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City Solicits Ideas for Housing and Community Development Projects

The City of Missoula is beginning its annual process for allocating the money it will receive from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing and community development projects designed to assist low- and moderate-income residents for the coming year. The money may be used for expanding the supply of housing affordable to income-qualified families and individuals, offering other types of assistance to low- and moderate-income persons, eliminating slums and blight, or meeting urgent community development needs.

Missoula will receive grant money in federal fiscal year 2012 through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement program and the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds. The City will reserve part of the available funds to undertake activities that promote fair and affordable housing and to manage the programs. The City will accept applications for CDBG and HOME funds from individuals and community groups through an application process that begins with a public meeting on August 29.

“I love the CDBG and HOME programs,” Mayor Engen said. “They fund great organizations doing great work for low-income and moderate-income Missoulians. This is an opportunity for those agencies to learn about the programs, ask questions and tell us more about what they’re doing.”

HUD defines low- to moderate-income households according to the number of people in the household. For instance, a low- to moderate-income household of four people would earn \$47,300 or less annually.

Missoula has developed specific objectives for its CDBG and HOME allocations in the Missoula Consolidated Plan, adopted by City Council in February 2009. Copies of the plan are available from the Office of Planning and Grants (OPG) at 435 Ryman St. and online at OPG’s website, www.co.missoula.mt.us/opgweb.

In past years, the City of Missoula has received a general expected figure for the grants from HUD at the beginning of the process. This year, the HUD budget is uncertain. Last year’s allocation was \$1.1 million.

Any interested person may attend a community needs assessment meeting on Monday, August 29, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Missoula City Council Chambers at 140 W. Pine St. The meeting will be used to gather public opinion on the needs of the Missoula community, and to collect suggestions for potential community development projects. Application forms and guidelines for the CDBG and HOME funds will be available at the meeting, and will also be available at www.co.missoula.mt.us/opgweb. Proposals for spending the CDBG and HOME funds will be accepted until October 24, 2011.

For more information, to request printed copies of the applications, or if you would like to request special accommodations in order to participate fully in the meeting, contact Nancy

Harte at 258-4657, or nharte@co.missoula.mt.us, or Melissa Gordon at 258-4980, or mgordon@co.missoula.mt.us.

Persons using a TTY device may contact the Montana Relay Service by dialing 711.

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