

# Welcome to the Needs and Strategies Public Hearing for the **2024-2025 Annual Action Plan** and **2025-2029 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2024**

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

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

*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 and need an alternative accessible format of the presentation materials or translation services.*

*El Departamento de Comercio hará adaptaciones razonables para las personas con discapacidades o personas con dominio limitado del inglés que deseen participar en este proceso y necesiten un formato accesible alternativo de materiales de presentación o servicios de traducción.*



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Public Participation Process

The State of Montana, through the Departments of Commerce and Public Health and Human Services, is developing a 5-year plan to guide policy and investment for housing, economic, and other community development projects.

This 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.



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Public Participation Process

The perspectives and opinions shared by participants during this portion of the public hearing will inform the development of the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan including the Year 1 (2025-2026) Annual Action Plan and associated Equity Plan for affirmatively furthering fair housing.

We hope that with your input, we can ensure housing and community development needs across Montana are identified and addressed.



# 2025-2029 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 current 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



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan Programs

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**
  - Housing (Rental Development / Single Family Rehabilitation)
  - Public and Community Facilities
  - Economic Development
  - Planning
- **HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)**
  - Rental Development / Single Family Development / Rental Rehabilitation
  - Homebuyer Assistance
- **Housing Trust Fund (HTF)**
  - Rental Development / Rental Rehabilitation
- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**
  - Street Outreach / Emergency Shelter / Homelessness Prevention / Rapid Re-housing



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Planning Process

- Analyze quantitative and qualitative data regarding need
- Engage the public, agencies, and stakeholders to get input about need
- Identify priority needs
- Develop a strategy in response to identified needs
- Direct funding to strategies



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan Documents

- **Equity Plan for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing**
  - Under a HUD Proposed Rule, Montana will develop an Equity Plan every five years that will serve the purpose of assessing fair housing issues and their underlying causes, as well as setting fair housing goals and outlining strategies for achieving equity in housing, increasing access to community assets, and broadening economic opportunities
  - The mandate to affirmatively further fair housing requires proactive and meaningful action to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, eliminate disparities in opportunities, and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination
- **Five-Year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development (Con Plan)**
  - Consolidated Plans are strategic plans prepared every five years that guide housing and community investments
- **Annual Action Plan (AAP)**
  - AAPs are prepared each year of the Consolidated Plan and outline specific activities, goals, and objectives for the given program year
- **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





# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Equity Plan Development

- Under HUD's Proposed Rule, the State will oversee a more streamlined analysis of fair housing compared to what was required under the 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule. Furthermore, the State will oversee a more robust community engagement effort to identify fair housing needs and opportunities.
- At least three public hearings will be held before the State's Equity Plan is submitted to HUD.
  - Two hearings will be held *before* the publication of the Equity Plan and will provide the public opportunity for identifying fair housing needs and informing fair housing strategies.
  - One hearing will be held *after* the publication of the Equity Plan and will provide the public opportunity to comment on the published plan document.
- Through today's hearing – the first of the two initial hearings – the State is seeking input about fair housing issues and their underlying causes, as well as asking for recommendations for fair housing goals and strategies.
- Initial input will be accepted through **June 25, 2024**. Feedback regarding the to-be-published Equity Plan will be accepted during a comment period to be announced.
- As part of its outreach efforts, the State will gather data to inform Equity Plan development via the Montana Fair Housing Survey, which will open May 1, 2024, and close May 31, 2024. Once available, the survey will be available at [commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Updates](https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Updates) (or in alternative formats upon request).



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Equity Plan Adoption and Evaluation

- Once developed (tentatively in September 2024), the Equity Plan will be submitted to HUD. Upon receipt, HUD will publish the plan and make it available for a 60-day public review period.
- After HUD accepts Montana's Equity Plan, it will be published on Commerce's website, and its fair housing goals and strategies will be incorporated into the State's 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and associated Annual Action Plans.
- Progress evaluations for the Equity Plan will be required annually after the Equity Plan is adopted.
  - Before submitting its Annual Progress Evaluations for the Equity Plan to HUD, the State will make available to interested parties the proposed evaluation for a comment period of no less than 15 calendar days.



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Document Review

- Once drafted, documents will be available:
  - On Commerce’s website at [commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Documents](https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Documents)
  - Several depositories throughout the state (see website for list)
  - By request



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Surveys and Upcoming Meetings

- As mentioned above, as part of its outreach efforts, the State will gather data to inform Equity Plan development via the Montana Fair Housing Survey.
  - **The survey will be available May 1, 2024, through May 31, 2024.**
- The State will also gather data to inform broad Consolidated Plan development via the Montana Housing and Community Needs Survey.
  - **The survey was made available March 18, 2024, and will be open through April 30, 2024.**

All interested parties are encouraged to participate in the State's surveys and public meetings. To participate in our surveys and for information about upcoming public meetings, visit

[commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Updates](https://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan/Updates)



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Contact Information

### Montana Department of Commerce

301 S Park Ave Helena, MT 59601

PO Box 200523 Helena, MT 59620-0523

Division Administrators: Galen Steffens, Cheryl Cohen

CDBG Coordinator: Rosie Goldich

Program Specialist: Janelle Egli

Phone: 406.841.2770

TDD: 406.841.2702

Fax: 406.841.2771

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

Website: [commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan](http://commerce.mt.gov/Consolidated-Plan)



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan

## Contact Information

### DPHHS

1400 Carter Drive Helena, MT 59601

PO Box 202956 Helena, MT 59620-2956

Administrator:

Jessie Counts

Bureau Chief:

Sara Loewen

Phone:

406.447.4265

Fax:

406.447.4287

Website:

[www.dphhs.mt.gov](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov)



# 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan Comments

Comments regarding needs and strategies pertaining to the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan including the Year 1 (2025-2026) Annual Action Plan and associated Equity Plan for affirmatively furthering fair housing 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. **April 17, 2024**, for the 2024-2025 AAP and 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan
- Until 5:00 p.m. **June 25, 2024**, for the Equity Plan

Montana Department of Commerce

Community MT

Attn: Con Plan

PO Box 200523

Helena, MT 59620-0523

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

