



## NEWS ADVISORY

Mar. 5, 2019

For immediate release

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### **City Partners to Gather Comments for Local Housing Policy**

The City of Missoula's Office of Housing & Community Development has partnered with students from the University of Montana to gather feedback from area residents regarding local affordable housing needs. Participation in this effort includes students from Public Administration, Social Work, Public and Community Health and Sociology. The data they gather will be analyzed and reported to the City of Missoula's Housing Policy Leadership Team and City Council for consideration.

"The development of Missoula's Housing Policy has relied on active participation by community members," said Montana James, City grants administrator. "Our goal from the start has been to create a collaborative, home-grown policy, and we are eager to hear from residents through this canvassing project to add to that. We feel so fortunate to have fantastic students at the University of Montana, allowing us to reduce the typical barriers to public participation by going directly to residents."

The ability to engage in typical public process can be impacted by barriers like child care, transportation, and work schedules. This canvassing effort aims to reduce these barriers.

"We're excited to partner with the City on this important project and hear feedback from Missoulians about how housing policies might impact them," said student team leader Claire

Foley. "We hope that more residents have an opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions through this outreach."

The students will be canvassing throughout the month of March and hope to gather feedback from approximately 300 people. The neighborhood schedule will be as follows:

- March 9 and 10 – Southgate Triangle neighborhood
- March 16 and 17 – River Road neighborhood
- March 23 and 24 – Northside/Westside neighborhoods
- March 30 and 31 – Franklin to the Fort neighborhood

For information or to submit comments to the Office of Housing & Community Development about City housing policy, citizens can go to: <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/Housing>. People using a TTY device may contact the Montana Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1.

Contacts for Interviews:

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