

# City of Helena, City of East Helena, & Lewis and Clark County 2023 Community Needs Assessment Hearing

February 16, 2023

City-County Building 326

Zoom: To join the meeting, please use the following options:

Video call link: <https://zoom.us/j/5982239134>

Meeting ID: 598 223 9134

Call in #: (669) 900-6833 (U.S.)

- Call meeting to order – 5:35PM
- Welcome – Ann McCauley and Ellie Ray
- Participant Introductions (in person and virtual)
- Discussion Topics: *(see accompanying PowerPoint presentation for further details)*
  - Purpose of the Community Needs Assessment – Ann introduced the purpose of the meeting and mentioned that meeting materials will be made available to participants and on the County and City websites.
  - Grant program overview – Ann and Ellie spoke about available programs (CDBG, HOME, Housing Trust Fund, and others) and Brian Obert, Executive Director of Montana Business Assistance Connections (MBAC), spoke about the Economic Development CDBG (contact Brian/MBAC with questions about this program).
- Public Comment – A physical copy of East Helena comments was received, and copies of written comments submitted prior to and at the meeting are attached.
  1. Kayla Morris, Representative for Housing is Healthcare and FUSE Leadership Team (Frequent Users Systems Engagement, comprised of a range of area organizations). Kayla introduced the purpose and mission of FUSE. Kayla stated there is a homeless emergency in Helena and there is need for the following types of housing to address the housing emergency: low-barrier shelter, warming center, transitional housing, permanent housing and on-site services. Written comments attached.
  2. Theresa Ortega, Executive Director, Good Samaritan Ministries and Our Place. Theresa spoke about the purpose of Our Place as a resource and recovery center, not a place for people to congregate and sleep without participating in services. There is a need for a day center for homeless people that provides light structure to help them move towards more permanent housing. In January 2023, 781 people were served at Our Place, which provided the necessary tools to assist them. Many people using Our Place are not ready to move forward with treatment, which is the

intention of Our Place and its grant funding source. Theresa expressed the desire to re-brand Our Place as a Community Center.

3. Emily McVey, Executive Director, United Way of Greater Lewis and Clark Area. United Way is leading the housing conversation for the 2022 Community Health Improvement Plan called “Move the Dial.” This is a multi-layered conversation with multiple work groups (five Action Teams), each addressing different facets of the housing problems. United Way also sits on the Elkhorn COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) and LEPC (Local Emergency Preparedness Committee). Emily spoke of the need for a low-barrier shelter in the community, which could serve those in need when God’s Love is at capacity and the weather is 40-below-zero. This idea then morphed into the concept of an “Unmet Needs Community Center.” This would be a multi-use facility to support the community during times of hazards and disasters (flood, fire, extreme temperatures). It was noted that for small-scale disasters (not state or federal declarations), response from the Red Cross, state, and federal agencies is limited, and this new facility would assist when/where others cannot. The “dream” concept would be a large warehouse where supplies can be stored, and donations could be received and distributed. Another project in conversation is the current United Way office building; United Way owns the building and has talked about tearing down and building a multi-use facility that could serve transitional housing, childcare, and service delivery needs.
4. Shannon Dinsdale, Housing Navigator, Good Samaritan Ministries. Shannon spoke about the challenges of people finding and securing affordable housing in the community. People utilizing the Housing Navigator program are employed and are struggling to obtain and maintain housing. Monthly gross incomes for those working minimum wage are not sufficient to support a small studio with shared restroom and cooking facilities (similar to transitional housing). She also noted that applications for housing typically require 3 months of rental income to be secured. There is high demand for housing navigation services in the community.
5. Jason Crocker, Vice Chair, Craig County Water and Sewer District and Matt Mudd, Engineer, Great West Engineering. Jason spoke about Craig being a year-round, low-income community that is a high-visitor destination. Jason identified the need for additional wastewater work in the Craig community, specifically the Barnes Lane Service Area. The Barnes Lane Service Area is located right next to the Missouri River and was constructed in the early 1980s. Many deficiencies have been identified for the Barnes Lane Service Area that need to be addressed. The District submitted and has been ranked for a Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) application and other grant applications. The District is interested in seeking CDBG sponsorship from the County to bridge the funding gap.

6. Michael O-Neil, Executive Director, Helena Housing Authority. Michael spoke to the need for permanent, affordable housing across the spectrum of incomes, family size, people with disabilities, etc. Forty-five percent of those entering their mainstream programs last year were homeless. HHA is in their 85<sup>th</sup> year of service and serves an essential need in our community. HHA is hoping to expand the supply of affordable homes that can be provided. There is no additional federal funding to address these needs, but the federal government allows for use of a complicated process called “repositioning.” An estimate of \$80-\$100 million is needed to rehabilitate existing HHA units. Some of the state’s current housing tax credit programs are underutilized; Michael encouraged contacting state legislators about housing challenges and our needs.
7. Jen Gursky, Executive Director, YWCA Helena. Jen spoke about the YWCA currently having a HOME grant and a CDBG-CV (CARES Act) grant sponsored by the City of Helena. Their main building is on the National Historic Registry. The windows are all original and will be restored to historical standards through the CDBG-CV grant. Jen thanked the City of Helena for their sponsorship. Jen spoke to the need for a 24-room shelter in the downtown corridor which would be a 2.1 Substance Use Recovery Center that would take women with children. Residents could be housed as long as needed, with no age restrictions. There is currently a 20+ wait list for YWCA’s programs, and YWCA’s current residents include 20 women and 17 children. The YWCA’s biggest needs are a basement renovation at their Park Ave. building (a 2015 HOME grant renovation covered rehabilitation of the first floor up and provided clinical rooms, a kitchen, and updates to other shared spaces); and the purchase of a building for therapeutic, trauma-informed childcare. Jen closed by stating that the way that the community provides services for the unhoused has to change; 284 children were identified as homeless in the Helena School District (70% women-lead households). Jen said she wants to see the Florence Crittenton building that is currently for sale turned into a women’s shelter.
8. Jake Henderson, AWARE Inc., Aware is a statewide nonprofit organization that provides behavioral health services and services for people with disabilities. Aware focuses on helping clients attain stable housing, engage with treatment, and secure employment. AWARE’s ability to do this really hinges on their ability to work with housing partners. Over half of referrals are for unhoused clients at time of referral. Jake also encouraged contact with legislators and support for Medicaid provider rate increases.
9. Tom Stockton, President, Ten Mile Creek/Pleasant Valley Water and Sewer District. Tom noted that the water and sewer district has taken advantage of grants to rebuild water and sewer infrastructure, but the connection between neighborhoods that runs underneath Interstate 15 is a concern (water, sewer and gas lines all run through this conduit). The District has a PER in place with Great West Engineering (3

years old) to design a solution for the gas pressure line, sewer line, and water line. The District is worried about disruption to residents and interstate traffic. Ten Mile/Pleasant Valley residents have contributed to efforts financially. The District is interested in seeking CDBG funding to support this project.

10. Carrie Krepps, Executive Director, Florence Crittenton. Carrie spoke to Florence Crittenton's recent purchase of the old Cooney Home property with the help of CDBG-CV and ARPA grants through the County last spring, which consolidated four campuses into one for the organization. Carrie expressed their gratefulness, and that the new property provides a huge expansion of their campus and services by relocating four locations to one. Renovations of the Cooney property will kick off in April 2023 and it is Florence Crittenton's hope to "future-proof" by investing in the infrastructure of the building to maintain continuity of services 25+ years out. Florence Crittenton is committed to an equal funding stack between federal, state, and local funds. Florence Crittenton recently received a HOME grant and Childcare Innovation grant to support renovation work at the Cooney property for their residential and childcare wings. These renovations and expansion will result in additional jobs and increased availability to serve more people in the community. There are currently 72 children on the waiting list for childcare. Other plans include expanding their transitional living program and Family Healing Center, which will house their community-based services, such as home visiting and clinical services. Florence Crittenton's Harris facility is currently for sale.
11. Jacob Kuntz, Executive Director, Helena Area Habitat for Humanity. Habitat currently has 800 individuals/350 families on their waitlist. Habitat is working with USDA and has home repair programs within the county and now with the City of Helena (one property in Helena is in progress). Habitat's Re-Store has been relocated and Habitat has plans to rehabilitate the old Re-Store building into a Center for Home Ownership. All of Habitat's new homes are in a community land trust, or equity share, model. Habitat has 12 homes currently under construction, four breaking ground at the end of the month, and six more by the end of year. The goal is to build 30 homes/year by 2030. Habitat is also working on a major project in East Helena with a final build out of 300 homes for mixed-income residents: 66% for those earning below 80% of AMI; 5 acres for a LIHTC project; a mixture of condos, single-family homes, multi-family homes, and smaller homes. Approximately \$2M is needed in East Helena to install a lift station in order to develop land on the south side of Hwy 12. This will serve properties across the street from the 80 acres for a total of 700-800 units, with the majority being permanent affordable homes. This could potentially be a CDBG Community & Public Facilities project. Habitat is looking to purchase 12 lots in Highland Meadows, potentially leveraging the CDBG-Multi Family program. Habitat will be looking at the HOME program as well (Habitat can apply directly). The Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church affordable housing project could result in 33 homes owner-occupied homes at the site.

12. Christine Roberts, Life Houses. Life Houses supports safe housing for single people aged 18-23. These are often people with no family support and may be young adults finishing school (high school or college), are out on parole, recently out of rehab, or aged out of foster care. Life Houses currently has one house that can serve up to 6 men; they are looking to increase this to 10 men. Prior to the pandemic, Life Houses had a women's home, but it was closed shortly after the pandemic started for renovations. Since then, Life House has had a hard time finding a new home for their women's program and affordable housing for their programs is critical. Recent real estate market changes have resulted in Life Houses having a difficult time purchasing and renting properties for additional housing. In addition to housing, Life Houses provides life coaching and life skill coaching. There is currently a waitlist for the men's house, and they could have housed at least four women in the past year if they had a home for them.
13. Katelyn Griep, Helena Indian Alliance. Caitlin spoke about a feasibility study being done for the Colorado Block property that HIA owns on Last Chance Gulch. The top two stories have been vacant for a decade now. The building is run down and not being utilized. Once the feasibility study is done, HIA will have a better idea of what that space can be used for and how it could potentially be used to address some of the needs brought up tonight.
14. Robie Culver, Stahly Engineering on behalf of the City of East Helena. Robie provided a needs assessment comment for the Valley Drive project and East Helena's plans to submit an MDT Transportation Alternatives application along Valley Drive. Valley Drive is the road in East Helena that goes by Prickly Pear Elementary and East Helena High School. The Transportation Alternatives (TA) grant would be used to build a safe, non-motorized route-of-travel and safer crossings with signage and rapid flashing beacons to provide additional safety for the hundreds of students, school staff, and community members that utilize this area. The City of East Helena is collaborating with Lewis & Clark County to widen Valley Drive (Lewis Street to Plant Road – putting in center turn lanes; widening bridge and widening Valley Drive to Canyon Ferry Drive). East Helena will be seeking additional funding for this City of East Helena portion of the project. There is potential legislation that could support local infrastructure needs, or potentially look to a voter-approved bond. Robie said this public meeting serves as the public meeting for East Helena's TA application too. No public comments were provided regarding the TA project.
15. Brian Obert, Executive Director, Montana Business Assistance Connections (MBAC). Brian provided a request to bring forward any potential economic development programs and to think about this for the communities of Augusta, Craig, Wolf Creek, and Lincoln.

16. Jacob Kuntz, Executive Director, Helena Habitat for Humanity. Jacob spoke again about a project Habitat has been working on with the East Helena Rodeo Association as part of the greater East Helena redevelopment project on Montana Environmental Trust lands. Habitat has been working with the Rodeo Association on relocating the rodeo grounds and that this could be good potential project for a CDBG Community/Facilities or Planning grant. In addition to relocating the rodeo grounds, there is conversation about expanding to 4H and FFA programs.
17. Michael O'Neil, Helena Housing Authority. Michael provided a follow up comment encouraging everyone to think about accessibility in all projects they are planning. Our community has an aging population, and we need to do our part for housing and services for the aging population as well. Michael also extended an invitation to attend the Housing Day at the Montana State Capitol.
18. Kathy Macefield, Citizen. Kathy agrees with all the housing needs that have been mentioned. She is particularly glad to hear what Life House is doing; Kathy is a foster parent and appreciates the services Life House provides. Youth aging out of foster care have often experienced trauma and are not fully prepared to be out on own and require some type of transitional housing. Kathy also spoke about the challenges associated with Section 8 Housing Vouchers and them not being readily accepted in the community. Kathy spoke to finding a way to encourage the use of historic buildings to be renovated or rehabilitated to help meet some of the housing needs in the community, and that grants and tax credits may help support doing this. Christine Roberts with Life Houses followed up by commenting that Life Houses has noticed in recent years that young adults are coming into the program are in need of greater assistance, and Life House's long-term plan with a larger facility would be to provide live-in adult supervision/support in the homes before graduating into their unsupervised home program.
19. Brett Lloyd, Preparedness Planner, Lewis and Clark Public Health. Brett commented that all the projects being discussed help build community resiliency: the housing projects, wraparound social services, and even water/sewer projects build community resilience that reduce the strain on our vulnerability during an emergency. From an Emergency Management perspective, all the projects are supported and needed in our community.
20. Heather Irby, Director of Intensive Services, Many Rivers Whole Health. Heather commented that they have seen a large increase in homelessness in the populations they serve. Heather oversees the PACT/Connect Programs and Many Rivers sees many clients that are unable to access housing due to increased costs. Many Rivers' Youth Homes have also seen an increase in youth client needs. Many Rivers would

find it very beneficial to see an increase in transitional services and other services in the community to provide these resources.

21. Renee Bauer, Executive Director, Family Promise of Greater Helena. Renee provided a snapshot of Helena today: as of Sunday, there were 24 families on waitlist to get into the Family Promise program; on Monday, there were 9 additional families on waitlist. These are families with children that have no other shelter. Sixty percent of current applicants on their waitlist are men with children, and there is no other shelter that serves men with children in the community. There is a critical and immediate need to come up with shelters and transitional housing.
22. Ellie Ray, Senior Planner, City of Helena: The City of Helena expressed that it hopes to pursue a range of planning projects in coming years, including a five-year Growth Policy review and update, neighborhood planning efforts in alignment with the 2019 Growth Policy, and potentially the creation of a Unified Development Code (UDC) to revise and consolidate the City's zoning and subdivision regulations. Additionally, the City is actively collaborating with Lewis and Clark County on joint infrastructure planning within the Urban Standards/Growth Boundary. The City continues to offer a building fee waiver for eligible affordable housing development and affordable housing retention projects serving beneficiaries earning at or below 60% of AMI. The City will be accepting applications for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund spring cycle starting March 1, 2023, with applications due April 13, 2023.
23. Ann McCauley, Director of Grants and Purchasing, Lewis and Clark County: County Public Works Director, Jenny Chambers, submitted written comment regarding needs for public facilities. Please see attached.
  - The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Written Public Comments or Zoom Comments provided attached.

**From:** [Jenny Chambers](#)  
**To:** [Ann McCauley](#)  
**Cc:** [Carrie Lutkehus](#); [Roger Baltz](#); [Audra Zacherl](#); [Mac McCarley](#)  
**Subject:** Community Needs Assessment - Potential Grant Opportunities  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 7:52:53 AM

---

Ann -

Thank you for holding the community needs assessment meeting on February 16 and allowing input on possible projects for our community assets. We appreciate this opportunity to provide a summary of potential projects that would be coordinated by the Lewis and Clark Public Works Department but are for community building projects that are needed, and grant funding would be invaluable to help with getting these needed projects completed.

**Lincoln Community and Senior Center:**

Senior centers offer older adults the opportunity to participate and socialize in a friendly atmosphere. Some centers serve meals every day, while others serve meals on selected days each week. Meals programs, provided at the following independently operated senior centers, are partially funded by Rocky's Agency on Aging.

**Auto Chlorination System - Estimated cost \$60,000**

This building needs a drinking water upgrade to the chlorine disinfection treatment system to provide safe and reliable drinking water. Currently, the chlorine residual must be sampled daily to ensure that it meets the proper disinfection level, and having an automatic system installed that is regulated will reduce human error and the challenges of having proper sampling protocols.

**Augusta Community and Senior Center:**

Community centers are an important community asset for family and community events. Senior centers offer older adults the opportunity to participate and socialize in a friendly atmosphere. Some centers serve meals every day, while others serve meals on selected days each week. Meals programs, provided at the following independently operated senior centers, are partially funded by Rocky's Agency on Aging

**Fire Sprinkler System - Estimated cost \$85,000**

This building does not currently have a fire sprinkler system. Fire sprinklers help with quick response to control the impact and are designed to save lives. In addition, they also reduce damage to the property and other valuables.

**HVAC Upgrade - Estimated cost \$175,000**

This building needs an upgrade to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system. This winter, two of the heaters in the building failed and needed to be replaced. Due to the age of the building, additional repairs and replacements will be needed. The building does not have a reliable, efficient heating and ventilation system, and upgrading the system would provide reliable, efficient, and long-term cost savings. In addition, clean air exchange and other operational changes would benefit the community, families, and users of the building.

**Michael A. Murray Building:**

The Murray building houses the Lewis and Clark County Public Health Department and the



PureView Health Center. The mission of the Public Health department is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County residents. PureView Health Center is a primary care provider that serves Helena and Lincoln, Montana, and surrounding areas. PureView offers quality, affordable primary and preventive healthcare, dental care, integrated behavioral healthcare to all community members, regardless of income or insurance status. PureView Health Center provides quality services to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. We offer many options for those who have financial difficulties.

**Window Upgrades: Estimated cost \$20,000**

**Generator and Transfer Switch for mechanical system back-up: Estimated Cost \$75,000**

**HVAC Upgrade and RefLoc Replacement: Estimated cost \$600,000**

This building needs several building upgrades, retrofits, and replacements of structural and mechanical systems. These projects would provide energy efficiency and reliability, efficient operations, and long-term cost savings.

### **Journey Home:**

The Journey Home is currently vacant, but this is a Lewis and Clark County building, designed to serve as a crisis stabilization unit and help provide services to those living with mental illness or behavioral health issues in our community. The county, through public health, is exploring options to opt for a permanent provider to run this facility.

**Home Control System: Estimated \$60,000**

A home automation system will monitor and/or control home attributes such as lighting, climate, entertainment systems, and appliances. It may would also provide needed security functions such as access control and alarm systems.

Please include these as part of the public hearing and if you need additional information or have any questions please let me know.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment –  
Jenny

### **Jenny Chambers**

Public Works Department Director

Lewis and Clark County | 3402 Cooney Drive | Helena, MT 59602

Office phone: (406)-447-8036

Work cell: (406) 594-0188

[jchambers@lccountymt.gov](mailto:jchambers@lccountymt.gov)

**From:** [Krepps, Carrie](#)  
**To:** [Ann McCauley](#)  
**Subject:** Needs assessment documentation  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 11:28:38 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ann! Thank you for hosting a lively needs assessment meeting last night! I thought it would be good for me to put our thoughts/plans down on paper for you. Here you go!

- We have completed the design phase of our project and are currently moving into bid phase with the goal of beginning construction in late April. We chose to take a deeper dive into the design in an attempt to “future proof” the building, by replacing and upgrading systems that could be need to be replaced in the next 20 years. We have also chosen to make investments in our design in the areas of security and energy efficiency.
- We have received a childcare innovation grant to help with the childcare floor, as well as a HOME grant for the west wing of the upper floor, which will house our 3.1 Recovery Home for Women and Children.
- We will be applying for the HOME-ARP funds for the north and east wings of the upper floor that will house our Youth Maternity Home for mothers, ages 12-19, and their children that are homeless, currently, or recently discharge from foster care.
- We do anticipate considering a CDBG Community Facility grant for the completion of the Family Healing Center which is the main floor of the main building that will house our community-based services for all parents in the county. These services include outpatient mental and substance us services for moms and dads, behavioral health and occupational services for children, home visiting programs, and ancillary supportive services for families such as case management, supervised visitation, and other home/family-based services.
- We will also be visiting with MBAC to gather more information on the CDBG Economic Development grant, as several of our new endeavors will include moderate income jobs in childcare and residential services that do meet the criteria for this program. Staffing will be a critical component to being able to open these news and/or expanded services.

If you have any questions on any of this please let me know! We will be reaching out in the next few months to discuss our potential application(s) with you.

Thank you again for all you do!

*Carrie Krepps*  
Executive Director  
Florence Crittenton Family Services  
406-442-6950 x202  
[www.florencecrittenton.org](http://www.florencecrittenton.org)

strictly confidential. This communication may represent the sender's personal views and opinions, which are not necessarily those of Florence Crittenton Home and Services, Inc. Please be advised that if you are not the intended recipient, or the person responsible for delivering this e-mail to the intended recipient, you have received this e-mail in error. Therefore, any use, including but not limited to dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying this email is strictly prohibited. If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify us immediately, and delete this e-mail. Thank you.

**From:** [Kim Patterson](#)  
**To:** [Ellie Ray](#); [Ann McCauley](#)  
**Cc:** [Gina Boesdorfer](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Community Needs Assessment  
**Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2023 2:10:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ellie and Ann,

Please find our public comment for the needs assessment. We are happy to answer any questions and provide additional information.

TFC is currently over capacity in our physical space, both in terms of staff and clients.

- Three years ago we turned a shared space in shelter into an additional shelter room because of how many clients we were turning away for shelter. At the time we had 12 women and 25 children living in shelter and were receiving shelter requests daily.
- We continue to receive many more requests for shelter than we can meet because we are already full. Depending on the family size of the folks living in shelter it is not uncommon to have nearly 30 individuals living in a shelter with only 13 rooms. On average we turn away 3-5 requests for shelter each week, whether it is for onsite or off-site emergency shelter.
- With the lack of affordable housing in our community, it is difficult to transition our clients out of shelter to free up shelter space for others with safety concerns in a timely manner
- Clients without immediate safety concerns also cannot find housing when leaving an abuser as there is a lack of available affordable housing options in our community
- Although our shelter was considered best-practice and cutting edge at the time it was built, we now know that communal living is not trauma-informed and creates challenges for many traumatized individuals.
- We lack the space to effectively hold group classes or bring in other professionals to work with clients. We also lack the space and staff to provide childcare, which is often a necessity for people's ability to access group classes or other agency services.
- We had to turn three spaces that were used for client meeting spaces into office space to accommodate our growing staff. All office spaces are currently used with some staff sharing office space and plans to add additional staff in the next couple of years.
- As client situations become more complex with the lack of housing and other resources in the community, it has become more time consuming and challenging

to serve clients effectively and efficiently. TFC is in need of additional advocate, support, and admin staff to meet this growing need both in numbers and in time.

- Law enforcement frequently conducts initial and follow-up interviews at TFC and we do not have adequate space for this as well.
- While our board has been proactive about funding our building reserve, our building is approaching 16 years we know that we will start to see many of the maintenance needs that come with an aging facility. As we prepare for likely upcoming maintenance needs, it is an opportunity to evaluate the best way to utilize our space given the current needs of our clients and trends in our community.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), one in three women and one in four men experience sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes.[1] In terms of domestic violence, the CDC estimates that one in five women and nearly one in seven men will experience severe physical violence from an intimate partner.[2] This means that within TFC's service area, tens of thousands of individuals have been or will be victims of sexual assault and/or domestic violence.

In 2022, we provided 6,342 nights of safe shelter to 146 individuals.

Data from the Montana Board of Crime Control indicate that domestic violence continues to be the top reported victimization in Montana. While 2022 data is not yet complete, there were at least 724 Partner and Family Member Assaults (PFMA)/domestic violence crimes in the tri-county area; 11% of these crimes in Montana were reported in our service area. Additionally, the following 2022 data from MBCC is not complete, yet there were 229 sexual assault related crimes in our service area - an increase over the 221 sex crimes reported in 2021. The 229 reported crimes in 2022 represent 13% of the state's 1,742 reported sexual assault related crimes. [3] It is sobering to note that these numbers do not include victims that do not report DVSA offenses to law enforcement, which comprise a significant number of cases. The Department of Justice estimates that 3 out of 4 rapes go unreported. [4] In the case of domestic violence, research indicates that only between 3-15% of cases are ever reported to law enforcement. [5]

- 
- [1] <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/fastfact.html>
  - [2] <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>
  - [3] Montana Board of Crime Control, Interactive Montana Crime Data
  - [4] <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>
  - [5] <https://jech.bmj.com/content/58/7/536>

---

**From:** Ellie Ray <ERAY@helenamt.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 2:28 PM

**To:** Gina Boesdorfer <gina.b@thefriendshipcenter.org>; Ann McCauley <AMCCAULEY@lccountymt.gov>

**Cc:** Kim Patterson <kim.p@thefriendshipcenter.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Community Needs Assessment

Hi Gina/Kim,

Per our conversation, attached is the grant information handout that will be provided to Community Needs Assessment hearing tomorrow night. We look forward to hearing about whatever comments you provide in advance with the meeting!

Best,  
Ellie



**Ellie Ray, AICP**  
Senior Planner, Community Development Dept.  
(406) 447-8491 | [eray@helenamt.gov](mailto:eray@helenamt.gov) | [helenamt.gov](http://helenamt.gov)  
Room 404, City-County Building

**To request an accommodation or alternate information format, please contact the Community Development Department/Planning Division at: Voice: 406-447-8490 | TTY: 1-800-253-4091|Relay: 711**  
**Email:** [citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov](mailto:citycommunitydevelopment@helenamt.gov)

---

**From:** Gina Boesdorfer <[gina.b@thefriendshipcenter.org](mailto:gina.b@thefriendshipcenter.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023 1:27 PM  
**To:** Ellie Ray <[ERAY@helenamt.gov](mailto:ERAY@helenamt.gov)>; Ann McCauley <[AMCCAULEY@lccountymt.gov](mailto:AMCCAULEY@lccountymt.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kim Patterson <[kim.p@thefriendshipcenter.org](mailto:kim.p@thefriendshipcenter.org)>  
**Subject:** Community Needs Assessment

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Our board meeting is tomorrow night, and we won't be able to attend the community needs assessment meeting. You mentioned at the housing leadership taskforce this morning that you would go more into what types of projects would be eligible at the meeting tomorrow. Will any materials be sent out after the meeting about what was discussed? If so, is it possible to submit written comment after Thursday when we have a better idea of what would be considered an eligible project?

**Gina Boesdorfer** (she/her/hers)  
Executive Director | (406) 442-6800



**NOTICE: THIS ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMISSION MAY CONSTITUTE AN ADVOCATE-CLIENT COMMUNICATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED BY LAW. IT IS NOT INTENDED FOR TRANSMISSION TO,**

**OR RECEIPT BY, ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE DELETE IT FROM YOUR SYSTEM AND NOTIFY THE SENDER BY REPLY E-MAIL OR BY CALLING THE FRIENDSHIP CENTER AT 406-442-6800, SO THAT OUR ADDRESS RECORD CAN BE CORRECTED. Any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this message, or the taking of any action based on it (or any attachments), is strictly prohibited.**

**From:** [Jacob Kuntz](#)  
**To:** [Ann McCauley](#); [Carrie Lutkehus](#); [Ellie Ray](#)  
**Subject:** Habitat notes for needs assessment  
**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2023 12:09:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I just wanted to send along my basic notes for your files re: needs assessment.

1. We have been working with the East Helena rodeo to get them moved. Currently waiting on notice from the Big Sky Trust on a application to assist them with planning. I'm not sure CDBG planning would be a good fit for them, but with the city's intent to take the donated 40 acre parcel and include community infrastructure (ie. Firestation etc.) I'm wondering if we hit a brick wall with the BSTF we might consider CDBG
2. CDBG public and community facilities could find good traction with East Helena with the rodeo, and public infrastructure in our work to add a lift station at the corner of 12/282 to serve the development south of 12 west of the ASARCO site.
3. CDBG Community Facilities would be a great fit for the remodel of the old Habitat ReStore building into a center of homeownership to include classroom space, workshop and office space for a growing Habitat staff. I realize that there are others currently in the que.
4. It would be wonderful to find ways to work with the City of East Helena (COEH) to have them apply for CDBG?? We could get more projects in the que?
5. Id like to talk to the county about a CDBG multi family for one of two projects in COEH. We are currently under contract on 12 lots in Highland Meadows. Each lot costs us \$75,000. We hope to include these homes in the Community Land Trust and will be working with the school district to include homeowners from the schools. The other project is potentially neighborhood revitalization of Moontown...the neighborhood south of 12 in the sliver of land off Manlove where all the moonshine in the Helena area was distilled during prohibition. The neighborhood is adjacent to American Chemet. Habitat is launching our USDA Self-help rehab program in the neighborhood. I've identified a parcel that would make a fantastic park. And they could really use lighting and sidewalks. Self-Help would cover individual home repairs, with the CDBG addressing a neighborhood revitalization project.
6. We are working the first CDBG single family repair. Hoping to get in the swing of things. Our construction director has struggled with a case of long covid, which has delayed that project. Testing is underway on the home and I think we are close to moving forward.
7. I'm looking at HOME for individual home construction in our COEH development, along with ORLC potentially. Our COEH project will also include a LITC project of 4-5 acres for future development. I can see HOME and CDBG involved there at some point (likely 3 years distant).
8. I don't have anything for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. It's likely a better fit for Rocky's development work at ORLC

Thanks for your time.



Jacob

Jacob Kuntz  
Executive Director  
Helena Area Habitat for Humanity  
PO Box 459, Helena, MT 59624  
406-204-7315  
406-531-6578  
[jacobk@helenahabitat.org](mailto:jacobk@helenahabitat.org)

**Zoom Comments Received during the 2023 CNA Meeting; see Excel file for full report from Zoom.**

- 1) Sue Leferink, Secretary, LaCasa Grande Water and Sewer District: I am headed to a board meeting so I cannot stay for this part of the discussion. I am Sue Leferink, secretary of LaCasa Grande Estates Water and Sewer District. We are currently on septic tanks. We are applying for a planning grant to explore wastewater solutions and costs. We have submitted a grant application to DNRC. If it is not approved then we hope to apply for a CDGB planning grant. If you have any questions you can email us at [lacasagrandews@gmail.com](mailto:lacasagrandews@gmail.com). Thanks.
  
- 2) Samantha Johnson, Peer Specialist, Many Rivers Whole Health: I think we also need to talk about staffing for all of these great ideas and new programs we want [to] build. As a peer support specialist at Many Rivers Whole Health and also a community outreach specialist at St. Paul's Methodist Church, we cannot even get staff to apply for work to run the group homes and programs between my two jobs and both facilities are facing major issues due to staffing that will mean a homeless increase in both clients and staff due to loss of jobs and possible closures of facilities. Most of our staff are facing homelessness and hunger insecurities, working 40 hours a week, all the while, ironically, trying to find food and shelter for our peers. Without a living wage, our staff can not stay stable, if our staff can not stay stable, our programs can not stay stable, if our programs can not stay stable, our community is not stable. We must find a way to make it so that people can afford to go to work again.
  
- 3) JAHMIL-MRWH asked: What's the organization offering housing for transitional youth? Or the new young mens home with openings? Response: Life Houses.