



## NEWS FROM NEIGHBORWORKS MONTANA

### **Housing Day in the Rotunda**

*Our communities are stronger when everyone can afford to live in a safe and healthy home. The lack of homes that Montana families with children, veterans, seniors and workers can afford is a threat. When they can't afford a home without giving up very basic needs, the strength of our communities is compromised.*

This was our unified message at the 2019 Housing Day at the Rotunda, where many housing organizations from across the state gathered in order to gain support for long-term solutions. The goals of the event were to show support for the housing bills supported by the Montana Housing Coalition this year and to create opportunities for conversations to take place with state representatives. Between the passion of those attending and the homemade chili, the day was a great success!



Be sure to check out our Facebook page to view other photos from the event!

[facebook.com/NeighborWorksMT](https://www.facebook.com/NeighborWorksMT)

## Updates on Housing Bills

Here is a little bit about the two bills the Montana Housing Coalition has been supporting:

### **House Bill 16**

Sponsored by Representative Dave Fern: this bill would create a loan program of \$15 million using coal tax trust funds for projects that construct or preserve homes that Montanan's can afford across the state. Though initially proposed as gap financing, during its journey through the House, the bill was modified to focus on multifamily properties and for the loans to be in first position. It passed the House with a vote of 71-29.

### **Senate Bill 18**

Sponsored by Senator Margaret (Margie) MacDonald: this bill would create a state housing tax credit to complement the existing federal Low Income

Housing Tax Credit program and help finance homes that Montanan's can afford. These tax credits would be sold to investors, similar to the way the federal program works, with the resulting equity going into the project to reduce the debt required, allowing for lower rents. The bill passed the Senate Taxation committee with a vote of 10 to 2 and is headed to the full Senate. If the bill passes, the workforce housing tax credits will leverage hundreds of millions in private sector investments.

## Housing Counseling & Education

HUD's Housing Counseling funding has been put to work for many years to give Montana residents a hand up. The funds are used to ensure every Montanan interested in investing in homeownership - the largest investment most people will have in their lifetime - has an opportunity to gain the education and tools necessary to navigate the homebuying process. This funding is imperative in ensuring all Montanans, regardless of socioeconomic status, have equal access to the opportunity to invest in the future for themselves and their families.

### Housing Counseling and Education Impact in Montana from October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

#### Housing Counseling and Education

- Montana housing counseling and education organizations saw 3,107 clients.
- 2,213 (71%) were between the ages of 20 and 39.
- 373 (12%) were Native American.
- 1,030 (33%) lived in rural communities in Montana.

#### Other Counseling and Education

- 560 people went to housing counseling and education organizations for rental education.
- 184 people went to housing counseling and education organizations for financial literacy services.

#### Other Impacts

- 901 households received education and one-on-one counseling.
- 780 households developed a sustainable budget.
- 411 households were able to improve their financial well being after receiving counseling services.
- 367 households gained access to resources to help them improve their housing situation.

**A look at what homeownership means to  
Montana families who have received housing  
education and counseling**



Homeownership means joy, happiness, security, safety and love.  
The Daniels Family of Billings, MT.



Homeownership means that my home is  
a blessed place where me and my family  
can be secure, have all we need, and  
share our sadness and happiness.  
The Harris family of Pablo, MT.



Homeownership means a brighter  
and more hopeful future for  
me and my family.  
The Smith family of Billings, MT.

# SAVE THE DATE!

2019 Montana Housing Partnership Conference  
with Mountain Plains NAHRO



June 17-19, 2019

Billings Hotel and Convention Center



MONTANA  
HOUSING

Mountain Plains



Visit our website