For More Information, Contact:

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City of Missoula

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City, County Encourage Public Input on Housing and Community Development Projects

Missoula, Montana – The City of Missoula Department of Housing & Community Development and the Missoula County Division of Grants and Community Programs are gathering public comment to help determine housing, infrastructure and public service priorities for the next year.

The form for submitting comment will be available online

(https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MissoulaNeedsAssessment) through Monday, Oct. 22. Feedback provided by residents of the City of Missoula and Missoula County will allow both entities to gather public opinion on the needs of the city and county, to collect suggestions for potential community projects and prioritize funding needs.

The City and County programs also will host a Community Needs Assessment public meeting from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Missoula Public Library, 301 E. Main St. Staff will review preliminary comments and provide an additional forum for citizen feedback at the meeting.

The City of Missoula and the state Department of Commerce will soon solicit grant proposals from Montana communities for the Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnerships Program grant, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Both grants help communities expand, maintain or improve the supply of housing; promote economic development; and construct or rehabilitate public facilities and infrastructure.

Applicants must demonstrate community need to be considered for funding, and feedback provided through these forums will help the City and County determine those needs. Examples of Missoula city and county projects that have received CDBG and HOME grant funding include the Poverello Center, Missoula Food Bank and Buena Vista sewer system.

The State of Montana Consolidated Plan, 2015-2020, outlines the state's specific objectives for its CDBG and HOME allocations. It is available on the <u>state's website</u> or by contacting Missoula County Community and Planning Services. More information about both funding opportunities will be available at the meeting. The City of Missoula's objectives for CDBG and HOME allocations can be found in the 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan to HUD, available on the <u>City's website</u> or at the Office of Housing & Community Development.

More information about the CDBG and HOME funding opportunities will be available at the meeting. The City's CDBG and HOME application process is expected to open in December. The state's CDBG application process is expected to open during the fall. The state's HOME application process is ongoing.

For more information or to request special accommodations to participate in the meeting, call Grants and Community Programs at 406-258-3688 or Housing & Community Development at 406-552-6396. People using a TTY device may contact the Montana Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1.

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