

Welcome to the State of Montana's Public Hearing
of the HUD "Mega Waiver," Amendments to
Montana's 2015–2019 Consolidated Plan and
Annual Action Plans, and Development of
Montana's 2020–2024 Consolidated Plan

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Webinar

Sponsored by the Montana Departments of
Commerce and Public Health and Human Services

The Department of Commerce makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or who have a Limited English Proficiency and who wish to participate in this process or need an alternative accessible format of this. Presentation materials were provided in advance of the meeting.



Hearing Objectives

- Outline components of the HUD Mega Waiver
- Identify amendments to the 2015–2019 ConPlan and 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 Annual Action Plans
- Discuss efforts to develop the 2020–2024 ConPlan and 2020 Annual Action Plan

Provide an overview of the HUD formula grants, both existing and new resources, and discuss their use in response to COVID-19 impacts



Consolidated Plan

What is it?

The State of Montana's 5-year plan to guide policy and investment for housing, economic, and other community development. It is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assess Montana's needs and current conditions as well as to determine priorities and allocate HUD formula grant funding.



HUD Mega Waiver

HUD announced availability of a “Mega Waiver,” which provides flexibility for certain regulatory requirements associated with several Community Planning and Development (CPD) grant programs to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and facilitate assistance to eligible communities and households economically impacted by COVID-19. On April 8, 2020, Commerce and DPHHS requested use of the Mega Waiver, specifically notifying HUD of their intention to

- Waive certain **Consolidated Plan** requirements for CPD formula programs, which include:
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG),
 - CDBG CARES ****NEW****,
 - HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME),
 - Housing Trust Fund (HTF),
 - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG); and
 - ESG CARES ****NEW****
- Utilize program-specific waivers for the following CPD programs:
 - **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**
 - **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**



HUD Mega Waiver - ESG

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

- Requester:
 - State of Montana – Department of Public Health and Human Services
 - Sara Loewen, Bureau Chief, Intergovernmental Human Services
 - sloewen@mt.gov 406.447.4265 (o) 406.475.1234 (cell)
- Declared Disaster Area: Montana, statewide
- Date of Anticipated First Use: 4/15/2020
- List of waiver flexibilities:
 - 1) ESG Program - HMIS Lead Activities
 - 2) ESG Program - Re-evaluations for Homelessness Prevention Assistance
 - 3) ESG Program - Housing Stability Case Management
 - 4) ESG Program - Restriction of Rental Assistance to Units with Rent at or Below FMR



HUD Mega Waiver - HOPWA

Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)

- Requester Name:
State of Montana – Department of Public Health and Human Services
Sara Loewen, Bureau Chief, Intergovernmental Human Services
sloewen@mt.gov 406.447.4265 (o) 406.475-1234 (cell)
- Declared Disaster Area: Montana statewide, North Dakota statewide, and South Dakota statewide
- Date of Anticipated First Use: 4/15/2020
- List of waiver flexibilities:
 - 1) HOPWA Program – Self-Certification of Income and Credible Information on HIV Status
 - 2) HOPWA Program – FMR Rent Standard
 - 3) HOPWA Program – Property Standards for TBRA
 - 4) HOPWA Program – Space and Security



HUD Mega Waiver - ConPlan

Consolidated Plan (ConPlan)

- Requester Name:
 - State of Montana – Department of Commerce
 - Jennifer Olson, Administrator, Community Development Division
 - jeolson@mt.gov 406.841.2773 (o) 406.431-4504 (cell)
- Declared Disaster Area: Montana statewide
- Date of Anticipated First Use: 4/10/2020
- List of waiver flexibilities:
 - 1) Citizen Participation Reasonable Notice and Opportunity to Comment - Montana's Citizen Participation Plan updated to allow the 15-day notice requirement for hearings to be waived when ConPlan activities are in response to an urgent need like COVID-19. **When using the waiver, the State will provide reasonable notice and may use virtual/social media rather than display advertisements.**
 - 2) Citizen Participation Public Comment Period - Montana's Citizen Participation Plan updated to allow the 30-day public comment period requirement for ConPlan document review to be waived when ConPlan activities are in response to an urgent need like COVID-19. **When using the waiver, the State will provide a 5-day public comment period.**
 - 3) 2020–2024 ConPlan and 2020 Annual Action Plan Submission - **Use of this waiver will allow the State to submit its 2020–2024 ConPlan and 2020 Annual Action Plan August 16, 2021**, rather than August 16, 2020.



2015–2019 ConPlan and Annual Action Plans Amendments

The State is amending its 2015–2019 ConPlan and associated Annual Action Plans for years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Amendments serve the following purposes:

- Allowing for the use of CDBG CARES and ESG CARES funds made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which was signed by President Trump March 27, 2020. (See [2015–2019 ConPlan and 2019 AAP](#))
- Expanding the use of CDBG funds for not only the National Objective of Low- and Moderate-Income Benefit, but also for the National Objectives of (1) Urgent Need and (2) Slums and Blight. (See [2015–2019 ConPlan and all AAPs](#))
- Updating the Citizen Participation Plan per the Mega Waiver to reflect allowed flexibilities in the ConPlan public participation process. (See [2015–2019 ConPlan](#))



2015–2019 ConPlan and Annual Action Plans Amendments

2019 Action Plan Amendment

Anticipated Resources

- **\$7,006,042** in allocated CDBG funding
 - \$1,000,000 for Urgent Needs plus \$600,000 program income for a total of \$1,600,000
 - \$700,000 to Urgent Need activities that support economic development activities responding to COVID-19 needs
 - \$300,000 to Urgent Need activities that reduce homelessness through activities responding to COVID-19 needs
 - \$1,100,000 for Housing Development
 - \$300,000 for Housing Stabilization
 - \$1,300,000 for Public Facilities
 - \$1,788,226 for Economic Development
 - Other funds for Administration and Planning
- **\$3,925,296** in allocated CDBG CARES funding to support the following activities with no less than 70% of funds used to meet the Low- and Moderate-Income National Objective and according to pending federal register notices
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - Public and Community Facilities
 - Economic Development
 - Urgent Need
 - Administrative costs, as applicable
- **\$2,524,355** in allocated ESG CARES funding (see following slides for more information)



ESG Funding Allocation

2,524,355 in allocated ESG CARES funding

- Funding is provided to nine Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) agencies across the state.
- Funds are allocated based on the average of the Population and the Poverty Population as determined by the 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) data for the counties served by each agency.
- Two of the nine HRDCs currently assist with providing services for the Eastern Montana counties.



ESG Funding Allocation

Eligible Expenses:

- Homeless prevention
- Rapid Rehousing
- Shelter Maintenance and Operations
- Street Outreach

DPHHS does not select the specific local projects to be funded by these funds. Instead, the HRDCs that are allocated these formula-based funding work with their communities to determine need. Use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database is a requirement.



ESG Funding Allocation

HRDCs and the Counties Served:

- District IV HRDC - Hill, Liberty, and Blaine
- Opportunities Inc (District V HRDC) - Cascade, Chouteau, Teton, Pondera, Toole and Glacier
- District 6 HRDC – Fergus, Golden, Valley, Judith, Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, and Wheatland **District 6 HRDC will also serve Eastern Montana counties of District 2: Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Prairie, Richland, and Wibaux*
- District VII HRDC - Big Horn, Carbon Stillwater, Sweet Grass, and Yellowstone **District VII HRDC will also serve Eastern Montana counties of District 3: Carter, Custer, Fallon, P. River, Rosebud, and Treasure*
- Rocky Mountain Development Council (District VIII HRDC - Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson
- District IX HRDC - Gallatin, Park and Meagher
- Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana (District X HRDC) - Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, and Sanders
- District XI HRC - Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli
- Action Inc (District XII HRDC) - Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Granite, Madison, Powell and Silver Bow
- The agency serving District I counties - Daniels, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley – have not yet been determined



HOPWA-C Funding Allocation

Although it is not a part of HUD formula grant funding and thus the ConPlan, it is worth noting that the CARES Act also awarded the State's competitive HOPWA program (HOPWA-C) two one-time disbursements of special funds of \$159,460 and \$165,263. The Mega Waiver applies to these special funds as well.



2020–2024 Consolidated Plan Development

2020–2024 Consolidated Plan and 2020 Action Plan Development

Anticipated Resources

- **\$6,680,700** in allocated CDBG funding to support the following activities with no less than 70% of the funds used to meet the Low- and Moderate-Income National Objective
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - Public and Community Facilities
 - Economic Development
 - Urgent Need
 - Administrative and planning costs
- **\$3,134,369** in allocated HOME funding to support housing activities and administrative costs
- **\$3,000,000** in allocated HTF funding to support housing activities and administrative costs
- **\$732,063** in allocated ESG funding to support program activities

Development of the 2020–2024 ConPlan and 2020 Annual Action Plan
will continue through August 16, 2021



Public Participation Process

The perspectives and opinions shared by participants of this public hearing will inform updates to the 2015-2019 ConPlan and the development of the 2020-2024 ConPlan. We hope that with your input, we can identify and address housing and community development needs, especially those resulting from COVID-19, across Montana.

The State's public participation process for ConPlan activities is outlined in a Citizen Participation Plan that, as noted previously, has been updated. See the 2015-2019 ConPlan, Appendix A.



Document Review

- Available:
 - Mega Waiver documents: commerce.mt.gov/conplan
 - 2015–2019 and 2020–2024 Consolidated Plan documents: commerce.mt.gov/conplan/documents
 - By request (contact info provided next slide)

Please contact Commerce if you require accommodations to review documents.



Contact Information

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Comments

Comments regarding the Mega Waiver and amendments to and development of ConPlan documents are now being accepted during this webinar.

When providing comment

- Please state and spell your name
 - Please state the organization you represent (if applicable)
-

The 5-day public comment period began on April 10, 2020, and Commerce will accept comments until 5:00 p.m. on **April 15, 2020**. Due to the previously announced public comment period that began on March 29, 2020, Commerce will respond to comments submitted through **April 28, 2020**, regarding the 2015–2019 ConPlan and Annual Action Plan amendments but will implement changes allowed under the Mega Waiver beginning April 16, 2020.

Written comments should be addressed to the address or email below.

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