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City Solicits Ideas for Housing and Community Development Projects

The City of Missoula and Missoula County are beginning the annual process at a community needs assessment meeting to gather public opinion on the needs of the Missoula community and to collect suggestions for potential community projects. The City also uses this meeting to develop a list of needs for the money it will receive from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing and community development projects. Projects must assist low- and moderate-income residents or neighborhoods. The money may be used to expand, maintain or improve the supply of housing; offer human services, promote economic development; and construct or rehabilitate public infrastructure.

The community needs assessment meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Missoula City Council Chambers at 140 W. Pine St. The public is invited to attend to express their ideas for the community's needs in the city or county or to propose potential projects for funding.

Missoula will receive grant money in federal fiscal year 2015 through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) programs. The City will reserve part of the available funds to undertake activities that promote fair and affordable housing and to manage the programs. The City will accept applications for

PRESS RELEASE

City Community Needs Assessment meeting January 13, 2015

CDBG and HOME funds from community groups through an application process that begins with an application workshop on Jan. 14.

“CDBG and HOME and our partners have brought about fantastic projects for Missoula,” Mayor John Engen said. “The funds have helped provide food, shelter, infrastructure like sidewalks and sewer, medical care, housing, child care, and many other services for low- and moderate-income residents and neighborhoods. Missoulians have the opportunity at this meeting to share their ideas and hopes for other ways to strengthen our community.”

Missoula has developed specific objectives for its CDBG and HOME allocations in the Missoula’s 2014-2018 Consolidated Plan, adopted by the City Council in June 2014. Copies of the plan are available from the Department of Grants and Community Programs (GCP) at 223 W. Alder St. and online at www.co.missoula.mt.us/grants/Documents.htm.

Application forms and guidelines for the CDBG and HOME funds will be available at the meeting and will also be available at www.co.missoula.mt.us/grants. Pre-application proposals for the CDBG and HOME funds will be accepted until Feb. 2. Applications are due March 9.

For more information, to request printed copies of the applications, or if you would like to request special accommodations to participate fully in the meeting, contact the Grants Department at (406) 259-4939 or grants@co.missoula.mt.us. People using TTY devices may contact the Montana Relay Service by dialing 711.

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