

A P P E A R A N C E S

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1 WHEREUPON, the proceedings were had as follows:

2 MS. EGLI: My name is Janelle Egli, and I am
3 going to be facilitating this webinar today. I'm just
4 going to take a quick look at who we have on the phone.

5 So thank you for joining us, first of all. We'll go
6 ahead and get started with some housekeeping. We're
7 having a little bit of technical issues as far as figuring
8 out how to unmute folks. We really won't need to unmute
9 people until we get to the comment section of our webinar
10 today, but we will give you some further information on
11 that.

12 I have provided some instructions which hopefully will
13 end up being helpful as far as how to unmute yourself and
14 how to ask questions if you have technical issues or other
15 questions throughout the presentation. So, for example,
16 if you can't hear us or if you're having a hard time
17 seeing something, please let us know in the chat -- using
18 the chat feature. And then as far as comments go, you can
19 provide comments in the questions box, and we will keep
20 that monitored throughout the webinar.

21 So we'll go ahead and begin. Thank you for joining us
22 for the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan public hearing.
23 We'll go ahead and move along. So we'll go ahead and
24 start with an overview of Montana's HUD programs.

25 The programs are the Community Development Block

1 Grant, also referred to as CDBG. This is the funding
2 source that deals with economic development, housing,
3 public and community facilities. There is the Emergency
4 Solutions Grant, or ESG; HOME Investment Partnerships
5 Program, or HOME; Housing Opportunities for Persons with
6 AIDS, also referred to as HOPWA; and the Housing Trust
7 Fund, or HTF.

8 So HUD has some congressionally mandated goals which
9 we adhere to. They are to provide decent housing, provide
10 a suitable living environment, and to expand economic
11 opportunities.

12 The Annual Action Plan is part of Montana's
13 Consolidated Plan process. The Consolidated Plan is a
14 five-year plan for federal housing, community and public
15 facilities, and economic development investment in the
16 state. It combines the planning and application, citizen
17 participation, and reporting requirements for CDBG, HOME,
18 HTF, HOPWA, and ESG.

19 Components of the Consolidated Plan are the five-year
20 plan, also referred to as the Con Plan. The 2015-2020
21 Consolidated Plan was approved by HUD and is available on
22 the Community Development Division's website.

23 Another component is the Annual Action Plan, the
24 subject of the webinar today. The 2019-2020 Annual Action
25 Plan is open for public comment. The comment period began

1 July 10th and ends on August 9th. The AAP is available
2 online and at all repositories identified on the Con Plan
3 website.

4 An additional component is the Consolidated Annual
5 Performance and Evaluation Report, also known as the
6 CAPER. It is presented once the program year has ended,
7 and it reports on activities completed during the plan
8 year, which runs April 1st, through March 31st.

9 So a bit more about the Annual Action Plan. It's the
10 annual update to the five-year Con Plan to guide the
11 state's housing, community and public facilities, economic
12 development policy, and actions for each plan year
13 beginning April 1st and ending March 31st. It identifies
14 the state's housing and community development needs,
15 priority, and goals; it stipulates how funds will be
16 allocated; and, finally, helps the State invest moneys in
17 the areas of greatest need.

18 The plan is provided to HUD electronically through the
19 eCon Planning Suite, and there are three major sections,
20 which include setup, process, and annual action plan.
21 Setup includes administrative details, and it outlines
22 responsible agencies and agency lead staff. Process,
23 which includes public participation elements. And annual
24 action plan, which deals with expected resources, goals,
25 and objectives, priorities, et cetera.

1 A selection of AAP sections are as follows: The
2 annual goals and objectives, which identifies the goals
3 for the program. Needs are identified to be addressed
4 with funding, funding is established to meet goals and
5 objectives, and indicators of meeting goals are defined.

6 Allocation priorities, which identifies how funds are
7 prioritized for individual programs.

8 And the method of distribution, which identifies how
9 funds will be distributed by program.

10 Sorry. Just one moment. We're having a little bit of
11 a technical glitch. It looks like we have the wrong
12 screen showing, so we'll go ahead and fix that.

13 (Off the record briefly.)

14 MS. EGLI: All right. Hopefully that issue was
15 addressed. We're going to go ahead and continue. And
16 please, again, if you're having any issues or not hearing
17 or seeing what we are trying to convey, please use the
18 questions or chat feature to let us know.

19 So the Draft 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan deals with
20 barriers to affordable housing and identifies the action
21 items the departments intend to implement to address
22 housing barriers. It outlines program-specific
23 requirements. As required by HUD, program-specific
24 requirements are discussed to implement programs.

25 And the goals in the AAP for preserve and construct

1 affordable housing are as follows: Rental units
2 constructed, 25; rental units rehabilitated, 20; homeowner
3 housing added, 2; homeowner housing rehabilitated, 4; and
4 direct financial assistance to home buyers, 50.

5 For plan for communities, the goal is to assist
6 citizens in the local community with planning needs. And
7 for improve and sustain public infrastructure, the goals
8 are as follows: Public facility or infrastructure
9 activities other than low/moderate income housing benefit,
10 2,000 persons; public facility or infrastructure
11 activities for low/moderate income housing benefit,
12 20 households.

13 For revitalize local economies, the goals are:
14 Jobs created/retained, 15; business assisted, 4; public
15 service activity, 3; facade treatment/building
16 rehabilitation, 1.

17 Goals continued. For reduce homelessness, we have
18 tenant-based rental assistance/rapid rehousing,
19 600 persons; homeless person overnight shelter,
20 60 persons; overnight/emergency shelter/transitional
21 housing beds added, 5 beds; homelessness prevention,
22 600 persons; and housing for homeless added, 15 households
23 or housing units.

24 Our allocation priorities are as follows for each of
25 the HUD programs: Of note, preserve and construct

1 affordable housing, CDBG is 15 percent; the allocation for
2 HOME is 73 percent; allocation for HTF is 66 percent.

3 For plan for communities, the allocation is almost
4 8 percent for CDBG.

5 For improve and sustain public infrastructure, the
6 CDBG allocation is 36.

7 Revitalize local economies is 28 percent CDBG.

8 Reduce homelessness is 100% ESG.

9 The allocation for HTF is 23; for CDBG, 7; and HOME,
10 16 percent.

11 The Montana Department of Commerce Community
12 Development Division Administrator is Jennifer Olson. The
13 Operations Manager is AC Rothenbuecher. And the Division
14 is located at 301 South Park Avenue in Helena. Our
15 mailing address and contact information are provided. Of
16 note, our e-mail is doccdd@mt.gov, with our website at
17 <https://comdev.mt.gov>.

18 The Montana Department of Public Health and Human
19 Services Division Administrator is Jamie Palagi. The
20 Bureau Chief is Sarah Loewen. The department location is
21 1400 Carter Drive in Helena. The contact information and
22 mailing address are provided, with the website at
23 <https://www.dphhs.mt.gov>.

24 All right. We are now open for public comment.
25 Comments regarding the Draft 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan

1 are now being accepted during this webinar. Responses to
2 comments will be included in the final AAP document, which
3 will be posted on our website.

4 when providing a comment, please state your name and
5 spell it and the organization you are representing. If
6 you prefer to provide a comment in writing, you can use
7 our questions feature on GoToWebinar. The comment you
8 provide will be read aloud for the record.

9 To unmute yourself, go ahead and press star 2. If
10 you're having -- if we're not responding and you press
11 star 2, please let us know in the chat feature or
12 questions feature.

13 (Pause for comments.)

14 MS. EGLI: Okay. We are accepting public
15 comments. If you have any comments, please let us know.
16 You can unmute your line by pressing star 2 or you can
17 provide a question or a comment in the GoToWebinar
18 platform using the questions box or the chat box.

19 (Pause for comments.)

20 MS. EGLI: Okay. So we're going to go ahead and
21 move on, not getting any comments or questions. And of
22 course, we will be accepting comments until August 9th,
23 and you can provide those written comments for the Draft
24 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan to the Montana Department of
25 Commerce, Attention Consolidated Plan, Community

1 Development Division, P. O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana
2 59620. You can also provide us written comments via
3 e-mail at DocConPlan@mt.gov.

4 Once the public comment period has ended, Commerce and
5 DPHHS will respond to comments made during the public
6 comment period and modify the documents to include
7 comments made and agency responses.

8 Oh, you know what, let's go ahead and backtrack just
9 one moment. I think we did have a comment come in. We
10 have a comment coming from Richard King.

11 And Richard, if you can hear me, can you go ahead and
12 indicate your affiliation so we have that for the record.

13 Richard is spelled R-I-C-H-A-R-D, King, K-I-N-G. The
14 comment is: Are you aware of the problem that is
15 threatening the preservation of affordable rental housing
16 in rural communities?

17 Thank you for your comment, Richard. If you can
18 provide us your affiliation, we will include that in the
19 public record.

20 And we'll keep moving along. So next steps, the final
21 AAP document. Once the public comment period is ended, I
22 already talked about that, we'll go ahead and include
23 comments and responses in the document. Based on the
24 comments and responses, the documents may be modified to
25 reflect the decision made in the response. The State will

1 prepare a final document and send it to HUD, and the
2 Department will publish the document on our website. We
3 will provide the notice of final HUD approval and document
4 availability in addition.

5 And with that, that wraps up our webinar. If you have
6 any comments, please send them our way. And thank you for
7 joining us.

8 (The proceedings concluded at 10:53 a.m.)

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