



**MISSOULA**

**CITY OF MISSOULA**

**MISSOULA COUNTY**



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Oct. 23, 2012**

### **MISSOULA'S 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS READY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Missoula is taking its last few steps to join 350 communities across the country whose residents have created strategic plans to end homelessness.

“Reaching Home: Missoula’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness” uses the underlying philosophy identified by the U.S. Interagency on Homelessness that marks a radical shift from managing homelessness to ending it. An initiative of Missoula County and the City of Missoula, it has been a year and a half in the making in an effort led by a working group appointed by Mayor John Engen and County Commissioner Jean Curtiss and co-chaired by United Way of Missoula County CEO Susan Hay Patrick and Missoula City Councilman Jason Wiener.

The Reaching Home Working Group asks people to read the plan, give it some thought and then send comments by e-mail to [10yearplan@missoulaunitedway.org](mailto:10yearplan@missoulaunitedway.org) or by mail to United Way of Missoula County, 412 W. Alder St., Missoula, MT 59802. The working group will take comments through Nov. 14, when it will top off outreach on the draft plan with an open house public meeting at the Holiday Inn Downtown from 6 to 9 p.m. The working group will revise the draft based on the comments received and then ask the Missoula City Council and the Board of County Commissioners to adopt it.

The plan’s central tenet is that housing is the solution to homelessness and that Missoula must create more housing through both the public and private sectors. The Reaching Home Vision 2022 also includes these strategies and solutions, among others:

- A single point of entry links people quickly to services to keep them housed.
- Missoula needs to be more organized about social spending and will need to spend more money on local housing solutions.

- We must develop pools of money to assist people with economic transitions and housing emergencies.
- Missoula must create more housing that is affordable.
- Services, treatment and case management must be more available to people who are homeless.
- We must develop housing solutions for housing-resistant populations. The model must be housing first and rapid re-housing.

“Reaching Home: Missoula’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness” is available on the City of Missoula’s website at [www.ci.missoula.mt.us](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us) in Mayor’s Initiatives and the United Way of Missoula County’s website at [www.missoulaunitedway.org](http://www.missoulaunitedway.org).

**Interviews:**

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