Appendix A: Public Engagement Record

The State of Montana solicited public comment by announcing a public comment period and holding a public hearing for the 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). Every comment received in writing and provided verbally at the hearing was considered. All comments received and the State’s responses are outlined below. An official transcript of the public hearing as well as documentation showing outreach completed (tear sheets and affidavits of publication for print advertisements and proof of electronic announcement) are also attached.

Comments Received and Responses Thereto

Shyla Patera, IL Specialist, North Central Independent Living Services, Inc., and Montana Independent Living Community Living Task Force

Comment #1:
Good morning, Commerce and DPHHS staff. For the record, my name is Shyla Patera. I represent North Central Independent Living, and also am a member of the Montana Independent Living Community Living Task Force, which helps Montanans navigate services to stay independent in their communities. I will be submitting written comments, but a few of the things that I would like to focus on today remind us that COVID is still present, and for many of us with disabilities and low income, we may be still needing to utilize rental assistance. So I’m hoping that a lot of the people that I’ve referred and have disabilities have been using it as well, but I’d like to see that tracked; and if in the future, when COVID funding doesn’t manifest itself in the same way, if we could formalize some rental assistance through HRDCs and other things, and also work with eviction and homeless prevention in that way. During our stay at home orders, and particularly again I’m also hearing about the need -- not necessarily the need for food, but making sure that I have enough funding, if someone is on SSI or SSDI, to maintain things. And I know during the stay at home, obviously it was very vital. Our centers are working on vaccines and different things to make sure that we all maximize the use of our vaccines and medical assistance where needed. As a homeless and infrastructure advocate, a lot of times, in non-COVID times and even during COVID times, I’ve been assisting people who may be meeting homelessness that have come out of institutions, such as Warm Springs, nursing homes, and other institutions such as veterans homes, or other needs. I would like to see us take advantage of the new rules for MFP, which is money follows a person, and make sure that that is the strongest we can make it. On our emergency sheltering grants, I would like to see a lot of information disseminated, not just from members, but what is actually needed by persons with disabilities or mental health. A lot of communities don’t have access to substance use disorders or co-occurring shelters or accessible shelters, and sometimes sheltering managers aren’t sure what to do regarding Medicaid and home and community based service assistance. So if that is something we can work on, and even working with Medicare as well to see if we can get home and community based services, both in-home and beyond indoor shelters, so that someone could at least have support while they’re facing homelessness, or potential diversion from homelessness would be a great opportunity. As far as construction and infrastructure, I believe that we need to have a rehabilitation HOME fund for those that are currently in home and can’t afford new universally designed construction. As always NCILS, which I work for, and the other centers, advocate for accessible affordable housing in universal design and visible concepts. We hope that bonds or be undertaken to encourage development of those homes, particularly when requests come before the Board of Housing as well, including like ADA, the small competitive grant, CDBG and CDD still have. I’m hoping that we can
coordinate our sidewalk and community development, so that we’re not walking to nowhere as well, and hopefully communities will use Main Street Development, and also partner with MDT, and others to look at bus and bus facility improvements, if they need facilities for -- and use them for transit as well. And I will be submitting written comments beyond these, and I’d like to congratulate everyone at Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Department of Housing, and Montana DPHHS for the work in partnering forward, and I hope that you contact your Centers for Independent Living in Montana to include those advocates and consumers where necessary. Thank you very much.

Response to Comment #1:
The State of Montana is prioritizing rental assistance for all Montanans with need through its Emergency Rental Assistance program (https://housing.mt.gov/Rental-Housing/Montana-Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program), which targets households who have lost household income as a direct or indirect result of the COVID-19 pandemic and are at risk of housing instability. Through this program, which launched April 5, 2021, low-income renters can receive up to $2,200 per month for rent payments, up to $300 for utilities, and up to $50 per month for internet for assistance needed as far back as April 1, 2020. Because this program is adequately funded, preferences for persons with disabilities are not available at this time. However, other assistance programs do provide such preference. For example, Montana’s Mainstream Voucher and Section 811 Project Rental Assistance programs, which are both administered by Montana Departments of Commerce (Commerce) and Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) jointly. These programs serve households that include at least one family member with a disability who is between the ages of 18 and 62 years old, allowing them to live independently in their communities by pairing affordable housing with supportive services. Commerce and DPHHS encourage Montanans in need of rental assistance and those that serve them to consider utilizing the Emergency Rental Assistance, Mainstream Voucher, and Section 811 Project Rental Assistance programs.

Individuals seeking assistance with filling out Emergency Rental Assistance applications can schedule an online appointment, get help in person, or request a paper application and/or assistance from one of the State’s partner organizations. Of note, as of June 28, 2021, Commerce has awarded over $8.9 million in Emergency Rental Assistance funds to 1,524 Montanans. For comparison, Arizona has disbursed $7.9 million (https://des.az.gov/erap-dashboard) and Kansas has disbursed $8.7 million (https://kshousingcorp.org/emergency-rental-assistance). Montana exceeded the $8.4 million awarded under the 2020 CARES Act program (administered over approximately 8 months from May 7 to December 31, 2020) in less than 3 months. The average assistance provided per approved applicant in 2020 was $3,390; the current average assistance provided under the 2021 program is $5,884.

Commerce, Montana Housing, is partnering with the Montana Legal Services Association to form the Montana Eviction Intervention Project to provide civil legal assistance for Montanans facing evictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As noted in a recent Associated Press article (https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/montana/articles/2021-06-25/explainer-how-montana-will-use-funds-to-limit-evictions) “Beginning last October, the state created the Montana Eviction Intervention Project, in partnership with the Montana Legal Services Association, to provide legal help to low-income renters facing eviction. Since then, attorneys have helped with 264 evictions statewide, helping 608 clients and their family members... No clients assisted under the Montana Eviction Intervention Project have moved to a shelter or became homeless, the Montana Legal Services Association said.”

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, significantly revising the Emergency Shelter
Grants Program by renaming it the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program and shifting focus to a housing first philosophy. ESG can still fund shelters, although historically it has not done so as there is a limit on the amount of funding that can go to shelter activities and regular ESG funding is a small grant itself. Therefore, ESG is allocated to the HRDCs as subrecipients through the designated funding matrix. Subrecipients have the option to fund shelters with regular ESG, and a couple do in a very small capacity, however the established need presented is to focus the limited funding for rental assistance. If shelters are not receiving ESG funds, the State does not have the ability through the ESG program to ensure accessibility and access requirements are met, or to monitor case manager abilities to ensure adequate provisions are in place for clients with disabilities. If a shelter is funded, it must (1) be accessible in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 8; the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) and implementing regulations at 24 CFR part 100; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.) and 28 CFR part 35; where applicable; (2) consult with the specific requirements to be in compliance with 24 CFR Part 8 if undertaking shelter alterations; (3) provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities to enable program participants with a disability to have an equal opportunity to participate in the program or activities; and (4) communicate and make known that use of ESG funded facilities, assistance, and services are available to all on a nondiscriminatory basis. Subrecipients must develop and implement affirmative outreach written procedures and communication tools and materials to inform persons without regard to race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, national origin, familial status, or disability, how to obtain access to facilities and services. For additional requirements, interested parties can refer to the ESG Manual section on Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Requirements, which begins on page 63 and is available on DPHHS’s website here: [https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/hcsd/documents/esgpolicymanual.pdf](https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/hcsd/documents/esgpolicymanual.pdf).

The State of Montana relies on local stakeholders to identify specific supports needed in their communities and asks that stakeholders propose locally supported projects that address identified needs. Montana’s Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development identifies as a critical need services to those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, so projects that directly address the needs of this population are prioritized. In addition, Commerce and DPHHS continue to collaborate on housing and healthcare. See the State’s 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan for more information: [https://commerce.mt.gov/_shared/ConPlan/docs/2020/2020-2024-Con-Plan-Final.pdf](https://commerce.mt.gov/_shared/ConPlan/docs/2020/2020-2024-Con-Plan-Final.pdf).

Montana’s HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) can be used to fund the development of newly constructed homes that are accessible and visitable. Montana’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program can be used to fund the rehabilitation of existing homes for accessibility and visitability. The State of Montana encourages communities to seek funding for both the development and rehabilitation of homes that meet accessibility and visitability standards. For more information about the HOME and CDBG programs, click on the following links: [https://housing.mt.gov/Multifamily-Development/HOME-Program](https://housing.mt.gov/Multifamily-Development/HOME-Program); [https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Program/Housing](https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Program/Housing).

**Heather McMilan, Project Development Director, Homeword, Inc.**

**Comment #2:**
I want to thank the Department for all of their work. My name is Heather McMilan. I am the project development director for Homeword. I testified yesterday at the Annual Action Plan, and would reiterate those comments, but also I want to thank staff for all the work in the restructuring you all have done, I know this is a lot in the last 18 months, and we appreciate you all. I’d like to support Shyla’s...
testimony as well. Some of the things that we talked about yesterday and could carry forward to today is that there are long term impacts to our housing markets across the board for probably the next decade to come. And so I’m advocating today that all the resources that we’ve typically gotten, but also resources that are coming in without rules at this point, that we try to open up the bandwidth, and try to make sure with all the federal rules that we don’t restrict, more restrict as you are able to do, as a jurisdiction, at the State level, because I think we don’t know all of the problems we’re going to have, and that we need to be as flexible as we can to address homelessness, also low to moderate income, and even middle income, as our housing markets are stressed, and land and home prices skyrocket, both on rental and homeownership. So any flexibility you can all have. You’ve always been great partners, but just reiterating that we need to remain as flexible as possible, and get as creative as possible over the next period of time as we’re addressing needs, all of the existing needs, that they’re being complicated by long term impacts of costs. It creates labor shortages and housing stock shortages. I would say there was testimony to this effect, and if you all could consider that there are projects that are surviving right now that were in various stages of development, or preservation, or trying to get started, or completing, and these are issues that have significant financial impacts for for-profit and non-profit groups. And if there is a way that we can work with Montana Housing. They’ve already passed a cost per unit waiver on those projects for what has happened, and the impacts we’ve seen over the last 18 months. If there’s a way to potentially add resources to those projects that have already been funded without unintended consequences to help with some of those costs, that would be wonderful, as well as keeping as many resources as we can to move new projects forward, both in rehabilitation, preservation, and new construction. Thank you again for all of your work, and there is nothing simple about how things are going today. We appreciate you guys listening and taking the testimony.

Response to Comment #2:
The State of Montana strives to balance program flexibility with administrative considerations. If additional program flexibilities are needed and are not provided for in the State’s Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans (AAPs), Montana will consider amendments as needed. Some flexibility for funding allocations is already provided for in existing planning documents. Under CDBG, HOME, and HTF, the Director of Commerce is authorized to reallocate up to 15% of each program’s planned total allocation among grant categories during each plan year. A reallocation of more than 15% of a program’s total allocation or the creation or elimination of a grant category within a program would necessitate an amendment to the applicable AAP and may require an amendment to the corresponding Consolidated Plan as well. Montana encourages prospective and current grantees to communicate both community and project-specific needs as they arise.

The State of Montana is actively assessing options for supporting existing projects that are facing budget shortfalls and other challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Grantees with concerns related to funded projects should work with their program specialists and Commerce leadership directly to ensure continued project feasibility. Additionally, grantees are encouraged to review application guidelines for upcoming application cycles for further direction.
June 3, 2021

Clint Wynne, Executive Director
Action for Eastern Montana
HRDC Districts I, II, III
2030 N Merrill Ave
PO Box 1309
Glendive, MT 59330

Greetings,


If you recall, your organization agreed to be a repository for the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development and its associated AAP and CAPER documents for the 2020-2024 period. This responsibility only requires you to have documents accessible to the public for review and does not obligate you to receive public comment. All comments should be directed to the Community Development Division via phone 406-841-2770 or email DOCConPlan@mt.gov.

The public will be noticed June 7, 2021, that draft copies of the 2019-2020 AAP, 2021-2022 AAP, and 2020-2021 CAPER are available electronically at https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Documents, in hardcopy by request, or at select locations, including your place of business (https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/List-of-Repositories). All documents must be available for the full public comment period for each document, as follows: (1) 2019-2020 AAP – June 8, 2021 to June 24, 2021; (2) 2021-2022 AAP – June 8, 2021 to July 8, 2021; and (3) 2020-2021 CAPER – June 8, 2021 to June 25, 2021. After the applicable comment period end date, documents provided can be destroyed and do not need to be returned to Commerce.

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Montana Department of Commerce
Community Development Division
Attention: Con Plan
301 S. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523
DOCConPlan@mt.gov

For more information and to provide oral comment, the public is invited to attend a virtual public hearing concerning both AAPs June 22, 2021 and/or a virtual public hearing concerning the CAPER June 23, 2021. Both public hearings will be held on Zoom and will begin at 11:00 a.m. Registration information and dial-in instructions for both public hearings are available at https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Updates.

We thank you greatly for your willingness to be a repository location for the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Tracy Diaz, Executive Director  
Community Action Partnerships of NW Montana  
HRDC District X  
214 Main St  
PO Box 8300  
Kalispell, MT 59904

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator  
Community Development Division  
301 S Park Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Carilla French, Executive Director
District IV HRDC
2229 Fifth Ave
Havre, MT 59501

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Cathy Seilstad, Fiscal Officer
District 6 HRDC
300 1st Ave N #203
Lewistown, MT 59457

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Heather Griner, Executive Director
District IX HRDC
32 S Tracy Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Jim Morton, Executive Director
District XI HRC
1801 S Higgins
Missoula, MT 59801

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Tori Matejovsky, Executive Director
Great Northern Development Corporation
233 Cascade St
Wolf Point, MT 59201

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Andrea Davis, Executive Director
Homeword
1535 Liberty Ln
Ste 116A
Missoula, MT 59808

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Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Carlos Ramalho, Executive Director
Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow
1201 Grand Ave
Ste 1
Billings, MT 59101

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Montana Department of Commerce
Community Development Division
Attention: Con Plan
301 S. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523
DOCConPlan@mt.gov

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We thank you greatly for your willingness to be a repository location for the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Dave Glaser, President
MoFi
229 E Main St
Missoula, MT 59802

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Pam Bean, Executive Director
Montana Fair Housing
519 E Front St
Ste 533
Butte, MT 59701

Greetings,


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[DOCConPlan@mt.gov](mailto:DOCConPlan@mt.gov)

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Marieke Beck, Program Manager
Montana Human Rights Bureau
33 S Last Chance Gulch
Ste 2B, PO Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Bob Maffit, Executive Director
Montana Independent Living Project
825 Great Northern Blvd
Ste 105
Helena, MT 59601

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Bob Maffit, Executive Director
Montana Independent Living Project
3475 Monroe
Ste 100
Butte, MT 59701

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Bob Maffit, Executive Director
Montana Independent Living Project
2015 Charlotte Street
Ste 2
Bozeman, MT 59718

Greetings,


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Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Jim Kammerer, Library Information Services Manager
Montana State Library
1515 E Sixth Ave
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 0

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Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Shane Walk, Acquisitions Manager
Mountain Plains Equity
2101 Overland Ave
Billings, MT 59102

Greetings,


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Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Kaia Peterson, Executive Director  
NeighborWorks Montana  
509 First Ave S  
Great Falls, MT 59401

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator  
Community Development Division  
301 S Park Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Tom Osborn, Executive Director
North Central Independent Living Services
1120 25th Ave N
Black Eagle, MT 59414

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Karla Seaman, Executive Director  
Opportunities, Inc.  
District V HRDC  
905 First Ave N  
Great Falls, MT 59401

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator  
Community Development Division  
301 S Park Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601
June 3, 2021

Lori Ladas, Executive Director
Rocky Mountain Development Council
200 S Cruse
Helena, MT 59601

Greetings,


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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
Gaza's bereaved civilians await justice

22 members of 1 family killed in Israeli attacks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza City, Gaza Strip

22

In June 2021, 22 members of 1 family were killed in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, turning their home into a bloodbath. The family's house was reduced to rubble, and their belongings scattered across the city. The Israeli army claimed the attack was in response to rocket fire from Gaza. However, the family's relatives and friends were shocked by the attack and called for justice.

Family's death toll rises to 22

In July 2021, the death toll in Gaza rose to 22, as the Israeli army continued its attacks on the Palestinian territories. The family's home was among the targets, and their children were among the victims. The Israeli army said the attack was in response to rocket fire from Hamas, but the family's relatives and friends were angry at the lack of evidence and called for an international investigation.

War crimes investigations

In August 2021, the International Criminal Court began an investigation into war crimes committed by the Israeli army in Gaza. The court issued an arrest warrant for Israeli army General Ronny Levi, charged with war crimes.

The court's findings were released in September 2021, concluding that the Israeli army had committed war crimes in Gaza. Levi was found guilty of war crimes and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

The court's findings were met with widespread condemnation from the international community, with many calling for an end to the occupation of Palestinian territories.

SAVE THE DATE

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Spring 2022

MEDICARE 101 SEMINARS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1ST
SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH
10AM WITH BOBBIE ROBERTS
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The Montana Departments of Commerce and Public Health and Human Services Announce the Public Comment Periods for the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP) Amendment, 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), and 2021-2022 AAP

The 2019-2020 AAP has been amended to include supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds made available to the State through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Additionally, the 2021-2022 AAP has been drafted. Both AAPs are available for public comment June 8, 2021, with the
2019-2020 AAP comment period ending June 24, 2021, and the 2021-2022 AAP comment period ending July 8, 2021. For more information and to provide oral comment, the public is invited to attend a virtual public hearing concerning both AAPs June 22, 2021.

The 2020-2021 CAPER, which covers the period April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, has been drafted and is available for public comment June 8, 2021, through June 25, 2021. For more information and to provide oral comment, the public is invited to attend a virtual public hearing concerning the CAPER June 23, 2021.

All documents are available electronically at https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Documents, in hardcopy by request, or at select locations across the state (https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/List-of-Repositories).

All comments must be submitted to the address or email below no later than 5:00 p.m. on the applicable comment period end date.

Montana Department of Commerce
Community Development Division
Attention: Con Plan
301 S. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523
DOCConPlan@mt.gov

Both public hearings, Tuesday, June 22, 2021, and Wednesday, June 23, 2021, will be held on Zoom and will begin at 11:00 a.m. Presentation materials will be available on Commerce’s website at https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Updates prior to each hearing. Each public hearing will provide an overview of applicable requirements, affected programs, and public participation process, as well as key takeaways from the pertinent document(s). The State will consider any comments or views provided in writing during the specified comment periods or orally during the public hearings.

To participate in one or both public hearings via webinar, please register using the links provided at the URL below. To participate via phone, please follow dial-in instructions at the URL below.

https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Updates
The Department of Commerce will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or persons with limited English proficiency who wish to participate in this process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice or presentation materials. Presentation materials will be provided in advance of the hearing. If you require an accommodation, please contact the Department of Commerce no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 16, 2021, to advise us on the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Bonnie Martello or email DOCConPlan@mt.gov.

Have questions? Email DOCConPlan@mt.gov
AFFIDAVIT OF INSERTION

This will certify that the print advertisement for the "Department of Commerce Consolidated Planning, was inserted and published in the following newspapers:

Ryan Stavnes
Member Relations
Date 6/29/2021

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of June 2021.

Notary Public for the State of Montana
Residing at Helena, Montana
My commission expires 1-29-23,
2019.
Welcome to the Public Hearing of the 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Tuesday, June 23, 2021
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sponsored by the Montana Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services

The Department of Commerce will make 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 will be provided in advance of the meeting.
2020-2021 CAPER Public Participation Process

The State of Montana, through the Departments of Commerce and Public Health and Human Services, develops a 5-year plan to guide policy and investment for housing, economic, and other community development. The 5-year plan, also known as the “Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development” 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 funding.
2020-2021 CAPER
Public Participation Process

The perspectives and opinions shared by participants of this public hearing will help Commerce and DPHHS to edit and finalize the Draft 2020-2021 CAPER, which falls under the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. We hope that with your input, we can ensure housing and community development needs across Montana are identified and addressed.
2020-2024 Consolidated Plan
Goals and Objectives

• The objectives of Montana’s Consolidated Plan include:
  – Provide decent housing
  – Provide a suitable living environment
  – Expand economic opportunities

• The goals of Montana’s Consolidated Plan are:
  – Goal 1 – Preserve and Construct Affordable Housing
  – Goal 2 – Plan for Communities
  – Goal 3 – Improve and Sustain Public Infrastructure
  – Goal 4 – Revitalize Local Economies
  – Goal 5 – Reduce Homelessness
2020-2024 Consolidated Plan Programs

• Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  – Housing (Rental Development / Single Family Rehabilitation)
  – Public Facilities
  – Community Facilities
  – Planning
  – Economic Development
• Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
• HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)
  – Rental Development / Single Family Development / Rental Rehabilitation
  – Homebuyer Assistance
• Housing Trust Fund (HTF)
  – Rental Development / Single Family Development / Rental Rehabilitation
• Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
  For more information on Montana’s competitive HOPWA grant, contact Julianna Crowley JCrowley@mt.gov
2020-2024 Consolidated Plan Documents

• 5-Year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development
  – Consolidated Plans are strategic plans that guide housing and community investments. Montana is currently operating under the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

• Annual Action Plan (AAP)
  – AAPs are prepared each year of the Consolidated Plan and outline specific activities, goals, objectives, etc., for the given program year (not cumulative).

• Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)
  – CAPERs are annual reports that detail use of funds and progress towards meeting goals and objectives for AAPs. Montana’s 2020-2021 CAPER reports on activities for Program Year 1 of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, which runs from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.
2020-2021 CAPER
Grants Awarded

• **CDBG (27)**
  – Housing – 0
    • New Construction – 0
    • Rehabilitation – 0
  – Public Facilities – 8
  – Community Facilities – 4
  – Planning – 15
  – Economic Development – 0
2020-2021 CAPER
Grants Awarded (cont’d)

• **HOME** (4)
  – New construction – 3
  – Rehabilitation – 1

• **HTF** (2)
  – New Construction – 0
  – Rehabilitation - 2
2020-2021 CAPER Goals and Outcomes

- CDBG, HOME, HTF, and ESG expended a total of **$14,167,715.52** in Program Year 1, with CDBG expending **$5,521,317.45**, HOME expending **$4,091,642.84**, HTF expending **$4,276,300.24**, and ESG expending **$278,454.99**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Preserve and Construct Affordable Housing (planned / actual)</th>
<th>Plan for Communities (planned / actual)</th>
<th>Improve and Sustain Vital Public Infrastructure (planned / actual)</th>
<th>Revitalize Local Economies (planned / actual)</th>
<th>Reduce Homelessness (planned / actual)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDBG</td>
<td>12% / 11%</td>
<td>7% / 17%</td>
<td>39% / 72%</td>
<td>30% / 0%</td>
<td>7% / 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOME</td>
<td>73% / 100%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>17% / 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESG</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>93% / 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTF</td>
<td>67% / 80%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>0% / 0%</td>
<td>23% / 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDED (DOLLARS)</td>
<td><strong>$8,143,147.37</strong></td>
<td><strong>$927,144.43</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,961,923.80</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,119,454.99</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2020-2021 CAPER Goals and Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>All Program Years (To Date)</th>
<th>Current Program Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expected – Strategic Plan</td>
<td>Actual – Strategic Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expected – Program Year</td>
<td>Actual – Program Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve and Sustain Public Infrastructure</td>
<td>Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities Other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit</td>
<td>Persons Assisted</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit</td>
<td>Households Assisted</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan for Communities</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Local Governments Assisted</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preserve and Construct Affordable Housing</td>
<td>Rental units constructed</td>
<td>Household Housing Unit</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rental units rehabilitated</td>
<td>Household Housing Unit</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homeowner Housing Added</td>
<td>Household Housing Unit</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated</td>
<td>Household Housing Unit</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers</td>
<td>Households Assisted</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce Homelessness</td>
<td>Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing</td>
<td>Households Assisted</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homeless Person Overnight Shelter</td>
<td>Persons Assisted</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Homelessness Prevention</td>
<td>Persons Assisted</td>
<td>2,400</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing for Homeless added</td>
<td>Household Housing Unit</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revitalize Local Economies</td>
<td>Façade treatment / business building rehabilitation</td>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jobs created / retained</td>
<td>Jobs</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Businesses assisted</td>
<td>Businesses Assisted</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2020-2021 CAPER Affordable Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1-Year Goal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of households supported through rental assistance</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households supported through the production of new units</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households supported through the rehab of existing units</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of households supported through the acquisition of existing units</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>690</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2020-2021 CAPER Monitoring

• “Scope of Work” or Construction Monitoring
  – CDBG – 3 projects
  – HOME – 2 projects
  – HTF – 2 projects

• HOME Period of Affordability (POA) Monitoring – 1 project (waiver in effect)

• ESG Monitoring – All 9 ESG subrecipients’ procedures and case files were monitored during on-site visits
2020-2021 CAPER Document Review

• Available:
  – On Commerce’s website at https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Documents
  – Several depositories throughout the state (see website for list)
  – By request
2020-2021 CAPER
Contact Information

Commerce 301 S Park Ave Helena, MT 59601
PO Box 200523 Helena, MT 59620-0523

Interim Administrator: Cheryl Cohen
Interim Operations Manager: Becky Anseth
Phone: 406-841-2770
TDD: 406-841-2702
Fax: 406-841-2771
Email: DOCConPlan@mt.gov
Website: https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan
2020-2021 CAPER
Contact Information

DPHHS 1400 Carter Drive Helena, MT 59601
PO Box 202956 Helena, MT 59620-2956

Administrator: Gene Hermanson
Bureau Chief: Sara Loewen
Phone: 406-447-4265
Fax: 406-447-4287
Website: www.dphhs.mt.gov
2020-2021 CAPER
Comments

Comments regarding the Draft 2020-2021 CAPER are now being accepted.

*If you have a comment and are joining via webinar, please raise your hand so we can unmute you. If you are joining via phone, please press *9 to indicate you have a comment and then press *6 to unmute/re-mute yourself.*

When providing comment
• Please state and spell your name
• Please state the organization you represent (if applicable)

Written comments should be addressed to the address or email below and will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on **June 25, 2021**.

Montana Department of Commerce
Community Development Division
Attn: Con Plan
PO Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523
[DOCConPlan@mt.gov](mailto:DOCConPlan@mt.gov)
WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and testimony taken, to-wit:

MS. EGLI: Okay. It's 11:00, so we're going to go ahead and begin our CAPER presentation. For those of you who maybe are just joining, my name is Janelle Egli, and I'm going to be facilitating our presentation, and then also our comments section or portion of this hearing today.

So first I'll start off by saying welcome to the public hearing of the 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, which we abbreviate throughout this presentation as the CAPER.

This presentation, this hearing, is sponsored by the Montana Departments of Commerce and Health and Human Services. These are the agencies that oversee our Consolidated Plan processes for the State of Montana, and so yes, they're sponsoring.

The Department of Commerce makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, or who have limited English proficiency, and who wish to participate in these processes, or need alternative accessible formats of this presentation or other Consolidated Plan materials. And just please note that if those are of interest, that you are welcome to request those from the Department of Commerce.

So we do have a couple of housekeeping items before we officially begin. And I just want to note for everybody that this webinar is being recorded. We will make the recording available after the presentation concludes for those who wish to go back and watch, and who maybe were not able to participate during the hearing.

And then also for those of you who need to chat with our panelists, for whatever reason, whether you have a question, or if you have technical issues, please use the Q&A feature to let us know what your questions are, or what your technical issues are, if you have them. We do have a staff member who is going to be monitoring the Q&A box, so we will be communicating with you via the Q&A throughout the presentation.

And then for comments and questions, you will have an opportunity to provide comments and questions for the official record at the end of our presentation, and I will let you know what
1 that process is for participation once we get  
2 there. So with those housekeeping items, we'll go  
3 ahead and continue.  
4 So the CAPER public participation  
5 process is what we're going to go over first. So  
6 just for a little bit of context, the State of  
7 Montana, through both the Departments of Commerce  
8 and Public Health and Human Services, develops a  
9 five year plan to guide policy and investment for  
10 housing, economic, and other community  
11 development.  
12 The five year plan is also referred as  
13 the Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community  
14 Development. We actually just got our most recent  
15 five year plan approved by HUD, and just for note,  
16 this five year plan, and then the other plans and  
17 reports under it, are all required by the US  
18 Department of Housing and Urban Development or  
19 HUD.  
20 And these documents, and specifically  
21 the five year plan, assess Montana's needs and  
22 current conditions, as well as determine  
23 priorities and allocate HUD funding. So it's a  
24 really important document for us, when it comes to  
25 managing our HUD grants, and trying to address the  

1 needs throughout the state.  
2 So this CAPER public participation  
3 process is important because it allows the State  
4 of Montana to hear the perspectives and the  
5 opinions of private citizens and those  
6 representing various organizations that are  
7 affected by the Consolidated Plan, and  
8 specifically by outcomes that we report in the  
9 CAPER.  
10 And the perspectives and opinions shared  
11 really help Commerce and DPHHS to basically  
12 modify, when needed, our documents, and in this  
13 case specifically the Draft 2020-2021 CAPER, which  
14 falls under the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, which  
15 is the most recent five year plan approved by HUD.  
16 We hope that with your input that we can  
17 ensure the housing and community development needs  
18 across Montana are identified and addressed, and  
19 also that they're identified and addressed in an  
20 efficient manner.  
21 And although I'm sure many of you have  
22 participated in hearings of the Consolidated Plan  
23 in the past, we will go over just a little  
24 overview of the Consolidated Plan goals and  
25 objectives.

1 So there are three basic objectives of  
2 the Consolidated Plan, and they are to provide  
3 decent housing; provide a suitable living  
4 environment; expand economic opportunities. And  
5 these three objectives really guide all of the  
6 activities that happen under the Consolidated Plan  
7 and the programs that are administered therein.  
8 And then in addition to those  
9 objectives, there are also some outlined goals  
10 that Montana adheres to. The first goal is to  
11 preserve and construct affordable housing; the  
12 second goal is to plan for communities; the third  
13 goal is to improve and sustain public  
14 infrastructure; the fourth goal is to revitalize  
15 local economies; and the fifth goal is to reduce  
16 homelessness.  
17 And under the Consolidated Plan, there  
18 are some specific programs that are administered.  
19 The first program is the Community Development  
20 Block Grant, also referred to as CDBG; and we also  
21 administer the Emergency Solutions Grant, or ESG;  
22 the Home Investment Partnerships Program, or HOME;  
23 Housing Trust Fund, or HTF.  
24 We do not administer the State's housing  
25 opportunities for persons with AIDS, also referred  

1 to is HOPWA, and I'll talk a little bit more about  
2 that in just a second. It's managed outside of  
3 the Consolidated Plan.  
4 But we'll circle back to CDBG. So under  
5 the CDBG program, there are some different  
6 activities that happen that are supported by that  
7 funding pot. Those include housing, which  
8 includes rental development and single family  
9 rehabilitation; public facilities; community  
10 facilities; planning, and economic development.  
11 And then there's the ESG grant, which  
12 really is geared towards addressing homelessness  
13 needs in the State; and then under the HOME  
14 Program, we do rental development, single family  
15 development, and rental rehabilitation.  
16 In addition to those, we also do home  
17 buyer assistance, which in Montana is essentially  
18 down payment assistance. And then for the Housing  
19 Trust Fund program, activities include rental  
20 development, single family development, and rental  
21 rehabilitation.  
22 And as I mentioned just a second ago,  
23 HOPWA is managed outside of the Consolidated Plan,  
24 and if you want more information about Montana's  
25 HOPWA grant -- which is competitive, and not
1. And then for the Consolidated Annual
2. Performance and Evaluation Report, also known as
3. the CAPER, which this hearing pertains to our
4. 2020-2021 CAPER, these are also annual reports.
5. They detail our use of funds, our progress towards
6. meeting goals and objectives, and they just
7. contain a lot of good information about where our
8. programs sit as far as spending money, and what
9. kinds of activities we’ve been able to undertake,
10. and possibly also challenges that we have seen as
11. we’ve administered our programs.
12. Let’s see here. I guess I’ll also note
13. that for the 2020-2021 CAPER, it is specifically
14. for the first year of the 2020-2024 Consolidated
15. Plan, and our program years run from April 1st to
16. March 31st. And so this specific CAPER runs April
18. So as far as the accomplishments that
19. we’ve made and progress that we’ve made, we’re
20. just going to spend some time to go over those
21. right now in the following slides.
22. So for CDBG, we awarded 27 grants during
23. year one, and this included eight public
24. facilities grants, four community facilities
25. grants, 15 planning grants, and that is it. There

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| were some categories that were not awarded funds | during this year. | For HOME, we awarded four grants. This | included three new construction grants, and one | rehabilitation grant. And for HTF we had two | awards, both of those for rehabilitation. | For all of the programs together, | including the ESG, a total of just over $14.1 | million was spent in program year one. CDBG | expended a little over $5.5 million; HOME expended | a little over $4 million; HTF was pretty much in | line with HOME, expending a little over $4 | million; and then ESG expended close to $300,000. | The actual figures are given here. | Then we’ve broken out expenditures | according to goal and program in the table | provided on this slide for your reference. And | one thing to note is that we have the percentages | listed for both planned goals and outcomes, and | then actual goals and outcomes. | And then just a couple of things to note | here. The majority of funds for preserve and | construct affordable housing come from HOME and | HTF. All of our CDBG funds -- or sorry -- all of | our planning activities come from CDBG funds. |
1 persons under the goal of improve and sustain  
2 public infrastructure. For planning for  
3 communities, we were able to assist 18 local  
4 governments.  
5 For preserving and constructing of  
6 affordable housing, we were able to -- let's see  
7 here. So six households, housing units, were  
8 constructed for rental properties; 148 units were  
9 rehabilitated for rental properties; and then one  
10 unit was rehabilitated that included a homeowner  
11 benefit; and 22 households were assisted with  
12 direct financial assistance. And this is our home  
13 buyer down payment assistance program that that  
14 number reflects.  
15 And then for reduce homelessness, we had  
16 120 households provided tenant based rental  
17 assistance. That number is a little bit shy of  
18 our original goal. Part of the reason why that is  
19 the case is because of the delay in program funds  
20 being receipted by the State, just to do with a  
21 little bit of a different timeline that we had for  
22 submission and approval, and then an actual  
23 receipt of allocation of funds.  
24 And then we had 117 persons assisted  
25 with overnight shelter, and 180 persons assisted  
26 with homelessness prevention. Again, that number  
27 is a little bit lower, also because of the delay  
28 in funds.  
29 And then for revitalized local  
30 economies, we had 16 jobs created or retained.  
31 And one thing that I did want to note, just upon  
32 concluding the figures here that are presented, is  
33 that we really provide goals and expected or  
34 anticipated outcomes based on historical figures,  
35 and so these do tend to fluctuate from year to  
36 year, and it can be difficult to anticipate the  
37 exact numbers, just because a lot of our programs  
38 are competitive, and it's difficult for the State  
39 to anticipate exactly what activities are going to  
40 be proposed, and awarded, and completed.  
41 So next slide. We have the figures here  
42 for affordable housing. And again, this is in the  
43 CAPER document. And I can just highlight that our  
44 goals for the number of households to receive  
45 rental assistance was 600; the actual number of  
46 households served was 194.  
47 The number of households supported  
48 through new production of units, we had a goal of  
49 14; actual numbers served was six.  
50 For households supported through  
51 rehabilitation of existing units, we had a goal of  
52 one year goal of 26, and we actually served 148  
53 households.  
54 And then for the number of households  
55 supported through acquisition of existing units --  
56 and this is again our home buyer program,  
57 specifically under HOME -- we had a goal of 50; we  
58 actually served 22 households.  
59 One other item that we wanted to  
60 highlight for folks is our monitoring  
61 accomplishments. So for the scope of work,  
62 monitoring or construction monitoring, we had  
63 three CDBG projects monitored, two HOME projects  
64 monitored, and two HTF projects monitored.  
65 And then for the HOME program  
66 specifically, we have what is called period of  
67 affordability monitoring. This is monitoring that  
68 happens after construction is complete, and when  
69 housing properties are in operation. We were able  
70 to monitor one project during year one.  
71 And one thing to note here is that the  
72 State of Montana had a waiver in place from HUD  
73 because of corona virus or COVID-19. We have not  
74 been completing monitoring because it's onsite and  
75 in person. That should be picking up here in the  
76 next several months, but we did have a little bit  
77 of a lower outcome for monitoring those POA home  
78 projects, because of our waiver, and because of  
79 extenuating circumstances, which I know everybody  
80 is aware of.  
81 And then for ESG, all nine of our ESG  
82 subrecipients, procedures, and case files were  
83 monitored during onsite visits during year one.  
84 For those who haven't found the document  
85 on Commerce's website yet, we've listed our URL  
86 here. That URL is https://commerce.mt.gov/  
87 consolidated-plan/documents, and you're welcome to  
88 just get into our presentation which is available  
89 on our website as well, if you want to just go  
90 directly, click directly on this link.  
91 And then we also have the CAPER document  
92 available at depositories throughout the state.  
93 There's a full list of these depositories on our  
94 website. And for those who would like a hard  
95 copy, they can also request, and we can provide  
96 that by request.  
97 And for those that have comments or  
98 questions, we ask that you direct those comments  
99 and questions to either the Department of Commerce  
100 or the Department of Public Health and Human
During this webinar. So Anita, if we have any
draft 2020-2021 CAPER are being accepted now
25th at 5:00 p.m., and comments regarding the
So with that said, let’s go ahead and note that
22 comments are going to be receipted up until June
25th at 5:00 p.m., and comments regarding the
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1 Services. We have contact information for both of
these agencies on the following slides.
2 So Commerce is located at 301 South Park

1 comments, please let us know. Or sorry. Hands
raised, please let us know.
3 MS. PROUL: It looks like Shyla has her
hand up, and I have opened her up for talking.
5 MS. EGLI: Okay. Thank you, Anita.
7 MS. PATERA: Good morning, Commerce and
DPHHS staff. For the record, my name is Shyla
represent North Central Independent Living, and
also am a member of the Montana Independent Living
Community Living Task Force, which helps Montanans
navigate services to stay independent in their
communities.

14 I will be submitting written comments,
but a few of the things that I would like to focus
on today remind us that COVID is still present,
and for many of us with disabilities and low
income, we may be still needing to utilize rental
assistance.

20 So I'm hoping that a lot of the people
that I've referred and have disabilities have been
using it as well, but I'd like to see that
tracked; and if in the future, when COVID funding
doesn't manifest itself in the same way, if we
could formalize some rental assistance through

1 that all comments received and responses provided
2 will be documented in our final CAPER.
3 And here throughout this hearing, it's
4 possible that Commerce and DPHHS will respond to
verbal comments in order to provide clarification
6 or to provide further information, but please know
that our formal comments will be provided in our
8 final CAPER.
9 So if you have a comment and are joining
10 via webinar, you're welcome to raise your hand, so
that we can unmute you, and Anita will be unmuting
folks today and facilitating with that. Thank
you, Anita. If you have comments and are joining
via phone, you're welcome to press star nine to
raise your hand, and then star six to unmute and
remute yourself. And Anita will be facilitating
who is on the floor for providing comment.

18 When you're providing comment, please
19 state and spell your name, and state the
organization you represent, if that is applicable.
21 So with that said, let’s go ahead and note that
22 comments are going to be receipted up until June
23 25th at 5:00 p.m., and comments regarding the
24 draft 2020-2021 CAPER are being accepted now
during this webinar. So Anita, if we have any

HRDC’s and other things, also work with
eviction and homeless prevention in that way.
During our stay at home orders, and
particularly again I'm also hearing about the need
-- not necessarily the need for food, but making
sure that I have enough funding, if someone is on
SSI or SSDI, to maintain things. And I know
during the stay at home, obviously it was very
vital.

Our centers are working on vaccines and
different things to make sure that we all maximize
the use of our vaccines and medical assistance
where needed.

As a homeless and infrastructure
advocate, a lot of times, in non-COVID times and
even during COVID times, I've been assisting
people who may be meeting homelessness that have
come out of institutions, such as Warm Springs,
nursing homes, and other institutions such as
veterans homes, or other needs.

I would like to see us take advantage of
the new rules for MFP, which is money follows a
t person, and make sure that that is the strongest
we can make it.

On our emergency sheltering grants, I
MS. EGLI: seeing Heather McMilin has a hand raised.

MS. PROUL: I want to congratulate everyone at Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Department of Housing, and Independent Living in Montana to include those advocates and consumers where necessary. Thank you very much.

MS. PROUL: And if there's a way that we can work with Montana Housing. They've already passed a cost per unit waiver on those projects for what I'm hoping that we can coordinate our next period of time as we're addressing needs, all of the existing needs, that they're being complicated by long term impacts of costs. It creates labor shortages and housing stock shortages.

MS. PROUL: I'd like to support Shyla's testimony as well. Some of the things that we talked about yesterday and could carry forward to today is that there are long term impacts to our housing markets across the board for probably the next decade to come. And so I'm advocating today that all the resources that we've typically gotten, but also resources that are coming in without rules at this point, that we try to open up the bandwidth, and try to make sure with all the federal rules that we don't restrict, more restrict as you are able to do, as a jurisdiction, at the State level, because I think we don't know all of the problems we're going to have, and that we need to be as flexible as we can to address homelessness, also flexible as we can to address homelessness, also moderate income, and even middle income, as our housing markets are stressed, and land and home prices skyrocket, both on rental and home ownership.

MS. McMILAN: Thank you. I want to thank the Department for all of their work. My name is Heather McMilan. I am the project development director for Homeward. I'm Heather McMilin, M-C-M-I-L-I-N. I testified yesterday at the Annual Action Plan, and would reiterate yesterday at the work in the restructuring you all have done, I know this is a lot in the last 18 months, and we appreciate you all.

And so I'm advocating today that all the resources that we've typically gotten, but also resources that are coming in without rules at this point, that we try to open up the bandwidth, and try to make sure with all the federal rules that we don't restrict, more restrict as you are able to do, as a jurisdiction, at the State level, because I think we don't know all of the problems we're going to have, and that we need to be as flexible as we can to address homelessness, also moderate income, and even middle income, as our housing markets are stressed, and land and home prices skyrocket, both on rental and home ownership.

So any flexibility you can all have. You've always been great partners, but just reiterating that we need to remain as flexible as possible, and get as creative as possible over the next period of time as we're addressing needs, all of the existing needs, that they're being complicated by long term impacts of costs. It creates labor shortages and housing stock shortages.

I would say there was testimony to this effect, and if you all could consider that there are projects that are surviving right now that were in various stages of development, or preservation, or trying to get started, or completing, and these are issues that have significant financial impacts for for-profit and non-profit groups.

And if there's a way that we can work with Montana Housing. They've already passed a cost per unit waiver on those projects for what
has happened, and the impacts we've seen over the last 18 months. If there's a way to potentially add resources to those projects that have already been funded without unintended consequences to help with some of those costs, that would be wonderful, as well as keeping as many resources as we can to move new projects forward, both in rehabilitation, preservation, and new construction.

Thank you again for all of your work, and there is nothing simple about how things are going today. We appreciate you guys listening and taking the testimony.

MS. EGLI: Thank you, Heather. Anita, are you seeing any other hands raised at this time?

MS. PROUL: I do not see any, Janelle.

MS. EGLI: I'll take just a second to reiterate the instructions for providing comment via webinar or via phone, just in case folks joined after we stated it. If you would like to provide a comment and are joining via webinar, you can raise your hand so that we can unmute you; and if you're joining via phone, you can press star nine to indicate you have a comment, and then star six and unmute and remute yourself.

We'll leave the floor open for a little bit longer, so if you have comments, feel free to raise your hand or press star nine.

(No response)

MS. EGLI: Okay. Still not seeing any hands, Anita?

MS. PROUL: No hands raised.

MS. EGLI: Okay. We can go ahead and wrap up. Just one more time for the record, I'll state that comments will be received up until 5:00 p.m. on June 25th, 2021 for the CAPER document. We do have a couple of other documents out for comment right now, so it's important to note that this June 25th deadline is specifically for the CAPER.

And you can send comments to the Department of Commerce via email or via snail mail. Our physical address is Montana Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, Attention: Con Plan, P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620-0523. And our email address is DOCConplan@mt.gov.

I think that we can go ahead and wrap.
# Affordable Housing Focus Group
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