

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>.

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>.

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://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Program/Housing>.

Heather McMilan, Project Development Director, Homeward, 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 Homeward. 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,

Enclosed please find draft copies of Montana's amended 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP), 2021-2022 AAP, and 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

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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

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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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Community Development Division
301 S Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

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

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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

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

June 3, 2021

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

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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

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

Greetings,

Enclosed please find draft copies of Montana's amended 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP), 2021-2022 AAP, and 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

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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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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

Ruby Benasky, Administrative Assistance
Montana DPHHS, Human and Community Serv Div
111 N Last Chance Gulch
5th Floor
Helena, MT 59620

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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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

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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

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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

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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
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

Greetings,

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Sincerely,

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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Sincerely,

Cheryl Cohen, Acting Administrator
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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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

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

Greetings,

Enclosed please find draft copies of Montana's amended 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan (AAP), 2021-2022 AAP, and 2020-2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

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.

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

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

Gaza's bereaved civilians await justice

22 members of 1 family killed in Israeli attacks

KARIN LAUB AND PARES AKRAM
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The al-Kawaks, a family of four generations living next door to each other in downtown Gaza City, were utterly unprepared for the inferno.

Like others, they were terrified by the heavy bombing in Israel's fourth war with Gaza's Hamas rulers that began May 10. The explosions felt more powerful than in previous fighting. At night, parents and children slept in one room so they would hear or die together.

Yet the relatively well-to-do Rimal neighborhood where the family lived in a cluster of apartment buildings seemed somewhat safer than areas along Gaza's border with Israel, which had been devastated in this and past fighting.

Then one night disaster struck. Aam al-Kawak struck four children half gone to bed, and his wife was preparing to join them.

At around 1 a.m. on May 16, a thunderous boom shook his top-floor apartment, followed quickly by a second and third. "The floor cracked below our feet and the furniture was thrown to the wall," the 42-year-old engineer said.

The four-story building collapsed, with Azzam's apartment dropping to the ground. The family escaped through the kitchen balcony, to an almost ground level. Bizarrely, the laundry hanging on a clothesline seemed untouched.

Family's death toll at 22

It took a day for the full horror to emerge, as bodies and survivors were pulled from the rubble. The family and neighbors used ropes to clear chunks of concrete, working alongside ill-equipped rescue teams.

By nightfall, the family's death toll stood at 22. Eight bodies were dug out of Azzam's building and 14 from the one next door. The dead included 89-year-old family patriarch Amin, his son Farwas, 62, his grandson Sa'ad, 28, and his great-grandson, 6-month-old Qusai.

Just a day earlier, Qusai's parents had celebrated a small milestone, his first tooth. Azzam's two younger brothers were killed. Three nieces — 5-year-old Rula, 10-year-old Yara and 12-year-old Hala — were found in a tight embrace, their bodies the last to be pulled out.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the al-Kawak family who died in the deadliest airstrike of the 11-day war between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers. The May 16 bombing, which Israel said targeted Hamas tunnels, collapsed two apartment buildings in Gaza City and killed 22 members of the al-Kawak clan, including a 6-month-old boy and his 89-year-old great-grandfather.

said Azzam's surviving older brother, Awni.

The bombing along several hundred yards of al-Wahda Street took just minutes. In all, it brought down three houses — two in the al-Kawak compound and one nearby — and killed a total of 43 people, making it the single deadliest air raid of the 11-day war.

Israel said the target was a Hamas tunnel underneath the street, part of what it called a roughly 220-mile underground network. The tunnels served offensive and defensive purposes, military officials said, accusing Hamas of using civilians as human shields.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Contreras, a military spokesman, said during a war-time briefing that the military target in Rimal collapsed, causing nearby houses and their supporting structures to collapse as well. "That caused a large amount of civilian casualties, which were not the aim," he said.

He said the army was reviewing the incident and adjusting the analysis and the ordinance used in the future "to prevent similar events from occurring again. 'It's not a totally mathematic exercise in choosing the ordinance,'" he said.

He said Israel carried out dozens of airstrikes in areas just as densely populated, with far fewer casualties.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz told foreign journalists this week that Israel does everything it can to avoid civilian casualties, but Gaza's crowded urban landscape makes it virtually impossible to avoid

them altogether. "Hamas is aiming to hit civilians by purpose and we are trying our best for that not to happen," he said.

The fighting began May 10 after Hamas fired rockets toward Jerusalem in support of Palestinian protests against Israel's heavy-handed policing of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a site sacred to Jews and Muslims, and the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers. In all, Hamas fired more than 4,000 rockets toward Israel during the war, while Israel said it struck hundreds of targets linked to militants in Gaza.

Two had serial numbers identifying them as fitted with Joint Direct Attack Munition like manufactured by Boeing Co. at its factory in St. Charles, Missouri, to make them so-called "smart bombs" able to be guided to a target by GPS or lasers. Boeing did not answer questions about the bombing, only saying in a statement: "In accordance with U.S. law, the U.S. government authorizes and provides strict oversight for all defense exports."

Bomb made in Missouri

At Gaza City's main police compound, Capt. Mohamed Meqdad picked through pieces of bomb fragments in a cardboard box labeled "al-Wahda Street."

Two had serial numbers identifying them as fitted with Joint Direct Attack Munition like manufactured by Boeing Co. at its factory in St. Charles, Missouri, to make them so-called "smart bombs" able to be guided to a target by GPS or lasers. Boeing did not answer questions about the bombing, only saying in a statement: "In accordance with U.S. law, the U.S. government authorizes and provides strict oversight for all defense exports."

Meqdad said that based on the fragments, the bombs that brought down the al-Kawak homes were likely GBU-31s, packed with 945 pounds of

explosives. The GBU-31 typically is used for large buildings, but also can destroy underground targets, said N.R. Jensen-Jones, the director of Armament Research Services, a specialist arms investigations firm.

The bombs carry a powerful blast, meaning surveillance, intelligence-gathering, pre-planning and the correct choice and explosive punch of the weapon should be carefully considered before an attack, he said.

"The intrinsic wide-area effects of large explosive munitions mean they must be used judiciously in the urban environment," he said.

The Israeli military did not respond when asked what bombs were used in the al-Wahda Street strikes.

War crimes investigations

Earlier this year, the International Criminal Court began investigating Israel and Hamas for possible war crimes going back to the previous 2014 war. This includes random Hamas rocket fire toward Israeli communities — widely seen as a violation of the rules of war — and some

teams calling off strikes because they spotted children in the vicinity. In many cases, it ordered occupants to evacuate buildings before bombing them.

International law professor Paola Gaeta said that "certainly we are witnessing something which is wrong," referring to civilian deaths, but there is a high threshold for proving a war crime. This includes proving disproportionate use of force and intentional targeting of civilians, said Gaeta, who teaches at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

If Israel said it made a reasonable mistake in calculating the amount of explosives in the al-Wahda Street strike, this could serve as a defense, she said.

In all, 254 people were killed in Gaza in this war, including 47 children and 34 women, according to the Gaza health ministry. Hamas has acknowledged the deaths of 80 militants. Twelve civilians, including two children, were killed in Israel, along with one soldier.

World 'will forget our problem'

Awni al-Kawak keeps 22 death certificates in a brick case, along with the deeds for the two destroyed homes. A third family house was damaged and awaits demolition. The family business, a generator repair shop, was also destroyed. Two apartment buildings, including Awni's home, remain intact.

Sitting in a courtyard behind the rubble, the 49-year-old shrugged when told of Israel's apparent acknowledgment of error. "What will I do with this information?" he said. "I lost my livelihood and I lost my brothers and their children."

The fear that justice will never come makes it harder for the family to deal with loss, he said. He worries that Gaza and its problems, including a suffocating blockade enforced by Israel and Egypt since 2007 to contain Hamas, will soon sink back into oblivion.

"We know that the world is now empathetic, but after a while it will forget our problem," he said. "Even when they remember us, they will remember us as numbers."

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Annual Action Plan Public Comment Period

The Montana Department of Commerce and Public Health and Human Services announce public comment periods for the following 2021-2022 Annual Action Plan (AAP): 2021-2022 AAP and 2020-2021 Combined Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAEP).

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. Annually, the 2019-2020 AAP has been updated. 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 on public comment periods, the public is invited to attend a virtual public hearing concerning both AAPs June 22, 2021.

The 2020-2021 CAEP, which covers the period April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021, has been clarified and is available for public comment June 8, 2021 through June 23, 2021. For more information on the previous oral comment, the public is invited to attend a virtual, 90-minute hearing concerning the CAEP, June 22, 2021.

All documents are available electronically at <https://commerce.mt.gov/annual-action-plan>. For hard copy, contact the Department of Commerce at publiccomment@commerce.mt.gov or call 406-495-3000.

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

Montana Department of Commerce
Commerce Development Division
Economic Growth
301 S. Park Avenue
Helena, MT 59601-0523
DCC@commerce.mt.gov

The public hearings, Tuesday, June 22, 2021, and Wednesday, June 23, 2021, will be held on Zoom and will begin at 11:00 a.m. Presentations will be available on Commerce's website at <https://commerce.mt.gov/annual-action-plan> prior to each hearing. Each public hearing will provide an overview of applicable requirements, affected programs, and public participation options, as well as an opportunity for the public to provide input. The State will consider any comments or views indicated in writing during the applicable comment periods or orally during the public hearing.

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

<https://commerce.mt.gov/AnnualActionPlanPublicComments>

The Department of Commerce will accept reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who are unable to participate in the public hearing via webinar or phone. Requests for accommodations should be provided in advance of the hearing. If you require an accommodation, please contact the Department of Commerce at publiccomment@commerce.mt.gov or call 406-495-3000. The request will be reviewed on the date of the accommodation. The request will be reviewed on the date of the accommodation. The request will be reviewed on the date of the accommodation.

Have questions? Email DCC@commerce.mt.gov

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ)

A public hearing for the Drinking Water and the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Loan Programs will be held Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. The public hearing will be held to consider Proposed Project Priority Lists and Intended Use Plans for State Fiscal Year 2022 for both SRF programs. The Intended Use Plans identify the intended uses of funds in the loan programs and describe how the goals of the programs will be satisfied. The Project Priority Lists identify projects that are eligible to be funded with loan monies authorized and appropriated to the State of Montana through Federal Fiscal Year 2022.

Copies of both Intended Use Plans, which contain the priority lists, may be obtained from the DEQ, Water Quality Division, SRF Engineering, P.O. Box 20990, Helena, Montana 59620-0990, telephone (406) 444-5447, or on the Department website at: <http://deq.mt.gov/water/DrinkingWater/DesignApprovals>.

Oral or written comments on the Priority Lists or Intended Use Plans may be presented at the public hearing or sent to Mark Smith (marksmith@deq.mt.gov), Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program Manager, or Mike Abrahamson (mabrahamson@deq.mt.gov), Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Program Manager, P.O. Box 20990, Helena, Montana 59620-0990. These comments must be received by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 6, 2021. In addition, communities wanting to add their proposed drinking water or water pollution control projects to either Project Priority List should contact DEQ prior to the hearing date.

The Department will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this hearing. If you need an accommodation or verbal access, please notify the Department staff Candice Gerbrandt, email: Candice.Gerbrandt@mt.gov, phone (406) 444-4443, or fax (406) 444-4434.

Kevin Smith
Kevin Smith, P.E., Bureau Chief Engineering Bureau
Water Quality Division
Department of Environmental Quality
June 9, 2021 (47-9151) June 9, 2021

MNAXLP

The Montana Departments of Commerce and Public Health and Human Services announce a public comment period for the following 2021-2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds made available to use through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act authority. The 2021-2022 CDBG has been drafted. Both CDBGs are available for public comment June 4, 2021, with the 2021-2022 CDBG comment period ending June 23, 2021, and the 2021-2022 CDBG comment period ending June 23, 2021. For more information and to receive oral comments, the public is invited to attend a public hearing concerning the CDBGs June 23, 2021.

The 2021-2022 CDBG, which covers the second fiscal year, 2021 to fiscal year 2022, has been drafted and is available for public comment June 4, 2021, through June 23, 2021. For more information and to receive oral comments, the public is invited to attend a public hearing concerning the CDBGs June 23, 2021.

All documents are available via transparency at <https://commerce.mt.gov/docs/default-source/cdbg-2021-2022>. Comments may be requested or oral project inquiries received via the state CDBG commerce@deq.mt.gov or <https://commerce.mt.gov/cdbg>.

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

Montana Department of Commerce
Community Development Division
Attention: Con Plan
301 S. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 20923
Helena, MT 59620-0923
DC@ConPlan.mt.gov

With public hearings, Tuesday, June 22, 2021, and Wednesday, June 23, 2021, the hearing will be held via Zoom and will begin at 11:00 a.m. Registration is required. The public is invited to attend a public hearing concerning the CDBGs June 23, 2021. Each public hearing will provide an overview of applicable requirements, affected systems, and public participation procedures. The state will consider any comments or inquiries 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 link provided in the URL below. To participate in person, please follow public instructions at the URL below: <https://commerce.mt.gov/cdbg-2021-2022>.

The Department of Commerce will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. If you need an accommodation or verbal access, please notify the Department staff Candice Gerbrandt, email: Candice.Gerbrandt@mt.gov, phone (406) 444-4443, or fax (406) 444-4434.

Have questions? Email: DC@ConPlan.mt.gov.

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MNAXLP (47-9151) June 9, 2021

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From: Montana Department of Commerce <commerce@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Crowl, Taylor
Subject: CAPER 2020-2021

 MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



**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



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

301 S. PARK AVE. | PO BOX 200501 | HELENA, MT 59620-0501

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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:

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Ryan Stavnes

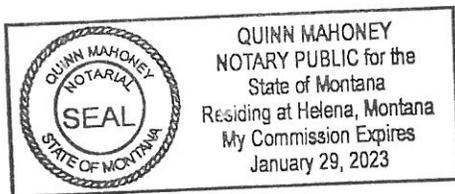
Ryan Stavnes Member Relations

Date 6/29/2021

Quinn Mahoney

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

29th day of June, 2021.



Notary Public for the State of Montana

Residing at Helena

My commission expires 1-29-23

20 .

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

Program	Goal				
	Preserve and Construct Affordable Housing (planned / actual)	Plan for Communities (planned / actual)	Improve and Sustain Vital Public Infrastructure (planned / actual)	Revitalize Local Economies (planned / actual)	Reduce Homelessness (planned / actual)
CDBG	12% / 11%	7% / 17%	39% / 72%	30% / 0%	7% / 0%
HOME	73% / 100%	0% / 0%	0% / 0%	0% / 0%	17% / 0%
ESG	0% / 0%	0% / 0%	0% / 0%	0% / 0%	93% / 7%
HTF	67% / 80%	0% / 0%	0% / 0%	0% / 0%	23% / 20%
TOTAL EXPENDED (DOLLARS)	\$8,143,147.37	\$927,144.43	\$3,961,923.80	\$0.00	\$1,119,454.99



2020-2021 CAPER Goals and Outcomes

Goal	Indicator	Unit of Measure	All Program Years (To Date)		Current Program Year	
			Expected – Strategic Plan	Actual – Strategic Plan	Expected – Program Year	Actual – Program Year
Improve and Sustain Public Infrastructure	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities Other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Persons Assisted	5,000	3,803	1,000	3,803
	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit	Households Assisted	100	0	20	0
Plan for Communities	Other	Local Governments Assisted	75	18	15	18
Preserve and Construct Affordable Housing	Rental units constructed	Household Housing Unit	60	6	12	6
	Rental units rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	130	148	26	148
	Homeowner Housing Added	Household Housing Unit	10	0	2	0
	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated	Household Housing Unit	15	1	3	1
	Direct Financial Assistance to Homebuyers	Households Assisted	250	22	50	22
Reduce Homelessness	Tenant-based rental assistance / Rapid Rehousing	Households Assisted	1,000	120	200	120
	Homeless Person Overnight Shelter	Persons Assisted	400	117	80	117
	Homelessness Prevention	Persons Assisted	2,400	180	480	180
	Housing for Homeless added	Household Housing Unit	100	0	20	0
Revitalize Local Economies	Façade treatment / business building rehabilitation	Businesses	5	0	0	0
	Jobs created / retained	Jobs	250	16	80	16
	Businesses assisted	Businesses Assisted	20	0	3	0



2020-2021 CAPER Affordable Housing

	1-Year Goal	Actual
Number of households supported through rental assistance	600	194
Number of households supported through the production of new units	14	6
Number of households supported through the rehab of existing units	26	148
Number of households supported through the acquisition of existing units	50	22
Total	690	370



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
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TDD:	406-841-2702
Fax:	406-841-2771
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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



Page 1

1 AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOCUS GROUP
2
3 SPONSORED BY MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
4 2020-2021 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND
5 EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) PUBLIC HEARING
6
7
8
9 TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
10
11
12
13 Janelle Egli, Facilitator
14
15 Via Zoom
16
17 June 23, 2021
18 11:00 a.m.
19
20 **REPORTED BY: LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR**
21 **LESOFSKI COURT REPORTING**
22 **7 WEST SIXTH AVENUE, Suite 2C**
23
24
25

Page 2

1 PARTICIPANTS
2
3 Panelists:
4 Taylor Crowell
5 Sara Loewen
6 Julianna Crowley
7 Julie Flynn
8 Janelle Egli
9
10 Participants:
11 Becky Anseth
12 Annie Zimmerman
13 Julie Stiteler
14 Shyla Patera
15 Heather McMilin
16 Katie Batterbee
17 Sherrie Arey
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 3

1 WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were
2 had and testimony taken, to-wit:
3 * * * * *
4 **MS. EGLI:** Okay. It's 11:00, so we're
5 going to go ahead and begin our CAPER
6 presentation. For those of you who maybe are just
7 joining, my name is Janelle Egli, and I'm going to
8 be facilitating our presentation, and then also
9 our comments section or portion of this hearing
10 today.
11 So first I'll start off by saying
12 welcome to the public hearing of the 2020-2021
13 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation
14 Report, which we abbreviate throughout this
15 presentation as the CAPER.
16 This presentation, this hearing, is
17 sponsored by the Montana Departments of Commerce
18 and Health and Human Services. These are the
19 agencies that oversee our Consolidated Plan
20 processes for the State of Montana, and so yes,
21 they're sponsoring.
22 The Department of Commerce makes
23 reasonable accommodations for persons with
24 disabilities, or who have limited English
25 proficiency, and who wish to participate in these

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1 processes, or need alternative accessible formats
2 of this presentation or other Consolidated Plan
3 materials. And just please note that if those are
4 of interest, that you are welcome to request those
5 from the Department of Commerce.
6 So we do have a couple of housekeeping
7 items before we officially begin. And I just want
8 to note for everybody that this webinar is being
9 recorded. We will make the recording available
10 after the presentation concludes for those who
11 wish to go back and watch, and who maybe were not
12 able to participate during the hearing.
13 And then also for those of you who need
14 to chat with our panelists, for whatever reason,
15 whether you have a question, or if you have
16 technical issues, please use the Q&A feature to
17 let us know what your questions are, or what your
18 technical issues are, if you have them. We do
19 have a staff member who is going to be monitoring
20 that Q&A box, so we will be communicating with you
21 via the Q&A throughout the presentation.
22 And then for comments and questions, you
23 will have an opportunity to provide comments and
24 questions for the official record at the end of
25 our presentation, and I will let you know what

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>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</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>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</p>

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1 formula, which is why it's not really addressed in
2 the Consolidated Plan -- you can contact Julianna
3 Crowley, and the email is provided here for her.
4 That's jcrowley@mt.gov.
5 Okay. So the Consolidated Plan has some
6 different key documents, and we'll go over them
7 here. So the first that I'll mention is the Five
8 Year Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community
9 Development. As I mentioned, we're currently in
10 the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan period, and this
11 is a strategic plan that guides housing and
12 community investment, as stated earlier.
13 And then under the umbrella of the five
14 year plan, we have the Annual Action Plan, and
15 then the Consolidated Annual Performance and
16 Evaluation Report. And these are both annual
17 documents, so we do them every single year.
18 For Annual Action Plans or AAP's, we
19 prepare them each year of the Consolidated Plan
20 period, and these outline specific activities and
21 goals, as well as objectives, for a given program
22 year. So we take the goals that are outlined in
23 the five year plan, we break them out on a year to
24 year basis, and state this is what we're going to
25 do in this specific program year.

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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
17 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2021.
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

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1 were some categories that were not awarded funds
2 during this year.
3 For HOME, we awarded four grants. This
4 included three new construction grants, and one
5 rehabilitation grant. And for HTF we had two
6 awards, both of those for rehabilitation.
7 For all of the programs together,
8 including the ESG, a total of just over \$14.1
9 million was spent in program year one. CDBG
10 expended a little over \$5.5 million; HOME expended
11 a little over \$4 million; HTF was pretty much in
12 line with HOME, expending a little over \$4
13 million; and then ESG expended close to \$300,000.
14 The actual figures are given here.
15 Then we've broken out expenditures
16 according to goal and program in the table
17 provided on this slide for your reference. And
18 one thing to note is that we have the percentages
19 listed for both planned goals and outcomes, and
20 then actual goals and outcomes.
21 And then just a couple of things to note
22 here. The majority of funds for preserve and
23 construct affordable housing come from HOME and
24 HTF. All of our CDBG funds -- or sorry -- all of
25 our planning activities come from CDBG funds.

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1 And we actually exceeded our original
2 goal of investment in public infrastructure. We
3 had planned on 39 percent, and we actually
4 achieved 72 percent of funds. And I think that's
5 all I wanted to highlight.
6 The total expended dollars for each of
7 the goals are listed here at the bottom of the
8 table. And I guess I can just quickly note that
9 for preserve and construct affordable housing, we
10 spent just over \$8 million; and for public
11 infrastructure we spent close to \$4 million.
12 All of these numbers are reported in the
13 CAPER, and so if you want to delve deeper into the
14 numbers, we welcome you to take a look at those
15 and to look at our CAPER, and I will give you the
16 location for that if you haven't come across it
17 already. We'll do that a little further on into
18 the presentation.
19 So for goals and outcomes, we have them
20 broken out here in this table by goal, and we have
21 the specific way that we're measuring our progress
22 listed here, and this is all presented in our
23 CAPER documents.
24 And couple things that I'll highlight
25 for you is that we were able to assist 3,803

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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

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1 with homelessness prevention. Again, that number
2 is a little bit lower, also because of the delay
3 in funds.
4 And then for revitalized local
5 economies, we had 16 jobs created or retained.
6 And one thing that I did want to note, just upon
7 concluding the figures here that are presented, is
8 that we really provide goals and expected or
9 anticipated outcomes based on historical figures,
10 and so these do tend to fluctuate from year to
11 year, and it can be difficult to anticipate the
12 exact numbers, just because a lot of our programs
13 are competitive, and it's difficult for the State
14 to anticipate exactly what activities are going to
15 be proposed, and awarded, and completed.
16 So next slide. We have the figures here
17 for affordable housing. And again, this is in the
18 CAPER document. And I can just highlight that our
19 goals for the number of households to receive
20 rental assistance was 600; the actual number of
21 households served was 194.
22 The number of households supported
23 through new production of units, we had a goal of
24 14; actual numbers served was six.
25 For households supported through

Page 15

1 rehabilitation of existing units, we had a goal, a
2 one year goal of 26, and we actually served 148
3 households.
4 And then for the number of households
5 supported through acquisition of existing units --
6 and this is again our home buyer program,
7 specifically under HOME -- we had a goal of 50; we
8 actually served 22 households.
9 One other item that we wanted to
10 highlight for folks is our monitoring
11 accomplishments. So for the scope of work,
12 monitoring or construction monitoring, we had
13 three CDBG projects monitored, two HOME projects
14 monitored, and two HTF projects monitored.
15 And then for the HOME program
16 specifically, we have what is called period of
17 affordability monitoring. This is monitoring that
18 happens after construction is complete, and when
19 housing properties are in operation. We were able
20 to monitor one project during year one.
21 And one thing to note here is that the
22 State of Montana had a waiver in place from HUD
23 because of corona virus or COVID-19. We have not
24 been completing monitoring because it's onsite and
25 in person. That should be picking up here in the

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1 next several months, but we did have a little bit
2 of a lower outcome for monitoring those POA home
3 projects, because of our waiver, and because of
4 extenuating circumstances, which I know everybody
5 is aware of.
6 And then for ESG, all nine of our ESG
7 subrecipients, procedures, and case files were
8 monitored during onsite visits during year one.
9 For those who haven't found the document
10 on Commerce's website yet, we've listed our URL
11 here. That URL is [https://commerce.mt.gov/
12 consolidated-plan/documents](https://commerce.mt.gov/consolidated-plan/documents), and you're welcome to
13 just get into our presentation which is available
14 on our website as well, if you want to just go
15 directly, click directly on this link.
16 And then we also have the CAPER document
17 available at depositories throughout the state.
18 There's a full list of these depositories on our
19 website. And for those who would like a hard
20 copy, they can also request, and we can provide
21 that by request.
22 And for those that have comments or
23 questions, we ask that you direct those comments
24 and questions to either the Department of Commerce
25 or the Department of Public Health and Human

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1 Services. We have contact information for both of
2 these agencies on the following slides.
3 So Commerce is located at 301 South Park
4 Avenue in Helena, Montana 59601. Our Interim
5 Administrator is Cheryl Cohen, and our Interim
6 Operations Manager is Becky Anseth. Phone number
7 is 406-841-2770. And you can email questions and
8 comments to DOCConplan@mt.gov. Our website is
9 also listed here.
10 For DPHHS, they are located at 1400
11 Carter Drive, Helena, Montana 59601. And actually
12 this says interim. I should have actually
13 corrected that. The current Administrator is Gene
14 Hermanson. If you look at our slides on the
15 website, we actually had the Interim Administrator
16 listed, but Gene Hermanson is the current
17 Administrator. And then Sara Loewen is serving as
18 Bureau Chief. The phone number for DPHHS is
19 406-447-4265, and the website is www.dphhs.mt.gov.
20 Okay. So we are at that portion of the
21 hearing where we are going to be opening up to
22 public comment. And just a couple of items that I
23 wanted to cover prior to delving right in is that
24 Commerce and DPHHS will consider and provide
25 written responses to all comments received, and

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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
5 verbal comments in order to provide clarification
6 or to provide further information, but please know
7 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
11 that we can unmute you, and Anita will be unmuting
12 folks today and facilitating with that. Thank
13 you, Anita. If you have comments and are joining
14 via phone, you're welcome to press star nine to
15 raise your hand, and then star six to unmute and
16 remute yourself. And Anita will be facilitating
17 who is on the floor for providing comment.
18 When you're providing comment, please
19 state and spell your name, and state the
20 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
25 during this webinar. So Anita, if we have any

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1 comments, please let us know. Or sorry. Hands
2 raised, please let us know.
3 **MS. PROUL:** It looks like Shyla has her
4 hand up, and I have opened her up for talking.
5 **MS. EGLI:** Okay. Thank you, Anita.
6 **MS. PATERA:** Good morning, Commerce and
7 DPHHS staff. For the record, my name is Shyla
8 Patera, spelled S-H-Y-L-A P-A-T-E-R-A. I
9 represent North Central Independent Living, and
10 also am a member of the Montana Independent Living
11 Community Living Task Force, which helps Montanans
12 navigate services to stay independent in their
13 communities.
14 I will be submitting written comments,
15 but a few of the things that I would like to focus
16 on today remind us that COVID is still present,
17 and for many of us with disabilities and low
18 income, we may be still needing to utilize rental
19 assistance.
20 So I'm hoping that a lot of the people
21 that I've referred and have disabilities have been
22 using it as well, but I'd like to see that
23 tracked; and if in the future, when COVID funding
24 doesn't manifest itself in the same way, if we
25 could formalize some rental assistance through

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1 HRDC's and other things, and also work with
2 eviction and homeless prevention in that way.
3 During our stay at home orders, and
4 particularly again I'm also hearing about the need
5 -- not necessarily the need for food, but making
6 sure that I have enough funding, if someone is on
7 SSI or SSDI, to maintain things. And I know
8 during the stay at home, obviously it was very
9 vital.
10 Our centers are working on vaccines and
11 different things to make sure that we all maximize
12 the use of our vaccines and medical assistance
13 where needed.
14 As a homeless and infrastructure
15 advocate, a lot of times, in non-COVID times and
16 even during COVID times, I've been assisting
17 people who may be meeting homelessness that have
18 come out of institutions, such as Warm Springs,
19 nursing homes, and other institutions such as
20 veterans homes, or other needs.
21 I would like to see us take advantage of
22 the new rules for MFP, which is money follows a
23 person, and make sure that that is the strongest
24 we can make it.
25 On our emergency sheltering grants, I

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1 would like to see a lot of information
2 disseminated, not just from members, but what is
3 actually needed by persons with disabilities or
4 mental health. A lot of communities don't have
5 access to substance use disorders or co-occurring
6 shelters or accessible shelters, and sometimes
7 sheltering managers aren't sure what to do
8 regarding Medicaid and home and community based
9 service assistance.
10 So if that is something we can work on,
11 and even working with Medicare as well to see if
12 we can get home and community based services, both
13 in-home and beyond indoor shelters, so that
14 someone could at least have support while they're
15 facing homelessness, or potential diversion from
16 homelessness would be a great opportunity.
17 As far as construction and
18 infrastructure, I believe that we need to have a
19 rehabilitation home fund for those that are
20 currently in home and can't afford new universally
21 designed construction.
22 As always NCILS, which I work for, and
23 the other centers, advocate for accessible
24 affordable housing in universal design and visible
25 context. We hope that bonds or be undertaken to

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1 encourage development of those homes, particularly
2 when requests come before the Board of Housing as
3 well, including like ADA, the small competitive
4 grant, CDBG and CDB still have.
5 I'm hoping that we can coordinate our
6 sidewalk and community development, so that we're
7 not walking nowhere as well, and hopefully
8 communities will use Main Street Development, and
9 also partner with MDT, and others to look at bus
10 and bus facility improvements, if they need
11 facilities for -- and use them for transit as
12 well.
13 And I will be submitting written
14 comments beyond these, and I'd like to
15 congratulate everyone at Montana Department of
16 Commerce, Montana Department of Housing, and
17 Montana DPHHS for the work in partnering forward,
18 and I hope that you contact your Centers for
19 Independent Living in Montana to include those
20 advocates and consumers where necessary. Thank
21 you very much.
22 **MS. EGLI:** Thank you, Shyla. Anita, I'm
23 seeing Heather McMILIN has a hand raised.
24 **MS. PROUL:** Heather is clear to talk.
25 **MS. EGLI:** Okay. Thank you.

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1 **MS. McMILAN:** Thank you. I want to
2 thank the Department for all of their work. My
3 name is Heather McMilan. I am the project
4 development director for Homeward. I'm Heather
5 McMILIN, M-C-M-I-L-I-N. I testified yesterday at
6 the Annual Action Plan, and would reiterate those
7 comments, but also I want to thank staff for all
8 the work in the restructuring you all have done, I
9 know this is a lot in the last 18 months, and we
10 appreciate you all.
11 I'd like to support Shyla's testimony as
12 well. Some of the things that we talked about
13 yesterday and could carry forward to today is that
14 there are long term impacts to our housing markets
15 across the board for probably the next decade to
16 come.
17 And so I'm advocating today that all the
18 resources that we've typically gotten, but also
19 resources that are coming in without rules at this
20 point, that we try to open up the bandwidth, and
21 try to make sure with all the federal rules that
22 we don't restrict, more restrict as you are able
23 to do, as a jurisdiction, at the State level,
24 because I think we don't know all of the problems
25 we're going to have, and that we need to be as

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1 flexible as we can to address homelessness, also
2 moderate income, and even middle income, as our
3 housing markets are stressed, and land and home
4 prices skyrocket, both on rental and home
5 ownership.
6 So any flexibility you can all have.
7 You've always been great partners, but just
8 reiterating that we need to remain as flexible as
9 possible, and get as creative as possible over the
10 next period of time as we're addressing needs, all
11 of the existing needs, that they're being
12 complicated by long term impacts of costs. It
13 creates labor shortages and housing stock
14 shortages.
15 I would say there was testimony to this
16 effect, and if you all could consider that there
17 are projects that are surviving right now that
18 were in various stages of development, or
19 preservation, or trying to get started, or
20 completing, and these are issues that have
21 significant financial impacts for for-profit and
22 non-profit groups.
23 And if there's a way that we can work
24 with Montana Housing. They've already passed a
25 cost per unit waiver on those projects for what

1 has happened, and the impacts we've seen over the
2 last 18 months. If there's a way to potentially
3 add resources to those projects that have already
4 been funded without unintended consequences to
5 help with some of those costs, that would be
6 wonderful, as well as keeping as many resources as
7 we can to move new projects forward, both in
8 rehabilitation, preservation, and new
9 construction.

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

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

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

18 **MS. EGLI:** I'll take just a second to
19 reiterate the instructions for providing comment
20 via webinar or via phone, just in case folks
21 joined after we stated it.

22 If you would like to provide a comment
23 and are joining via webinar, you can raise your
24 hand so that we can unmute you; and if you're
25 joining via phone, you can press star nine to

1 up. Still no hands, Anita?

2 **MS. PROUL:** No, no hands.

3 **MS. EGLI:** Okay. We can wrap up. I
4 just want to say thank you to everybody who took
5 time to join us today, and to provide comment, and
6 helps us to guide and respond to the needs -- who
7 helps guide our process, and who help us respond
8 to the needs that are in our communities here in
9 Montana.

10 We really appreciate the engagement that
11 we have from the organizations that we partner
12 with, and the private citizens who have an
13 interest in this work, and I will just take a
14 moment also to thank Anita, Taylor, Julie, and
15 Cheryl, and all of the staff who help with the
16 efforts of the Consolidated Plan at Commerce. A
17 lot of hands go into keeping us on the right
18 track, and so thank you to the staff at Commerce,
19 as well as at DPHHS.

20 So we'll conclude today's meeting, and
21 once our recording is ready to go, we will get
22 that posted onto our website. Thank you, and we
23 look forward to hearing more from those of you who
24 have comments yet to provide. Thank you.
25 (The proceedings were concluded at 11:41 a.m.)

1 indicate you have a comment, and then star six and
2 unmute and remute yourself.

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

6 (No response)

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

9 **MS. PROUL:** No hands raised.

10 **MS. EGLI:** Okay. We can go ahead and
11 wrap up. Just one more time for the record, I'll
12 state that comments will be received up until 5:00
13 p.m. on June 25th, 2021 for the CAPER document.

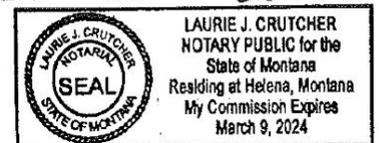
14 We do have a couple of other documents
15 out for comment right now, so it's important to
16 note that this June 25th deadline is specifically
17 for the CAPER.

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

25 I think that we can go ahead and wrap

1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2 STATE OF MONTANA)
3 : SS.
4 COUNTY OF LEWIS & CLARK)
5 I, LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR, Court Reporter,
6 Notary Public in and for the County of Lewis &
7 Clark, State of Montana, do hereby certify:
8 That the proceedings were taken before me at
9 the time and place herein named; that the
10 proceedings were reported by me in shorthand and
11 transcribed using computer-aided transcription,
12 and that the foregoing - 27 - pages contain a true
13 record of the proceedings to the best of my
14 ability.
15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
16 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 28th day of
17 June, 2021.

Laurie J. Crutcher
LAURIE J. CRUTCHER
NOTARY PUBLIC for the
State of Montana
Residing at Helena, Montana
My Commission Expires
March 9, 2024



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