

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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DRAFT 2018-2019 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL  
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & REPORT (CAPER)  
PUBLIC MEETING

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Heard before Stephanie Crider, Presiding Officer  
Montana Department of Commerce  
Room 226, 301 South Park Avenue  
Helena, Montana

June 13, 2019  
2:33 p.m. - 2:43 p.m.

REPORTED BY: CHERYL ROMSA  
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1           WHEREUPON, the proceedings were had as follows:

2           MS. CRIDER: Good afternoon. This is  
3           Stephanie Crider with the Department of Commerce in the  
4           Community Development Division. Today we're going to go  
5           through the Draft 2018-2019 Consolidated Annual  
6           Performance & Evaluation Report, which is CAPER. The  
7           slides that we are presenting are going to define the  
8           CAPER, why we do this report, and some results that we  
9           have had throughout our program year.

10           Montana has five HUD programs that we report with:  
11           The Community Development Block Grant, or CDBG, which we  
12           have economic development, housing, and public facility  
13           grants; the Emergency Solutions Grant, or ESG; the  
14           HOME Investment Partnerships Program, or HOME; Housing  
15           Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, which is HOPWA; and  
16           the Housing Trust Fund.

17           The Consolidated Plan is our five-year plan for  
18           federal housing, community and public facilities, and  
19           economic development investment in the state of Montana.  
20           It's a plan that combines planning and/or application,  
21           citizen participation, and reporting requirements for our  
22           HUD programs.

23           There are multiple components to our Consolidated  
24           Plan. The first is our five-year plan, which our state is  
25           currently operating under the 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan.

1 we also do annual plans, which are called Annual Action  
2 Plans. Each year of our Consolidated Plan period, we  
3 prepare an Annual Action Plan which is specific to that  
4 year's goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes. They  
5 are not cumulative. And then we have our Consolidated  
6 Annual Performance & Evaluation Report, or CAPER, which is  
7 a report on the use of the funds, goals, and objectives  
8 for each Annual Action Plan.

9 The CAPER details our project accomplishments and  
10 expenditures throughout the current program -- or the past  
11 program year, which was April 1st, 2018, to March 31st,  
12 2019. We are currently within our public comment period,  
13 which ran -- which began June 4th, and it goes through  
14 June 21st. And the CAPER will be submitted to HUD  
15 electronically by the end of this month. If you are  
16 interested in viewing the CAPER, you can go to the website  
17 listed at [Commerce.mt.gov/Conplan/documents](http://Commerce.mt.gov/Conplan/documents).

18 The 2018-2019 CAPER is what we are reviewing. It was  
19 the fourth year of our program year of the 2015-2020  
20 Consolidated Plan period, April 1st to March 31st. For  
21 the Department of Commerce, Jennifer Olson and  
22 A.C. Rothenbuecher are the main contacts regarding the  
23 Consolidated Plan documents, Annual Action Plan, and the  
24 CAPER.

25 So we're going to actually go through some of our

1 accomplishments for this last program year. We awarded  
2 several grants for the program year. Within CDBG, we  
3 awarded 6 public facilities, 2 community facilities, and  
4 17 planning grants. The economic development team  
5 awarded 6 grants. The HOME program awarded 3 grants for  
6 new construction and 2 for rehabilitation projects. And  
7 the Housing Trust Fund awarded 5 grants for new  
8 construction.

9 Jamie Palagi and Sara Loewen are the contacts for the  
10 Department of Public Health and Human Services Emergency  
11 Solutions Grant. Emergency Solutions Grants are  
12 distributed on a formula basis to the state's HRDCs, the  
13 human resource development councils. The HRDCs use the  
14 funds to meet the needs of the homeless or those at risk  
15 of homelessness at a local and community level. It  
16 includes rapid rehousing, which has activities involving  
17 case management, rental assistance, rental arrears,  
18 security deposits, and other expenditures for housing  
19 relocation and stabilization services.

20 The CAPER is set up in what is called the  
21 eCon Planning Suite, which is a HUD reporting tool. It  
22 has a HUD-prescribed template that we follow. And there  
23 are multiple sections in this template, but today we're  
24 just kind of going to go over a couple of the various  
25 sections to highlight some of this past program year's

1 accomplishments.

2 So the first is CR-05, which are Goals and Outcomes.  
3 CDBG and HOME expended a little over \$8.4 million in  
4 Program Year Four. And the funds are broken out into one  
5 of five categories, which are preserve and construct  
6 affordable housing, plan for communities, improve and  
7 sustain public infrastructure, revitalize local economies,  
8 and reduce homeless. So in Program Year Four, we spent  
9 73.9 percent of our HOME funds on preserving and  
10 constructing affordable housing, and we expended  
11 36.6 percent of our CDBG funds improving and sustaining  
12 public infrastructure, and we spent 23.33 percent of our  
13 HTF funds with reducing homelessness.

14 The accomplishment year, we've had a lot of  
15 accomplishments this year. We saw very large numbers,  
16 especially with assisting households or improving and  
17 sustaining public infrastructure. For providing direct  
18 financial assistance to home buyers, we assisted 61 home  
19 buyers. We helped 7 communities with planning their  
20 communities. And our economic development grant wound up  
21 assisting in creating or retaining 78 jobs, which helps  
22 revitalize local economies.

23 In CR-20, which is the Affordable Housing section of  
24 the CAPER, we reported that 1,087 households were  
25 supported through rental assistance, and 61 households

1 were supported through the acquisition of existing units,  
2 and 16 households were supported through the production of  
3 new units.

4 CR-40 is the Monitoring section of the CAPER. During  
5 this past program year, CDBG monitored 8 projects, HOME  
6 monitored 4, the HOME Period of Affordability monitored  
7 59 projects. And no HTF projects were monitored during  
8 Program Year Four. That's because these monitorings are  
9 specific to construction activities, and our HTF projects  
10 during Program Year Four were just at the beginning phases  
11 of their grant.

12 The Analysis of Impediments has a small section in the  
13 CAPER where it's about steering committee efforts. We're  
14 looking at efforts towards impediments of fair housing.  
15 There is a statewide partnership that includes the  
16 three entitlement communities and many public housing  
17 authorities across the state.

18 So with that being said, we are in the open public  
19 comment period right now. We accept comments during  
20 public hearing, also in writing, and we're accepting them  
21 through close of business on June 21st, 2019. Once  
22 comments have been made and the public comment period has  
23 closed, we will respond to all comments made, modify the  
24 document if required, and submit the final document to  
25 HUD, and we'll make sure to publish on our website.

1       Written comments can be sent to Department of Commerce.

2             And if there aren't any questions, we're happy to take  
3       comments at this time.

4             (No audible response.)

5             MS. CRIDER: All right. Thank you for listening,  
6       and have a great day.

7             (The proceedings concluded at 2:43 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 -7- pages constitute a true and  
accurate transcription of my stenotype notes of the  
proceedings.

DATED this 17th day of June 2019.

                                  /s/Cheryl A. Romsa                                    
CHERYL A. ROMSA