



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

District 4 HRDC



Human Resources Development Council

From the Executive Director

2020 was a difficult year, not just for District 4 HRDC, but also for our community, families and individuals served. The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic placed a strain on everyone. The pandemic affected individuals we care for and serve. On March 16, 2020 Montana Governor Steve Bullock shut down the State, leaving only essential services open for business. As an essential service provider HRDC 4 kept the doors of the agency open, but with limited staff in the office.

The Havre Community Food Bank lost all volunteers on March 16, 2020. However, with the receipt of increased COVID funds, through the CARES Act, to operate the Food Bank additional staff was hired and the Food Bank was able to maintain a high level of services.

HRDC 4's Northern Montana Child Development Center (NMCDC), a Head Start & Early Head Start Program, was closed on March 16, 2020 due to the inability to continue to receive meals for children enrolled in the program. This affected many families that rely on NMCDC's services to maintain childcare so parents can go to work and pursue higher education. Parents lost income because they were not able to go to work. NMCDC was able to reopen May 12, 2020, not only was the program able to resume meal service, but they also worked closely with the Hill County Health Department to develop policies to resume classes and childcare in a healthy and safe manner. The program was also able to provide a six week summer cohort in 2020 to help children transition smoothly and successfully from Head Start to Kindergarten. The summer cohort was funded through CARES Act funding.

HRDC 4's Weatherization Program was also greatly affected by the pandemic. From March through September 2020 the program was prohibited from entering any home that was a NorthWestern Energy (NoWE) customer. With the exception of Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation's almost all of the homes in HRDC 4's service area are NoWE customers. Additionally, Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap were closed to all outside visitors during the majority of 2020 as well. This prevented the Weatherization Program from weatherizing homes within Hill, Blaine, and Liberty Counties. Dropping the number of homes Weatherized in 2020 to twenty when normally 56 homes are weatherized annually.

The Energy Program was able to provide full services during the pandemic and received additional CARES funding to provide assistance to more households and additional assistance to existing households that were affected by COVID.

The Housing program received additional CARES funding to provide homeless prevention and rapid rehousing to individuals and families affected by COVID. In addition to HRDC 4's traditional service area of Hill, Blaine and Liberty Counties the program offered services to District 1 counties of Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan and Roosevelt. The Housing program also assisted with the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program helping families affected by COVID across Montana maintain housing and prevent eviction.

The Employment & Training program and the Adult Education program were able to continue to provide services. However, the pandemic prevented many individuals from being able to meet in person. This is reflected in a decreased number of individuals being served.

The individuals and families served by HRDC 4 have low-income and they lack the resources to meet and submit required documentation virtually. Families served often use pay as you go phone services, lack internet and/or do not have access to free Wi-Fi. District 4 HRDC continued to provide individuals access to phones, computers, and fax machines to help families retain and gain services needed to enable them to assist their families in being self-sufficient. This pandemic has shown how much our community and the families served by HRDC require our support and assistance to not only be successful but to also navigate services and break barriers to becoming self-sufficient.

Carilla French

Fiscal

District 4 HRDC received **\$664,382** in COVID-19 Funding in 2020 and spent **\$563,607.**



The majority of COVID-19 funds were used to support clients through rent and utility payments. NMCDC provided a Summer Cohort Session. District 4 HRDC retained all employees from March 2020 to December 2020. Additional staff were hired to replace volunteers.

Our 2020 Numbers

(Unduplicated Individuals)

Employment

10

Participated in an on the job or other work experience

57

Received Career Counseling

91

Received Job Search Coaching

Housing



Food Bank

The Havre Food Bank

served

5,385

Individuals in 2020!

Health



**Vision
Screenings
Administered**



**Dental Exams
Administered**

271 Individuals Assisted by the
Victim Services Program

Education



**Children in
Early Head
Start**



**Children in
Head Start**



39

Achieved a High School
Equivalency Diploma

COVID-19 Response

The Coronavirus pandemic put our services in even higher demand than before. District 4 HRDC took action to assist our community during this especially difficult time.

2,731

**Rental
Payments
Issued**

134

**Utility
Payments
Issued**

7,155

**Issuances of
Personal
Protective
Equipment**

6,640

**Served through
Food
Distribution**

60

**Permanent
Housing
Placements**

Head Start Summer Cohort



District IV HRDC's Head Start program was the recipient of a Summer Program grant from the Office of Head Start. The grant's purpose was to address program closures across the nation that prevented many Head Start and Early Head Start programs from offering their full range of services. Northern Montana Child Development Center (NMCDC) was the first program in the state to reopen their doors, following guidance from the Office of Head Start, the Hill County Health Department, Childcare Licensing, and the Governor's phased reopening plan. NMCDC used their funding to offer a 6 week summer cohort, specifically for Head Start children who are transitioning to Kindergarten or with specific needs that will benefit from additional educational programming. The program ran from June 9th, 2020 to July 17th, 2020 and served 32 children.

Thank you to our 2020 Board of Directors

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In Memory of Mike Corcoran
HRDC Board Member November 2018-January 2020

Thank you to our **173** volunteers who donated **20,475** hours of their time!



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



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www.hrdc4.org



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This project is funded (in part) under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department. 50 copies of this document were produced at an estimated cost of \$2.25 per copy. Distribution costs for 50 copies are estimated at \$1.20 each. The total cost for printing and distribution is estimated at \$172.50, 100% of which is through federal funding.