




Human Resources Development Council

DISTRICT 4 HRDC

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

 406-265-6743

 [www.hrdc4.org](http://www.hrdc4.org)

 2229 5th Ave Havre, MT 59501

**Our Mission:** To partner with people with low-income in their effort to achieve economic stability and to advocate for social and economic advancement.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the District 4 Human Resources Development Council’s 2017 Annual Report. The report covers the Agency’s fiscal year from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. HRDC 4 has had a very busy and successful year. I encourage you to review the reports and stories submitted by our Program Directors and HRDC clients. In the past year District 4 HRDC has served almost 1,500 families and over 3,400 individuals in Hill, Blaine and Liberty Counties. It is important to point out that all of the families we serve and advocate for have one or more source of income. The individuals and families with low income we serve are hard working Montanans, they are our neighbors, our brothers, our sisters, our parents, our grandparents and our friends. In 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a “War on Poverty” and Community Action is an important soldier of this continued war. As a Community Action Agency, HRDC 4 values the partnerships we have with our clients and with the communities we serve to continue to offer programs to partner with people with low income in their effort to achieve economic stability and to advocate for social and economic advancement.

Until next year...*Carilla French*

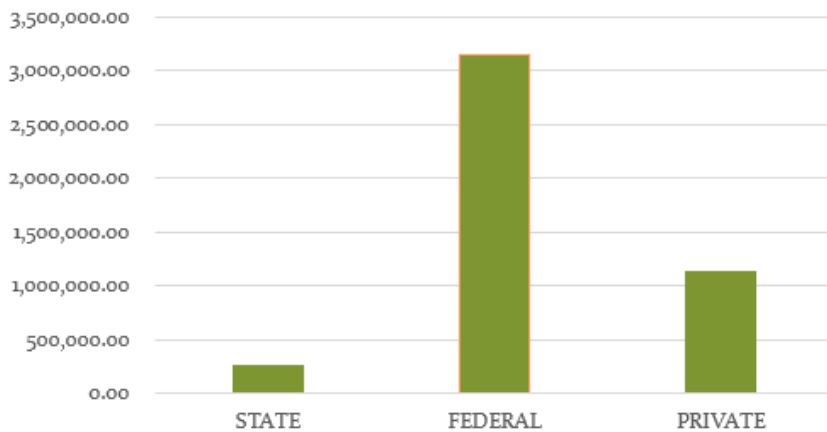
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROSTER

| PUBLIC SECTOR                       | PRIVATE SECTOR                     | LOW INCOME                                 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Frank DePriest, Commissioner Blaine | Tina Thomas, Quality Life Concepts | Christina Marsh, Head Start Policy Council |
| Mark Peterson, Commissioner Hill    | Glenda Hanson, Director of Council | Valdean El Assad, Self-Employed            |
| Joette Woods, Commissioner Liberty  | Brian Simonson, MSUN               | Jeremy Malley, Board President             |
| This spot is waiting for you.       | This spot is waiting for you.      | Dawn Bishop-Moore, Hays Post-              |

# FROM THE DESK OF THE FISCAL OFFICER

SERVING THE HI-LINE SINCE 1965

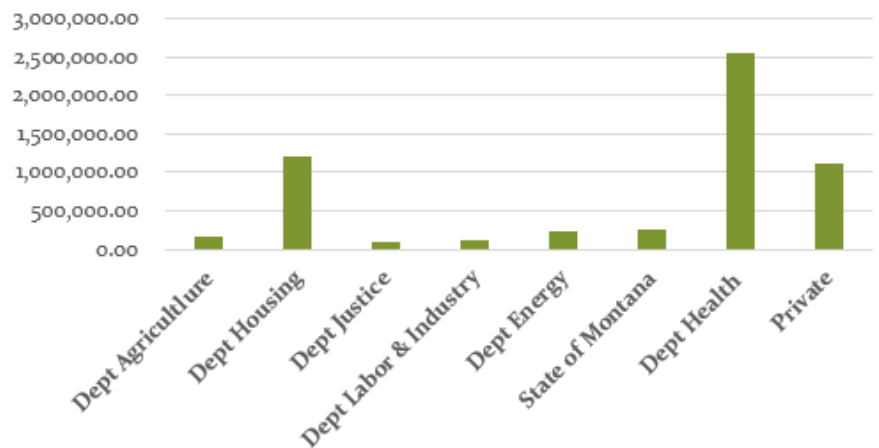
## REVENUE SOURCES



### Private funding includes

- Northwestern Energy \$272,000
- Hill County Electric \$46,000
- Big Flat Electric \$6,000
- Energy Share of MT \$60,609
- Surcharges/Court Fines \$47,000
- Hill County United Way \$13,000
- Private donations \$48,200

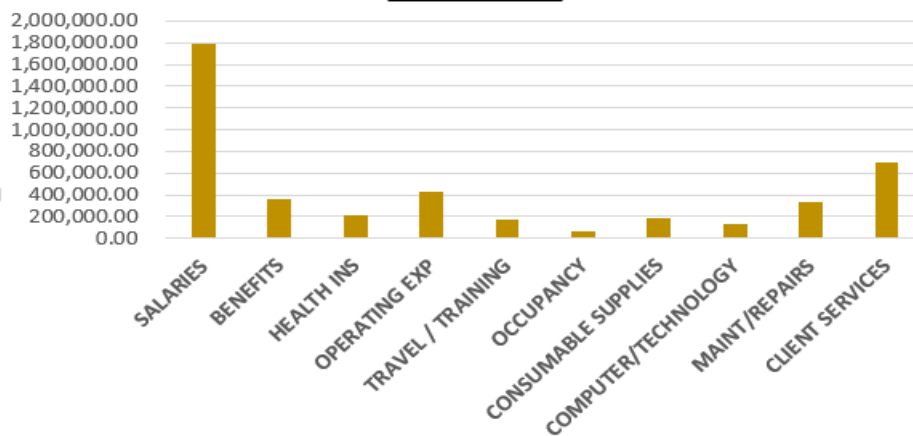
## FUNDING STREAMS



District 4 HRDC rents received  
July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017  
**\$159,506**

Includes the community center ,  
6 single family homes, a 4-plex,  
and an 8-Plex.

## EXPENSES



### Client Services

This does not include client services the client receives directly from the State of Montana. For example, LIEAP vendor payments and Pathway's supportive services.

# ADULT BASIC LITERACY EDUCATION

**28**

*Students  
Earned their Hi-Set  
Diploma*

**1791.5**

*Hours of  
Instruction*

**147**

*Students  
Enrolled in the ABLE  
Program*

## ***FROM OUR ABLE DIRECTOR***

The Adult Education program at HRDC has once again gone through a series of changes and challenges as it has continued to evolve throughout the year. The AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer, Michelle Van Meter left within the first month of the fiscal year. This reduced the staff by 50% leaving ABLE Program Director, Dan Koffler to take on all the challenges.

The program, which was previously under Employment and Training, is now stand-alone, leaving all the existing instructional responsibilities with many additional administrative duties. Fortunately the ABLE program funding has increased for the upcoming year and the Agency is in the process of trying to hire another qualified individual to help with some of the responsibilities associated with the classroom as well as increase the outreach of the program into the outlying areas. The chance to better serve Blaine and Liberty Counties, as well as both of the reservations, is an exciting prospect.

The focus of the Program has shifted on the state and federal level to work even more closely with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Pathway as partners. Programs at HRDC 4 have always had a high degree of collaboration and cooperation with each other and other partners within the community, but this allows the agency to provide even more inclusive services to meet all of the needs of the clients.

HRDC DISTRICT IV  
**HAVRE ADULT**  
BASIC EDUCATION



# ADULT BASIC LITERACY EDUCATION



The Adult Education Program continues to primarily serve youth and adults 16 years and older, with one of the main focuses of the program being the attainment of a High School Equivalency Diplomas (HSE). This was formerly the GED, which still creates some confusion. It is important to note that although this is very important to the program, it also has many other functions, such as:

**College Readiness**

**Career Counseling**

**Assist in Job Search**

**Completing Application**

**Writing Cover Letters**

**Interview Skills**

**Section 8 Applications**

**Obtaining and Printing Documents**

**General Computer Assistance**

Once again the ABE program is extending an open invitation to stop in and check out the classroom. The changes that have been made and the continued progress of the program are something to be very proud of.

Sincerely,

Dan Koffler

# DOMESTIC ABUSE

*Empowering Victims to Live Violence Free*

## ***A Client Story***

Shirley\* and her 4 year old son came to District 4 HRDC on April 7, 2017 seeking help from the Domestic Abuse Program. Shirley was in an abusive marriage with her husband for several years and also a previous client of the program. Shirley had sunglasses on when she came into the office, immediately the advocate noticed bruising on her jaw, ear, and neck. The advocate also noticed Shirley's voice sounded raspy and she appeared to be in pain as she spoke. From training, the advocate knew that these were signs of strangulation.

**136**

*Victims assisted in  
obtaining Temporary/  
Permanent Orders of  
Protection*

**2,823**

*Meals for women and  
children sheltered*

When asked about her injuries, Shirley opened up and said she and her husband were in a fight the night before and things haven't been good between them. She said that her husband has been mostly verbally abusive and controlling her, calling her names, belittling her, and not allowing her to see friends or family and thought she was cheating on him whenever she had to leave the house, including going to work. Shirley said he has a temper but becomes more physically violent when he drinks. She said they were in an altercation and he strangled her the night before to the point where she had passed out and urinated on herself. Her son was also in the home but asleep in the next room. The advocate knew that strangulation is very serious and sometimes deadly, she explained in great detail to Shirley the dangers of this type of violence. She told Shirley that because she urinated on herself during the strangulation that she was a matter of seconds away from death. After gaining permission from Shirley, the advocate called the police. After the police took Shirley's statement and then spoke with her husband, he was arrested. Shirley agreed to go to the Emergency Room to get checked out.

**828**

*Nights of emergency  
shelter provided*

# DOMESTIC ABUSE

A few days later, her husband was released from jail. Shirley was not informed of this and was woken by him standing over her as she was sleeping and he immediately began to apologize and begged her to forgive him, just like every other time he had abused her. As scared as she was, she acted as normal as possible because there was a gun in the house. She felt that if she kept her husband happy and calm she would be able to keep her son safe until he fell asleep. She then snuck out of her home with her son and the gun to protect herself. Shirley then contacted an advocate through the Crisis Line and requested to go into the shelter. Shirley was placed in the shelter and her husband was arrested again for violating a no contact order set in place after the prior arrest. Shirley requested to stay in the shelter even after his arrest just to feel safe.

During Shirley's stay at the shelter, the Domestic Abuse Program provided the following services: assistance with an Order of Protection, peer counseling, criminal justice support/advocacy, personal advocacy, safety planning, power & control wheel, emergency financial assistance, and material assistance. Shirley was working at a job she had for several years but missed several days while going through this ordeal and did not have any benefits to cover any time missed, she was left not being able to pay her rent. HRDC 4's Domestic Abuse Program was able to pay Shirley's rent so she could continue to provide a safe and stable environment for herself and her son.

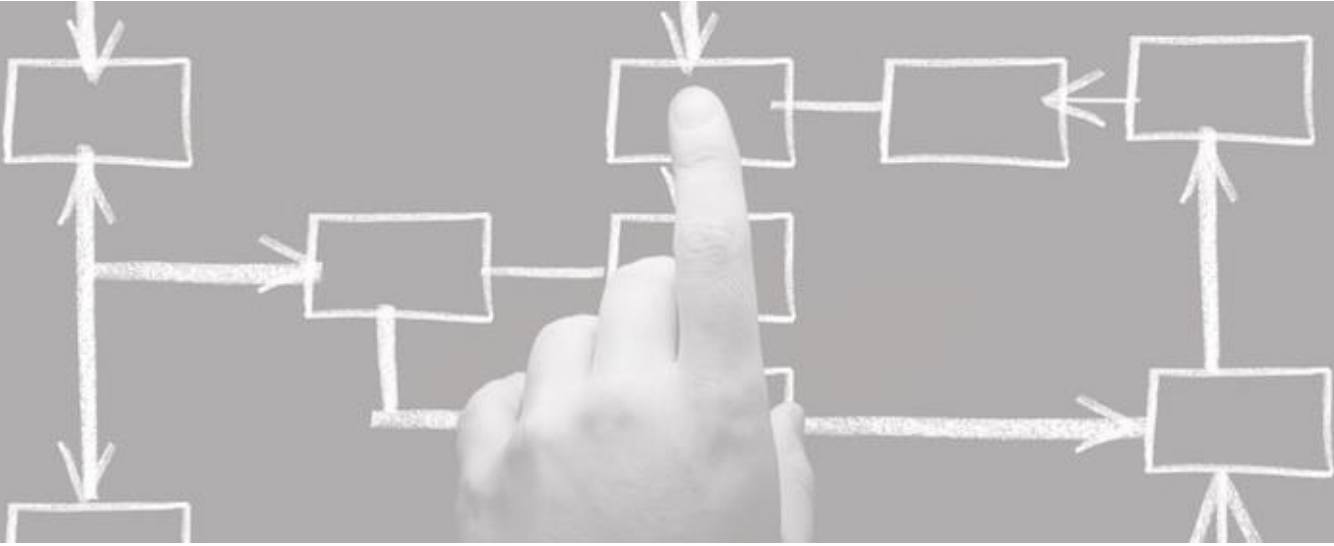
Shirley's husband is still incarcerated and will be going to prison. She has attended our programs Support Group "Stories of Strength" regularly and has made it a habit to stop in to visit with an advocate just to keep them up to date with how she and her son are doing.

**Kara L. Fox**  
**Domestic Abuse Program Director**



Pictured Above: The Domestic Abuse staff along with HRDC staff wearing orange for Teen Dating Violence Awareness month

# EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING



## PATHWAYS

The Pathways Program, formerly known as the Work Readiness Component (WoRC) Program, is a federally regulated program that provides employment related assistance through a holistic approach. Individuals enrolled in Pathways can participate in an array of activities ranging from family stability, which includes mental health support, domestic abuse, substance support and daycare planning to subsidized employment. Through these activities, individuals are able to take the time to take self-inventory of areas where they feel help and support is needed in order to become self-sufficient in their lives. Once these barriers are overcome individuals are able to complete an assisted job search with the help of their Pathways Advocate and our many partners and resources within the community.

Pathways participants are required to complete 132 hours monthly for a 2-parent household and 108 hours monthly for a 1-parent household. Many of our participants choose to complete these hourly requirements at community service centers such as Salvation Army, The Domestic Abuse Program at HRDC 4, Boys & Girls Club and The Havre Food Bank. This participation in the community enforces a sense of routine, accomplishment and gives a much needed boost in the self-esteem and self-worth of the participant.

HRDC 4 and the Pathways Program utilize the Bridge Model to assist Pathways participants in identifying and overcoming the barriers they may have in their life.



# EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

**36** WIOA Work Experiences

**27** Job Training Recipients

**24** Youth Work Experiences



The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program at District 4 Human Resources and Development Council strives to serve individuals 16 years and older through a variety of innovative services. Individuals with low income may qualify for either the WIOA Adult Program, WIOA Youth Program, or the Summer Youth Program.

The Summer Youth Program provides employment experiences for youth ages 16 to 24. The Summer Youth Program assists individuals in exploring career interests, overcoming skills deficiencies, and providing supportive gap services that help guide the clients towards a successful outcome. The WIOA Youth and Adult Programs aid enrolled clients with similar services, but they can also aid in career transition, continuing education and supplemental education. The purpose of WIOA is to provide a pathway to sustainable employment and economic stability.



## **HAVRE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK**

**2,298** ADULTS SERVED

**2,248** CHILDREN SERVED

**1,888** FOOD BOXES DISTRIBUTED

**105,194** POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

**\$178,830** VALUE OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED



# ENERGY ASSISTANCE

*Low Income Energy Assistance*

*Energy Share of Montana*

*Hill County Electric*

*Big Flat Electric*

The Energy Programs assists anyone living in the household of the applicant, from young to old, those employed or unemployed, as well as people who have disabilities.

Our programs assists both home owners and those who rent. Applicants sometimes have earned income through wages, and others are on fixed incomes such as SS, SSI, SSDI, TANF, pensions, or unemployment. Others are self-employed, work odd jobs, or have no income.

The majority of the Energy Program clients are on fixed incomes or are working but, do not bring home enough to cover all of their expenses. Our programs assist applicants with paying the heat portion of their utility bills which in turn allows them more resources to feed and clothe their families.

Included program services provided are energy education, referrals, and vendor negotiations.

## LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Program cost: \$54,547

479 applications processed

40 apps denied for over-income or missing documents

\$439 Average Benefit

\$137 cost to process each application.

\$330,332 paid to fuel vendors from the Department of Health and Human Services to assist hi-line communities

## LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

District 4 Human Resources Development Council's Low Income Energy Assistance Program provides income eligible households with help in paying winter heating bills October 1<sup>st</sup>. thru April 30<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, households eligible for Low Income Energy Assistance are eligible to have an unsafe furnaces repaired or replaced. The outcomes of this program are families are safe from being cold, hungry, and possibility homeless.

# ENERGY

# ASSISTANCE

1,797

*Households Assisted*

## ENERGY SHARE OF MONTANA

Energy Share assists households, who find themselves in an emergency situation. Energy Share can assist with deposits, paying outstanding utilities bills. This allows a person to have utilities in their name, which is a requirement for some rental assistance programs and a requirement to be eligible for Low Income Energy Assistance.

Local community members meet to make the decision on how to help applicants.

### ENERGY SHARE OF MONTANA

- \$52 to process application.
- \$563 benefit per household
- \$51, 822 benefits paid by Energy Share of Montana to local vendors
- 92 households received emergency assistance

### HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC

- \$46,000 Hill County Electric Award
- 169 households assisted with an additional utility benefit
- \$230 average benefit per household
- \$41 average cost per application

## HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC

Hill County Electric utility assistance program assists households with a one time per year energy benefit. Applicant must be a Hill County Electric customer as well as receive either Tribal or State Low Income Energy Assistance. These funds can only be used for energy benefits and not to replace or repair furnaces.

## BIG FLAT ELECTRIC

Big Flat Electric assists their customers with a onetime annual utility bill assistance payment on the first come first serve basis. The only requirements are they must be a Big Flat Electric customer and complete an application process.

### BIG FLAT ELECTRIC

- \$6,000. in Big Flat Electric Funding
- \$12 average cost per application
- 32 households assisted
- \$175 average benefit



# HOUSING

***Section 8 Rental Assistance currently has about 200 families that receive assistance through the Section 8 Voucher Program and 250 families on the waiting list. The Housing Program also property manages 17 rentals, which are full and currently have a waiting list. The following is a response from one of our clients:***

***When did you start the program?***

Sometime in 2011

***How did receiving rental assistance affect your everyday life (i.e. work, school, both)?***

Being on this program helped me finish my schooling and receive three degree's in the fields of Business Administration, Business Technology and also Tribal Management. It also assisted my husband in getting two degrees in Business Administration and Tribal Management. I had struggles even after receiving my degrees. I and my husband couldn't find work because of not having enough experience in the business eyes of the world. So I started wondering if I ever would

get a job using my knowledge in life skills and my degrees. Finally in May 2017 I did. I am employed with HRDC 4 in the Employment & Training Program as an Employment Specialist; my husband is trying to find a position to where one he is using his degrees and two where he can be happy with what he is doing for our family. Even with work there are struggles and yes it happens every day and its part of life. But every day I thank God for the help I received from the Housing Program. I have always felt that there where people out there who needed more than us, but I needed it for my family so I never turned away. I had struggles with landlords and thank goodness Section 8 was there. They stood by my family and helped us get out of a really bad house and into a great house. Housing is a wonderful way for people who need assistance in paying or partial paying their rent. It's not a handout it's a bunch of wonderful people who are willing to listen and help and not judge you for the situation you are in. So thank you, from my family to the Housing Program God bless all of you.

# HOUSING

**410** Households received Section 8 Assistance

**1,442** People in Section 8 households

**18** Households in HRDC's low-income units

## How did the Section 8 program impact your life?

It made me want to move forward and show myself and my family that we are able to achieve everything that we can and will do.

## If you did not participate in the program, would you have been able to complete the tasks in question 2?

Honestly no. This program, like I mentioned before, is the greatest program for people who need a little help. I have had people turn their backs on my family. Section 8 never did. I called Housing one day crying my eyes out because I was working for a group home and I was the only staff member who came to work

on a building that had to have two staff and no one wanted to come in to assist me. I was beaten up severely and I couldn't get anyone to come in after the beating I had a supervisor tell me well stay there tell your shift is over and go to the hospital. I did this I stayed and when my husband arrived I had to have assistance coming out of the building. Housing listened to me cry and told me that they would not stop helping me that everything would be okay. And everything was. Housing staff was the reason I was able to continue to participate in this program.

Alma Lopez

Housing Director



## BUFFALO COURT & ANTELOPE COURT

### BUFFALO COURT

A senior housing project for families whose head of household is 55+. Buffalo Court consists of 20 apartments, 16 one bedroom and 4 two bedroom.

**20 families**  
and  
**22 individuals housed**

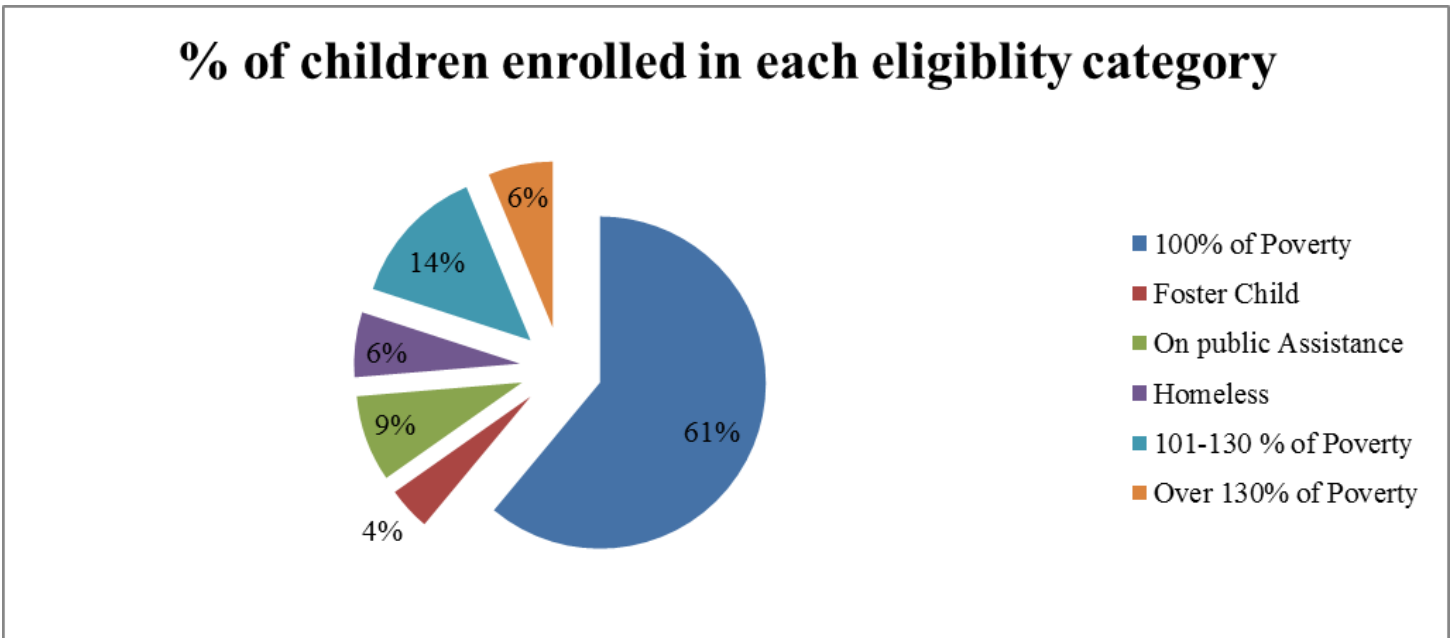
### ANTELOPE COURT

A family housing project that is ADA complaint. When complete it will consist of 30 apartments, 24 one bedroom and 6 two bedroom.

**19 families and**  
**26 individuals housed**  
As of June 30, 2017

# NORTHERN MONTANA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Northern Montana Child Development Center (NMCDC) provides comprehensive Head Start and Early Head Start services to 180 children ages birth to five, including prenatal moms. The Head Start children's ages range from three years old to five years old and Early Head Start children are age's birth to three years old. The program is primarily for low-income families (100% of poverty), however some slots are available for children from higher income families. We enroll all children on the waiting list that are in the 100% of poverty or below range before enrolling children in the higher income levels. The following chart shows the percentage of families/children enrolled in each eligibility category.



NMCDC had an average attendance rate of 87% this past year. Census data shows approximately 426 children living in poverty in Blaine, Hill and Liberty County combined. We serve 48% of those children. Of the 180 children enrolled, all but one resides in Hill County. While we are only serving 48% of the children in poverty in the tri county area, we are serving 91% of the children residing in Hill County that are living in poverty.

# NORTHERN MONTANA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Head Start has a partnership with Havre Public Schools to provide services in regular classroom settings for children with special needs. We also work very closely with Quality Life Concepts to provide services to infants and toddlers with disabilities. At least 10% of the enrolled children we serve have a disability.

NMCDC offers program options to meet the needs of the children and families we serve. We have home base and center base for Early Head Start and center base for Head Start. The home based option is for Early Head start families in Hill County, Blaine County and Liberty County that do not have a need for child care. A home based teacher goes to the home once a week and works with the parents drawing on the parent's expertise and knowledge to provide educational experiences for the child. The EHS center based option is a licensed infant/toddler child care center. This option is for parents who are working, attending school, or completing a Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) plan and have a need for child care for 20 or more hours per week. The Head Start program has an additional option this year. NMCDC now offers two Head Start classes that are seven hours per day. The same high quality early educational activities will occur, they will just be at a more relaxed rate over the course of seven hours rather than 3 ½ or 4. All of the Head Start classes will also be licensed child care centers and we will have a paid child care option for children attending the seven hour classes that need care for the hours they are not in Head Start.



Additionally, the Early Head Start prenatal option serves pregnant mothers. While we do not provide direct medical services, we do assist mothers (and fathers as well as other family members) to assess their needs and plan for a healthy delivery. This includes home visits, prenatal educational materials and case management. We are particularly interested in serving teen mothers. Once the baby is born, he/she will be enrolled in either the home based option or the center based option depending on the family's needs and the availability of slots.



# NORTHERN MONTANA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Parent involvement is a very important part of a child's early education. We invite parents to spend time in the classrooms with their child, ride the bus, and volunteer in any number of ways. We seek parent input into their child's education through parent teacher conferences and home visits. Families also continue to work with their child at home in order to meet the child's individual education goals. Policy Council and Parent Committee members are actively engaged in program governance. Parents and community members provide invaluable ongoing support. All services revolve around providing high quality education for children ages birth to five and their families.

NMCDC staff use a variety of strategies to promote and support children's learning and developmental progress to prepare them for kindergarten. Each child has an Individual Child Development Plan based on individual observations and ongoing assessment. Kindergarten readiness is ongoing as we learn more about the expectations from Head Start to implement school readiness goals. We have critically looked our existing systems of collecting data and brainstormed ways to improve our methods used to reach our school readiness goals. Our school readiness goals are to support all areas of children's growth and development including social and emotional development, approaches to learning, development of cognition and general knowledge, development of language and literacy skills and development of physical well being and motor development.

The non-federal shares match, or in-kind, for NMCDC is \$434,355. NMCDC is able to meet that match due to the generosity of community volunteers. Parents of NMCDC children provide the majority of in-kind by being involved in the program and involved with their child's education. They contribute over \$200,000 and 15,000 hours of in-kind annually. Another major source of the match is due to the partnership between Havre Public Schools and NMCDC to provide special Education services to preschool children. The Havre Public School staff that work for the Special Education program at Head Start account for approximately \$70,000 of the required in-kind match. The medical community in this area is very also supportive of NMCDC and the children we serve and generates around \$17,000 a year in donated medical exams, dental exams, hearing screenings, vision screenings etc. This program would not be nearly as successful as it is without the support and generosity of the community and families we serve.



**448** volunteers donated **18,178** hours to NMCDC this year!



# NORTHERN MONTANA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**212**

*Children served in  
Head Start and Early  
Head Start*

NMCDC embraces continuing education for the teaching staff. NMCDC has a total of 17 teachers, two of whom have a Bachelor's degree, five teachers have an Associate degree and seven teachers have a Child Development Associate and three teachers are working on their Child Development Associate credential. In addition to the education credentials of teaching staff, NMCDC also has three other staff with a Bachelor degree in Early Childhood Education or a field related to their job. NMCDC has a training budget of around \$50,000 per year. The training is in the form of college classes, on-site training, conferences and various other sources.

According to the National Head Start Association, every dollar invested in Head Start reaps a Return on Investment (ROI) ranging from \$7 to \$9. For Northern Montana Child Development Center with a budget of \$1,686,742 this would be a ROI in this community of over \$11,000,000.

**198**

*Health Exams  
performed*

This past year NMCDC has received a Duration Grant of just over \$500,000 to expand the number of hours of service to 1020 hours from 448 hours. This is for two Head Start classes. Those two classes will go seven hours per day for 145 days. That is an additional 572 hours per year for 36 children. The extra money has allowed us to increase hours for several staff, and add four new positions. Approximately \$270,000 of that money allows us to hire a local contractor to remodel space for two additional classrooms, expand our parking lot and purchase furnishings and supplies for the two new classrooms.

**197**

*Children's  
immunizations  
up-to-date*

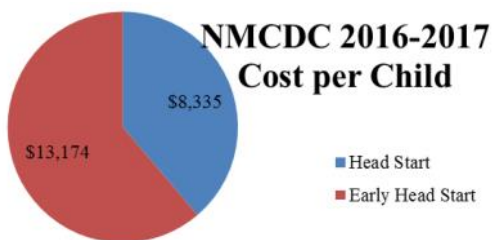
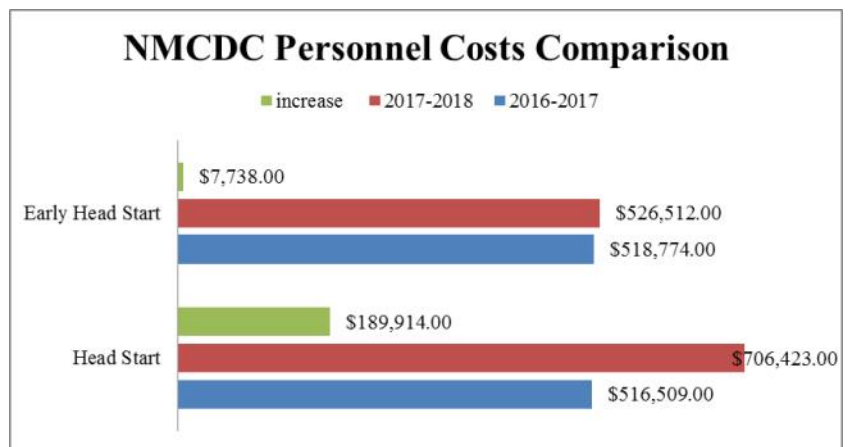
The most recent agency audit was conducted September 2016, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. The federal program audited was Head Start. There were no material weaknesses or findings.

# NORTHERN MONTANA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

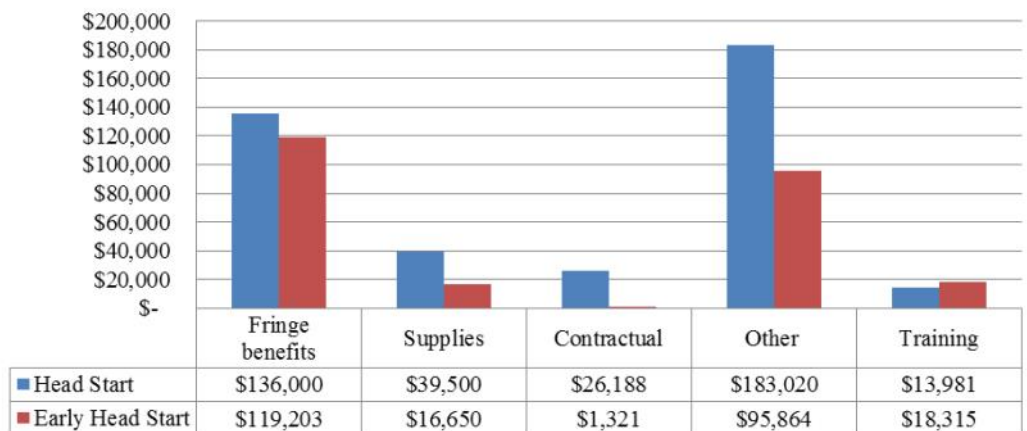
District IV HRDC employs around 50 Head Start and Early Head Start staff and had a federal grant in the amount of \$2,092,599 for the grant year 2016-2017. Approximately 76% of the budget or \$1,276,655 is spent on wages and fringe benefits. The following chart shows the sources of funding for the Head Start and Early Head Start program.

| Program          | Office of Head Start Grant | CACFP           | Best Beginning Child Care | Johnson O'Malley |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Head Start       | \$1,321,055                | \$59,579        |                           | \$810            |
| Early Head Start | \$771,544                  | \$26,736        | \$12,394                  |                  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>\$2,092,599</b>         | <b>\$86,315</b> | <b>\$12,394</b>           | <b>\$810</b>     |

The following charts show the budget for the current grant year 2016-2017 and projections for the following grant year 2017-2018. The budget charts do not include personnel costs; those are shown on the Personnel Costs Comparison chart. The large increase in Head Start personnel costs are due to the Duration grant and an agency wide increase in wages.



## NMCDC 2016-2017 Budget



## *A Parent Story*

This is my son, Hridwin Vikas's Early Head Start experience:

Hridwin joined the class Wonderland in July 2016 when he was 8 months old. He was then transferred to class Lullaby Lane in August 2016. He is now 20 months old. Hridwin's experience here is very positive and he has gained tremendous benefits.

There has been a lot of progress in his physical, emotional and cognitive development. He has developed reading habits. He loves to turn the pages of books, and always cues his mom/dad or his brother to read the books to him. He has developed interest in arts and crafts works, music, and dance.

He usually plays by himself, and also developed some interest in playing with his fellow classmates. He learned discipline, obeys small directions. He does simple tasks independently. He communicates all his needs by actions, sounds and simple words. Sign language has helped him to communicate his needs, even though he uses sign language mostly in the class.

I am very much impressed and happy that he does most of the tasks independently. He loves to do everything by himself. He asks for assistance with something when he fails after few tries. This shows that he is willing to try doing things by himself. He closely observes what adults do and then try to imitate actions. (Example: Cooking, pouring water from a pot to cup, stirring food in a pan, scribbling on papers, mopping floor, vacuuming, etc.)



## *(A Parent Story continued)*

He loves to eat by himself. I greatly appreciate your way of having the children sit and eat meals. He has developed very good fine motor and gross motor skills. He is developing good hand skills, he carries/holds even heavy objects (such as big pots, pans, gallon bottle) with one hand.

It is also good that you are keeping track of the health of each child at Head Start. The teachers and assistant are doing a great job in helping the children in education, play, art works and other fun activities in the classroom. I assure you that his Head Start experience has helped him in positive development of his behaviors. He has developed most of the skills especially reading habits, being independent, and doing arts and crafts from his early Head Start experience.

Early Head Start has always been a home away from home for him. I also greatly appreciate all the educational services, counselling, family fun activities, and other support services that you offer for families in the community. I thank everyone including the teachers, assistants, administrative personnel, and other support staff for all you do. I thank you for giving Hridwin the opportunity for being part of early Head Start program.

Thank you,

*Kasthuri Udayakumar*

*Parent of Hridwin Vikas*



# WEATHERIZATION

The Weatherization Assistance Program (aka “Weatherization”) is charged with the responsibility of improving the energy performance of LIEAP eligible homes across the Hi-Line. By minimizing energy consumption and mitigating health and safety concerns, the Program helps clients affordably reside in safe, comfortable homes.

Forty-three homes across Blaine, Hill, and Liberty counties were successfully weatherized. Eleven of which were on the reservations we serve; five on Rocky Boy and six on Ft. Belknap.

**\$7,105**  
*Average Project  
Cost*

The beautiful part is that for every dollar spent on a home, the client must save a dollar on their energy bills. For example, if a home desperately needs attic insulation at a cost of \$2,000, the client must save \$2,000 throughout the lifespan of that insulation. If the client is not expected to save \$2,000, the program does not install new insulation. This fundamental component of our program ensures that there is always a dollar-for-dollar Savings-to-Investment Ratio (SIR). We invest \$1, our client saves \$1.

***SIR = Annual Savings x Lifespan of Measure / Cost of Measure***

The Program is proud to report that it has sought and secured nearly

**\$150,000**

in additional funding, two new trucks, and a utility trailer from various sources this year to better serve District 4 HRDC Weatherization clients:

Department  
of  
Energy  
**\$52,000**

Home  
Preservation  
Grant  
**\$25,000**

Rural  
Development  
**\$7,500**

Homeowner  
Contributions  
**\$65,000**

# WEATHERIZATION

**43** HOMES WEATHERIZED

**28** FURNACES REPLACED

**9** HOT WATER HEATERS REPLACED



***The calculations and processes that occur behind the scenes may be complex but the outcomes are simple and clear to our clients. A prime example of that is a household we served in Ft. Belknap:***

*M.S. is 71 years old and lost her husband in January. She is raising a handful of grandchildren as their parents battle addiction and other problems. Her home was in terrible shape: 20 of 22 windows were broken out completely, she had no working furnace, and no hot water. Further, there was carbon monoxide issues that needed to be immediately addressed. In short, the home was not suitable for any Montanan family.*

*Weatherization was able to rally the Agency, the State, NorthWestern Energy, our community partners and selfless volunteers to assist*

*in lifesaving ways. Because of our efforts, this 13 member household will not freeze during harsh winters or suffer from carbon monoxide poisoning and can now enjoy a warm shower.*

*M.S. tearfully told us, "It took 71 years to find people who cared enough to help me in such a way. My husband is happy. I just know it. His family is okay now."*

Adam Gibbons  
Weatherization Assistance  
Program Director

# WHAT WE'VE DONE!

|                |  |              |   |              |  |
|----------------|--|--------------|---|--------------|--|
| <b>470</b>     | LIEAP Applications Received                            | <b>432</b>   | LIEAP Benefits Received                           | <b>9</b>     | Hot Water Heater Replaced  |
| <b>91</b>      | Energy Share Applications Received                     | <b>82</b>    | Energy Share Applications Approved                | <b>28</b>    | Furnaces Replaced  |
| <b>169</b>     | Hill Co Electric Applications Received                 | <b>167</b>   | Hill Co Electric Benefits Approved                | <b>5</b>     | Emergency Furnace repair   |
| <b>32</b>      | Big Flat Electric Applications Received                | <b>32</b>    | Big Flat Electric Benefits Approved               | <b>0</b>     | Energy Share<br>Refrigerator Replacement   |
| <b>36</b>      | WIOA work Experiences                                  | <b>115</b>   | HiSET Test Administered                           | <b>157</b>   | Adult Basic Education & Literacy program participants  |
| <b>27</b>      | Job training recipients                                | <b>28</b>    | HiSET Diplomas Achieved                           | <b>7</b>     | Placed in permanent employment   |
| <b>34</b>      | Youth Work Experiences                                 | <b>828</b>   | Nights of emergency shelter provided              | <b>2,823</b> | Meals for women and children sheltered   |
| <b>37</b>      | Women and children sheltered                           | <b>93</b>    | Emergency transportation provided                 | <b>136</b>   | Victims assisted in obtaining Temporary/Permanent Orders of Protection   |
| <b>310</b>     | Crisis calls received                                  |              |   |              |  |
| <b>212</b>     | Children served in Head Start and Early Head Start     | <b>4</b>     | Prenatal women served                             | <b>136</b>   | Dental exams performed This is 100% of head Start children and (This is 100% of Head Start children and 64% of all children enrolled in NMCDC, EHS infants and toddlers do not normally have dental exams) |
| <b>45,681</b>  | NMCDC meals Served (CACPF 36,709 & NON CACFP 8,972)    | <b>198</b>   | Health Exams performed (93% of enrolled children) | <b>73</b>    | Children received transition services into public school   |
| <b>212</b>     | Children received educational screening and assessment | <b>197</b>   | Children's immunizations up-to-date               | <b>4,168</b> | Hours of Building Use by Community   |
| <b>410</b>     | Households received Section 8 Assistance               | <b>1,442</b> | People in Section 8 households                    | <b>201</b>   | Households on waiting list   |
| <b>18</b>      | Households in HRDC's low-income units                  | <b>7</b>     | Families in Surrey Court                          | <b>32</b>    | Homes weatherized in Blaine, Liberty, and Hill Counties  |
| <b>105,194</b> | Pounds of food distributed                             | <b>1,888</b> | Food boxes distributed                            | <b>5</b>     | Homes weatherized on the Rocky Boy Reservation   |
| <b>2,298</b>   | Adults served by the Food Bank                         | <b>2,248</b> | Children served by Food Bank                      | <b>6</b>     | Homes weatherized on the Fort Belknap Reservation  |

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR HELPING HANDS**

**598** VOLUNTEERS DONATED **26,948** HOURS



Human Resources Development Council



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