
15 chief is Andrea Goetsch, and their contact information is
16 listed on this slide.

17 With the Emergency Solutions Grant, funds are
18 distributed on a formula basis to the state's ten human
19 resource development councils. The HRDCs use the funds to
20 meet the needs of the homeless or those at risk of
21 homelessness at the local level. Rapid rehousing is one
22 of the main focuses of the ESG grants, and their
23 activities include case management, rental assistance,
24 rental arrears, security deposits, and other expenditures
25 for housing relocation and stabilization.

1 The Housing Opportunity for Persons with AIDs or HOPWA
2 is actually run -- the DPHHS contracts with Montana State
3 University to administer the HOPWA grants. They work to
4 increase the availability of decent, safe, and affordable
5 housing, meeting the housing needs of persons with HIV or
6 AIDs and their families. They also work in conjunction
7 with the tri-state HOPWA group, which consists of Montana,
8 North Dakota, and South Dakota. And there was a
9 partnership between four private agencies in South Dakota,
10 North Dakota, and Montana that worked with HOPWA this
11 year.

12 The CAPER is set up in what is called the
13 eCon Planning Suite. It's a HUD database. HUD has set a
14 template for the states to use for the reporting. There's
15 not a lot of flexibility; all states report on the same
16 information. We do make some additional tables of
17 pertinent information to add to the template for things
18 like the grants we award and distribution of our funds.
19 There are two major sections in the CAPER; CR, which is
20 Consolidated Reporting, which is reporting for all of the
21 HUD-funded programs, and ESG, which has an ESG specific
22 reporting.

23 So some of the results that we are reporting this year
24 in the CAPER. And CR-05 is the goals and outcomes
25 section. What you see here is that CDBG and HOME expended

1 approximately \$13.2 million during Program Year 2. This
2 table is showing you how the distribution of funds were
3 across all the Consolidated Plan goals.

4 If you look up there, the columns are meant to be
5 looked at separately. So for CDBG you can see the
6 distribution of funds between all five goals, whereas
7 HOME, the HOME funds are really in preserve and construct
8 affordable housing and reduce homelessness. Both of these
9 do not report -- The columns won't add up to 100 percent,
10 as administrative funds aren't reported with these
11 Consolidated Plan goals, so that's why they'll add up to
12 just slightly less than 100 percent.

13 Our next table is the accomplishments. This table is
14 actually quite a bit bigger in the document. I truncated
15 the report -- or we truncated it for this presentation to
16 really just give a snapshot of some of the goals and
17 outcomes that we have seen during Plan Year 2. The
18 two far right columns are showing the expected goals and
19 the outcomes during Plan Year 2, and then the two middle
20 columns are showing the goals and outcomes or results for
21 cumulatively over the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan period.

22 So what we see here, for improve and sustain public
23 infrastructure, we have actually doubled our goal of
24 assisting 5,000 households by this end of Plan Year 2. We
25 have also exceeded our goal of creating or retaining

1 100 jobs four times over. We are more than halfway to our
2 goal of assisting 3,000 persons to reduce homelessness
3 with homelessness prevention. So we're making really
4 positive headway on our five-year goals and have exceeded
5 several of them.

6 It is important to note that some years we'll report
7 higher numbers than other years, as the nature of the
8 programs and some of these projects, they can take up to
9 four years to complete. So sometimes certain years we'll
10 see more projects completing, other years we'll see less.
11 So sometimes you'll see numbers fluctuate quite a bit
12 through these years.

13 For affordable housing, this is reflecting data
14 between CDBG and HOME grants that were completed during
15 Plan Year 2. We had a goal of providing affordable
16 housing units to 1340 households, and we provided it to
17 938. The number of non-homeless households to be provided
18 affordable housing, we goaled ourselves at 40 and we
19 actually helped 185. As you can see, we're just shy of
20 meeting our goal of 1405 for the year but, again, these
21 fluctuate year to year. And as I stated earlier, the
22 Housing Trust Fund is not reflected in this table.

23 Regarding this specific table, this is showing the
24 persons that have been assisted, and according to their
25 income level. These are HUD-defined income levels, where

1 moderate income is 50 to 60 percent of area median income,
2 low income is 31 to 50 percent of area median income, and
3 extremely low income is 30 percent and below of area
4 median income. So you can see, with CDBG, the majority of
5 those assisted were of moderate income; and with the HOME
6 Program, it's spread out amongst the various income
7 levels.

8 We also report our monitoring activities in the CAPER.
9 For CDBG, seven project grants were monitored during the
10 program year, four HOME projects were monitored, ten ESG
11 projects and three HOPWA projects were monitored or had a
12 desk monitoring, and then HTF did not have any projects
13 monitored. The HOME period of affordability is also
14 recorded in here. We monitored 54 of our 81 properties
15 during this last program year. And with those properties,
16 they are on a one-to-three-year cycle for monitoring, so
17 that was the rotation that wound up happening last year.
18 This current year we're planning on monitoring upwards of
19 40 properties for our period of affordability properties.

20 HOPWA, the number of households served with HOPWA are
21 listed in this particular table. Tenant-based rental
22 assistance or TBRA, they goalled themselves at
23 85 households and they served 85 households. And then
24 short-term rent, mortgage, or utility assistance payments
25 were provided to 48 households of a goal of 31. So HOPWA

1 actually exceeded their program year goals.

2 Additionally, we report on our activities towards the
3 analysis of impediments. During this year, we have an
4 analysis of impediments steering committee, which
5 continued its efforts, including coordinating with public
6 and private partners for continued discussions. They also
7 discussed current projects and methods to coordinate
8 efforts throughout the state. DPHHS worked with their
9 continuum of care partners for coordination of services
10 between affordable housing and social service
11 organizations. And as a whole, we have been continuing
12 discussions on action items and measurable objectives.

13 Just a quick snapshot of the analysis of impediments
14 work that we did this last program year. In May we held
15 table discussions on fair housing impediments at the
16 Montana Housing Conference. In July the steering
17 committee, with the Department of Commerce, came up with
18 dates to have individual impediment meetings for the fall.
19 In October, November, and December, the individual
20 impediment meetings were held; they were held in person
21 and made available through webinar and call-in information
22 for anyone from a distance. And in March the Commerce
23 staff created items to present at the 2017 Montana Housing
24 Conference.

25 So right now we will open up for public comments.

1 Comments can be received either orally or written
2 regarding the 2016-2017 CAPER. If you are presenting a
3 comment, please state your name and spell it, and also
4 please state the organization which you are representing.
5 So if there are any comments.

6 MS. TORGERSON: For the record, it looks like
7 Shyla Patera has joined the call, and she's with the
8 Montana Independent Living Project. Shyla is spelled
9 S-H-Y-L-A, P-A-T-E-R-A. "I do not have any comments
10 currently."

11 MS. CRIDER: And Shyla, if you wanted to talk
12 over the phone, you can press star 2 and it will unmute
13 your phone.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. CRIDER: So at this time, if you have any
16 comments, you can write them in. I will provide the
17 information to either e-mail them or mail them in. Once
18 the public comment period has ended, Commerce and DPHHS
19 will respond to comments made during the comment period,
20 modify the document if necessary, and report comments made
21 and the agency responses. We'll prepare the final
22 document to send to HUD and publish it on the website.

23 We will wait for a response from HUD for either an
24 approval or request for modification, and once HUD has
25 approved the document we will notice the public of the

1 final approved document and have it available on our
2 website.

3 written comments can be submitted through June 26 to
4 the Montana Department of Commerce. You can submit them
5 in writing, over the phone, or via e-mail at
6 DocConPlan@mt.gov.

7 If you have any additional questions, please let us
8 know.

9 MS. TORGERSON: No additional comments.

10 MS. CRIDER: Okay. We thank you for your time,
11 and have a great day.

12 (The proceedings concluded at 1:24 p.m.)

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COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MONTANA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF LEWIS AND CLARK)

I, CHERYL ROMSA, Court Reporter, residing in Helena, Montana, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were reported by me in shorthand and later transcribed into typewriting; and that the foregoing -13- pages constitute a true and accurate transcription of my stenotype notes of the proceedings.

DATED this 21st day of June, 2017.

s/Cheryl A. Romsa
CHERYL A. ROMSA