



HRDC's 50th Anniversary Celebration



HRDC held an Open House to celebrate its 50 years of service to Billings and surrounding counties. Community partners, former staff members, and dignitaries alike attended the celebration on October 13. Current staff members were able to meet their predecessors who paved the way for community action in our region.

Former long-time CEO, Carl Visser, spoke to the guests about what his years with HRDC and Community

Action meant to him. After retiring five years ago, he expressed his gratitude for how the programs have carried on—and evolved—over the years.

Also, two former clients addressed the guests. They shared their personal stories, and explained how they worked their way to self-sufficiency by utilizing the various programs that HRDC offers. Their narratives were very touching. Guests were happy to congratulate these HRDC Success Stories.



LIEAP season is here!

When to apply for LIEAP

The Energy Assistance (LIEAP) and Weatherization Program application is available at www.hrdc7.org during the heating season, which starts October 1 and runs through April 30 of each year.

Who is eligible for LIEAP?

Eligibility for weatherization and fuel assistance is based on your income and assets. Income eligibility guidelines change each year and are determined by the federal poverty level. Please refer to the website for the current LIEAP income guidelines (www.hrdc7.org). Both homeowners and renters may apply for these programs. If your household receives benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, you may qualify automatically for weatherization or fuel assistance.

Furnace Repair / Replacement

Clients may be eligible for assistance in repairing or replacing an unsafe furnace.

NorthWestern Energy Discount

If you qualify for LIEAP, you will automatically receive a discount of up to 25% off your utility bill with NorthWestern Energy. The year-round discount begins when you sign up and qualify for LIEAP.

Montana Dakota Utilities Discount

MDU offers Montana customers a discount of up to 30% off their utility bill after qualifying for LIEAP benefits.



VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program Needs You



Volunteers Needed for Tax Season!

Get Involved! The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at HRDC is recruiting volunteers NOW, for the upcoming tax season. Training is provided and no prior experience is necessary.

For more information contact Mary Beth at:

406-247-4732 or mshay@hrdc7.org

Suited for Success Event

HRDC's sixth annual Suited for Success event this fall was another great success. Throughout the day, nearly 50 men came in to shop, and a total of 200 clothing items were taken away. Other services were available to the guests as well: healthcare information and enrollment, handouts with interview and resume tips, and a representative from Job Service met with interested people.

Thanks to Men's Wearhouse, who selected HRDC as a suit drive recipient again this year.



The History of Community Action



The Montana Community Action Directors's Association recently met in Billings and hosted a day-long training with a very special guest speaker. HRDC sent 30 staff members to attend this training (many of them pictured above).

Training was led by David Bradley (back row, center in photo). For more than 30 years, Bradley has been one of Washington's leading advocates on behalf of low-income programs. In 1981, he helped found the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF). As a private non-profit organization, funded solely by non-governmental contributions, NCAF represents funding and policy interests of the nation's 1000

community action agencies before Congress and the Executive Branch. David currently acts as NCAF's Chief Executive Officer.

In this role at NCAF, David was the primary architect of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Besides the CSBG, David's legislative activities include the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Head Start and job training programs.

His workshop reviewed 50+ years of community action, from inception through present day, including a forecast for the future for community action.



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Happy New Year

HRDC wishes you the best in 2017!



Quick Energy Efficiency Tips

- Open the blinds and curtains to let sunlight in to help heat your home during the colder months
- Add an aerator and your faucet will use about half as much water
- Reverse the direction of ceiling fans for winter and set to low. This will keep the warm air from collecting at the ceiling
- Replace damaged caulking to seal up your home

Source - Hometalk.com