



Program Guide



District 7 Human Resources Development Council
Serving Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass
and Yellowstone Counties of Montana.

www.hrdc7.org



Are you living on the edge?

Today, nearly one out of every three families in the United States is considered to be low-income. Millions of American families are living on the edge of financial disaster. Even working as hard as they can, they are still barely able to make it from month to month.

It is not that people are working less. In fact, many of today's low-income individuals are working harder than they did before. But one major financial crisis, such as a child getting sick, the car breaking down, the furnace going out, or a spouse losing employment can send a once stable family spiraling. At a time when it seems like every monthly bill is going up, people simply can't afford a financial crisis.



At the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC), we envision a world in which individuals don't have to choose between heating their homes or feeding their families, where jobs pay a living wage and homes are affordable, where children receive early learning to promote healthy development, and all community members

are provided equal opportunity, free from economic barriers, to achieve their full potential. Through our mission, we empower people in need through mobilizing and developing community resources by creating opportunities for success in Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Yellowstone counties.

If you find yourself faced with choosing between feeding your family or paying a critical household expense, you are not alone. HRDC offers many resources for you, for your family and for your home, all in the name of helping people move forward. Because when good things happen here, the whole community thrives. Visit us at www.hfdc7.org for more information.

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Child Care

Child Care Assistance

Montana families are paying just over \$9,000 a year to have an infant attend a full-time care center. For a low-income, working, single parent this could mean nearly 44% of their income is spent on child care. HRDC administers the State of Montana's Best Beginnings Childcare Scholarship in our five county region and Treasure County. Children on Best Beginnings must attend a licensed child care center, registered group or family child care home, or legally certified child care provider. Recipients of the scholarship program must meet work and income requirements.

Early Childhood Provider Services

Parents, children, and Montana's economy rely heavily on quality child care, which protects children and promotes healthy development. HRDC provides oversight and an array of resources to ensure child care providers in our five county region and Treasure County, are given the tools they need to remain compliant with state regulations while delivering a safe, affordable and quality service.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): In an effort to reduce the costs of child care, while ensuring children receive healthy and nutritious meals, eligible child care providers are given cash reimbursement for serving meals to enrolled participants that meet Federal nutritional guidelines, outlined in the CACFP meal pattern. HRDC administers the CACFP for the Montana Department of Health and Human Services in our five county region as well as Custer, Fergus, Prairie, and Rosebud counties.

Education

Alternative Education

Earning a General Education Development (GED) diploma is the first step in breaking the poverty cycle. Low income individuals, 16 to 80+ years of age, who are in pursuit of a GED or who have been unsuccessful in achieving their GED, may apply to receive one-on-one, self-paced instruction from HRDC's certified teacher

in Billings to better prepare for the 5-series Test for Adult Basic Education. Tutoring is also available for low-income, high school students for coursework, college prep readiness for the ACT, SAT, as well as drivers license written examination and remedial reading and math for all ages.

Emergency Services

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The Emergency Solutions program places emphasis on helping people in Yellowstone County quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. Individuals deemed eligible for assistance who are seeking emergency shelter, homeless prevention, and rapid re-housing, will be assigned a case manager and required to meet once a month at a minimum. Shelters and housing must meet minimum safety, sanitation, and HUD standards for human habitation.

General Relief

General Relief is an assistance program available for individuals without dependents to provide rental assistance while they are waiting for approval of SSI/SSDI. In order to be eligible, individuals must meet the following criteria: No income in the household; be a resident of Yellowstone County for 90 days; be receiving food stamp benefits; have a disability that can be medically verified; and have applied for SSI/SSDI, but have not yet been approved.

I really enjoy when your Early Childhood trainers bring trainings to our community, thank you for sharing all of your tips and information.

-Noah's Ark Daycare Employee, Hardin

Employment and Training for Participants

HRDC offers Employment and Training opportunities for individuals age 14 and older with job readiness training, supportive services to address participant identified barriers, and one-on-one case management guidance to assist with obstacles which prevent individuals from becoming gainfully employed.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)

SNAP E&T helps SNAP recipients in Yellowstone County, referred by the Office of Public Assistance, find opportunities for work experience, education and job retention training activities. Participants are required to meet with a case manager and complete 20 hours of employability activities per week.

Work Readiness Component (WoRC)

The WoRC program is designed to support individuals who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in their pursuit of self-sufficiency. Enrollment begins at the Office of Public Assistance for eligible participants residing in our five county service region.

Subsidized Employment Program (SEP): SEP promotes employment and job development training for individuals 18 years and older residing in Big Horn and Yellowstone counties. Individuals who have been laid off, are unemployed or under-employed but still meet program eligibility guidelines, will receive up to 700 hours of paid, on the job employment training.

Work Experience Program: Work sites provide participants with volunteer opportunities to receive mentoring, on-the-job training, and work experience which often times results in a letter of recommendation. Participants continue to receive their TANF and food stamp benefits while in the program.

Youth Employment

The Youth Employment program provides summer and year-round work readiness and training opportunities to better prepare Montana's youth ages 14-21 with barriers which prevent them from achieving long-term economic self-sufficiency. Eligible youth reside in our five county region.

Work Experience Programs for Employers

HRDC offers a variety of opportunities to become work experience sites at no cost to the employer. Experience sites provide participants with work opportunities to develop skills, knowledge, and work behaviors to increase the participant's employability. Participating businesses provide mentoring, supervision and on-the-job training.

Work Experience for Subsidized Employment Program (SEP)

participants: Work sites will receive prescreened, job ready applicants, ages 18 and up, for up to 700 hours of subsidized employment. Not only are participant wages and Workers Compensation covered by HRDC during this period of time, but a case manager will act as a liaison for performance issues, should they arise.

Work Experience for Work Readiness Component (WoRC) participants:

In lieu of an hourly wage, WoRC program participants will continue to receive their TANF and SNAP benefits so there is no increase to the business payroll expenses. Work site supervisors in our five county region are expected to provide direct supervision at all times and must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Work Experience for Youth Employment

Youth Employment sites provide youth (ages 14-21) residing in our five county region with work opportunities to develop skills, knowledge, and work behaviors. In exchange for your work experience, mentorship, and supervision, HRDC provides funding to cover wages, workers compensation and FICA for work experience participants.



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Energy Assistance

Energy Share

Energy Share is a year-round, one-time emergency assistance loan program for eligible low-income individuals facing an energy emergency. It is available only when all other resources have been exhausted and loans must be repaid. Energy Share of Montana is a private non-profit working in partnership with HRDC.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

Individuals must have adequate access to residential energy in order to heat their home and power appliances including life-saving equipment for the disabled and elderly. HRDC provides assistance across our five county region, to low-income individuals, in completing the State of Montana LIEAP application. LIEAP pays a portion of the heating bill directly to the utility provider during the heating season of October 1st through April 30th of each year. Both homeowners and renters may apply.

Weatherization

The Weatherization program provides energy conservation services to low-income families to improve energy efficiency and ensure the health and safety of the household. The LIEAP application is also the Weatherization application. Once approved for LIEAP, households will automatically be added to the next Weatherization priority list for consideration. Households in our five county region are listed according to degree of need. Special priority is given to older adults and disabled individuals, and both homeowners and renters are eligible.

Food

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

HRDC operates the FDPIR in Big Horn County providing a variety of healthy and nutritious foods from canned fruits and vegetables to dry goods, frozen meats and fresh produce. All enrolled tribal members living on or near the Crow reservation are eligible as well as non-enrolled tribal members and non-native people living on the reservation.

Homeless Services

Harmony House

Harmony House maternity group home provides a supportive, nurturing place for homeless, pregnant, or parenting mothers ages 18-21 and their dependents. Residents take part in life-skills training, parenting classes, peer support groups, budgeting and financial literacy as well as recreational activities. Residents receive intensive case management, along with wrap-around supportive services, to assist in goal setting, developing the skills needed to become self-sufficient, embrace healthy parenting skills, finding and maintaining employment, and living in permanent, safe, and affordable housing.

Housing

Housing Counseling

HRDC is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency providing free counseling in the areas of mortgage delinquency, default resolution, and pre-purchase. All individuals who are in pre-foreclosure, foreclosure, or are first-time homebuyers are eligible for counseling services. There are no income guidelines or county restrictions.

Rural Section 8

HRDC administers the Rural Section 8 program in our five county region (not including the City of Billings). The program helps families to secure affordable, safe, and sanitary housing by paying a portion of the rent in an approved dwelling unit.



Leadership

Empowering Peers Igniting Change (EPIC)

EPIC is a youth leadership program consisting of at-risk, low-income, and parenting/pregnant teens (ages 16-24) who meet twice monthly to discuss and address the issues plaguing young people today in Yellowstone County. Issues include: educational and employment barriers, youth homelessness, and the limited opportunities for young people to participate in safe and sober recreational activities.

*Life was just hard, and money was harder.
I realized I couldn't give up on this savings opportunity,
so I made some changes in my mind and
got going full steam again.*

-Ann L.

Money Management

Saving for Tomorrow

The Saving for Tomorrow program offers a variety of matched saving programs to help families and individuals save money to purchase an asset. For a defined period of time, eligible individuals save a portion of their income in a special savings account HRDC then matches each dollar saved with \$3. While in the savings program, participants complete a range of personal finance activities to learn how to better manage their money.

The Assets for Independence (AFI) Program is available to participants in our five county region, as well as Custer, Musselshell, and Rosebud. AFI is a matched savings program to help families and individuals save enough money for such things as buying your first home, paying for post-secondary education or training, and starting or expanding a small business.

The Family Economic Security (FES) Program is a matched savings program designed to assist families and individuals residing in our five county region to save enough money for such things as repairing or improving a home, buying a vehicle, or building an emergency fund.

The Scholarship Program helps families and individuals in our five county region pay for post-secondary education or job-training. Up to \$2,000 is available per student to cover tuition, books, and required supplies at an eligible educational institution. Participants will take part in personal finance activities to learn how to better manage their money and plan financially for the future.

The Youth Savings Club helps youth (age 16-19), save money through a matched savings program for an emergency fund as they transition to financial independence. For a defined period of time, youth in our five county region will save a portion of income in a special savings account. Each dollar saved is matched by \$3. While in the savings program, youth will take part in personal finance activities to learn how to better manage money for future financial success.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The VITA program provides free income tax return preparation and electronic filing for individuals and families who make less than \$50,000 a year. Both state and federal tax returns are prepared by IRS trained and certified community volunteers. During the tax season (late January – mid April), the Billings VITA site is open by appointment or walk-in from 2 pm - 8 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and from 9 am - noon on Saturday mornings. During the rest of the year, the site operates on a limited appointment-only basis.

*I realize after being in this program that
nothing is too hard if you just put your mind to it.
You CAN achieve it!*

-Kasie E.

Transportation

Wheels for Work

Funded in part by the United Way of Yellowstone County, the Wheels for Work program is designed to help low-income individuals who need a ride to and from work. To apply for this program, individuals must meet income eligibility standards, be working a minimum of 25 hours/week, and reside in Yellowstone County. Supportive services include bus passes, gas vouchers, and minor car repairs (on a limited basis).

Veteran Services

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

Montana has the second-most Veterans of any state in the nation and the highest rate of enlistment. HRDC in partnership with the Volunteers of America Northern Rockies provides intensive case management to veteran families who are at risk of homelessness. Case Managers assist participants in securing VA and public benefits, entitlements, and supportive services. SSVF is offered to eligible veterans across our five county service region.

Additional Resources

HRDC Campus Directory

HRDC Main Office (Billings)

7 North 31st Street, Billings, MT 59101
office: 406-247-4732 | fax: 406-248-2943

HRDC Satellite Office (Hardin)

501 North Center, Hardin, MT 59034
office 406-665-3500 | fax 406-665-1395

Child Care Eligibility

Billings - office 406-247-4700 | fax 406-869-2585

Hardin - office 406-665-3500 | fax 406-655-1395

Child Care for Providers

office 406-247-4710 | fax 406-248-2943

Employment and Training for Adults

Billings - office 406-247-4732 | fax 406-248-6971

Hardin - office 406-665-3500 | fax 406-655-1395

Energy Assistance

3116 1st Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

office 406-247-4778 | fax 406-247-4791

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

406 Crook, Hardin, MT 59034

office 406-665-2523 | fax 406-665-1026

Housing

office 406-247-4710 | fax 406-248-2943

Money Management/Savings

office 406-247-4710 | fax 406-248-2943

Youth Employment

3124 1st Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101

office 406-247-4732 | fax 406-247-4747

For assistance with all other programs, email info@hrdc7.org or call the main office at 406-247-4732 or 1-800-433-1411.

ASK Directory

The ASK Directory is a community resource tool to assist clients with options for locating other service providers in our service area. To learn more visit <http://ask.hrdc7.org>.

Find us online at

www.hrdc7.org and on your favorite social media sites.





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