

Date Release:

3/5/2024

MCDC



PRESS RELEASE

MCDC Kicks off Housing Cooperative Study!

A Monumental Time for Montana Housing

Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) has kicked off a strategic partnership with the Cooperative Development Foundation and the Affordable Housing Initiative, a national effort to introduce innovative cooperative housing solutions to Montana's diverse communities. This work will focus on determining how cooperative solutions can be utilized for senior housing, senior care, and workforce housing. MCDC aims to introduce models with a proven track record of success nationwide, marking a significant milestone in addressing the pressing housing needs of Montanans.

Cooperative housing allows residents to efficiently pool their resources to own housing units, ranging from multi-unit buildings to scattered single-family homes. This model empowers owners to design management structures, services, and overall control over their housing solutions. As Montana's population ages and senior care resources diminish, MCDC and its partners observe increasing interest from seniors in banding together to support their housing and care needs. An additional area of focus will be determining how limited equity housing programs can impact future financial wealth-building and senior care options.

In addition to the housing work, MCDC is committed to providing high-quality services addressing various community issues. From succession planning to childcare solutions, access to essential services, and promoting value-added agriculture, MCDC remains dedicated to building local solutions for rural Montana's evolving needs. MCDC has experienced a 40% increase in demand for its services and has expanded programming to incorporate cooperative education and cooperative board development services, rural investment cooperatives, and Native American programming.

The partnership with national programs and organizations showcases MCDC's efforts to fulfill its mission and extend its positive impact on rural communities statewide. The work being done statewide underscores a collective effort to drive positive change, enhance living conditions, and fortify communities throughout Montana.

If your community would like to explore Cooperative Housing solutions, please send us a note at mcdd@mdd.coop. For media inquiries, please contact Executive Director Tracy McIntyre at tracy@mdd.coop.