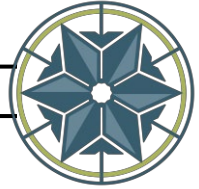




MISSOULA

CITY OF MISSOULA

MISSOULA COUNTY



For immediate release: May 5, 2021

Contact: Emily Armstrong, Reaching Home Manager

406-552-6393

armstronge@ci.missoula.mt.us

Public Invited to Reaching Home Update on May 11

Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness provides community update

The City of Missoula, Missoula County and their partners will present a public update on Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, via Zoom. Program Manager Emily Armstrong will discuss the year's milestones on the 10-Year Plan and other relevant homelessness initiatives, followed by a moderated panel of representatives of community agencies that work in homelessness and housing in Missoula.

Some highlights from the past year include:

- The Missoula Coordinated Entry System, the centralized system launched in 2017 to streamline access to housing resources, now has 38 agencies in Missoula signed on as "partner agencies" and/or "access points" to the system.
- More than 90 individuals have been fully trained in the Coordinated Entry System and are fully equipped to support community members seeking resources.
- Missoula Housing Authority's new Cornerstone property successfully opened at the end of 2020. Eleven out of 12 of the Section 8 units are leased, primarily to clients of the FUSE (Frequent Users of Systems Engagement) and/or Veterans programs.
- Reaching Home began conducting listening sessions with community members who have experienced homelessness to better understand the challenges in our homelessness and housing system and create opportunities to integrate these lived experts more holistically in solution generation.
- Weekly Case Conferencing meetings for direct care staff to discuss and address needs for individuals entering the Coordinated Entry System increased in attendance and now have more than 20 representatives from various agencies across Missoula. These staff review the By-Name List, an identified list of the individuals in Missoula experiencing homeless and plan case coordination for each person individually.

- The Poverello Center successfully operated the Johnson Street Community Center Emergency Winter Shelter from November 2020 through April 2021, serving a total of 509 individuals. On its busiest night, Johnson St provided shelter for 137 people.
- The Temporary Safe Outdoor Space, operated by Hope Rescue Mission with logistical support from Missoula County and United Way, has successfully supported 53 total residents, connecting them to regular case management and other critical services, and many residents have secured permanent housing, employment and necessary identification and other documents.
- The non-congregate shelter operated by the Missoula City-County Health Department as a response to COVID-19 has served more than 280 individuals. The program has also helped place 10 people in permanent housing.
- Reaching Home launched a quarterly newsletter in partnership with United Way; many thanks to United Way for supporting the efforts of Reaching Home and helping us connect more with the community. You can sign up here:
<https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2124/Homeless-Initiatives>

You can join the event by using the link below:

When: May 11, 2021 03:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Reaching Home Update

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://ci-missoula-mt.zoom.us/j/87296158265?pwd=SUJyRWwhJeEdZNm43YTYyOW0wVXVvZz09>

Passcode: 728274

Or One tap mobile:

US: +12532158782,,87296158265# or +12133388477,,87296158265#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 213 338 8477 or +1 267 831 0333

Webinar ID: 872 9615 8265

International numbers available: <https://ci-missoula-mt.zoom.us/j/87296158265>

About Reaching Home: The Reaching Home Program leads Missoula's efforts addressing homelessness. In 2011, the City of Missoula and Missoula County combined resources to develop *Reaching Home: Missoula's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*. The shared belief that housing is the only solution to homelessness remains the driving force behind these efforts to make homelessness in Missoula rare, brief and one-time only.

#