



2023 Impact Report



A message from our CEO....

Throughout my career here at HRDC District 7, I have seen firsthand how dedicated our staff are in helping others succeed to the best of their ability. Our community partners work in tandem with our agency to connect vulnerable families and individuals by with other resources they may need.

We did so much in 2023 but here are a few highlights:

The **Child Care Department had its first in-person Family Fun Fair**, connecting families with local resources that help with their young child's development and anything else they may need. This is an event that we cannot wait to see grow with each passing year.



Our **Crow Food Distribution Warehouse saw the highest numbers since 2020**. This program also **started a delivery service for elders and disabled individuals** living in more rural areas of Big Horn County. This service helped ensure clients had easy access to their monthly food commodities.

We **hosted the National Point in Time Homeless Count** at our agency alongside the Yellowstone County Continuum of Care. We also tackled homeless initiatives with the help of our community partners so those facing homelessness could find stable places to live.



Our goal at HRDC 7 is to develop and mobilize resources for the most vulnerable in our service area. We hope this report shows our commitment to empowering not only the families and individuals we serve, but our communities and stakeholders as well.

Sincerely,

Denise Jordan, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The Board of Trustees assures HRDC effectively assesses and responds to poverty in its communities, achieves family and community outcomes while remaining administratively and fiscally sound.

Board Members

- George Real Bird III – Big Horn County Commissioner
- James Moody – Sweet Grass County Commissioner
- Joe Aguilar – Yellowstone County
- John Ostlund – Yellowstone County Commissioner
- Leon Pattyn – Board Chair, Southwest Corridor Task Force
- Lara Strickland – Stillwater County
- Mark Vinger – Montana-Dakota Utilities
- Peggy Streeter – Yellowstone County
- Scott Miller – Carbon County Commissioner
- Sidney Fitzpatrick – Big Horn County Commissioner
- Tamara Good – RiverStone Health
- Troy Boucher – Board Secretary /Treasurer, Boucher & Associates
- Tyrel Hamilton – Stillwater County Commissioner
- Vera Jane He Does It – Vice Chair, Big Horn County

Numbers at a Glance

HRDC District 7 administers **20** different programs through **40** funding sources. Some programs meet different eligibility requirements compared to other programs offered in the agency. HRDC collaborates with other community organizations to ensure clients can get the help they need. Here's a snapshot of everything we did in 2023:



Served a total of **14,849** families and individuals

H O P E
R E S P E C T
D R E A M
C H A N G E

Age Demographics

Under 18.....	6,208
18-54.....	5,966
55-75+.....	2,645
Unknown.....	30



Gave **3,949** referrals to other agencies & internal programs

1,147 volunteer hours were donated to the agency for a value of **\$38,413**.



Energy Assistance

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

HRDC District 7 administers LIHEAP to Yellowstone, Big Horn, Sweet Grass, Carbon and Stillwater counties. The program helps eligible households with their main heating source bill from September 1st- April 30th.

HRDC District 7 provided **\$11,328,147** in utility assistance to help **3,439** households during the 2022-23 heating season. Funds were used to cover **7,768** utility bills, **964** past due utility payments and **270** emergency payments.



Weatherization

Households applying for LIHEAP are put on a state priority list for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). This department provides energy efficient services on homes.

Our Weatherization department spent **\$1,736,513** to provide **450** services for **74** households in 2023. Weatherization installers can assist on a multitude of different small home repairs. These services included **68** furnace repairs, **18** hot water replacements, and **67** energy efficient services.



Energy Share of Montana

Energy Share can help clients facing an energy emergency such as a shutoff notice, extremely low propane, etc. HRDC District 7 partners with Energy Share of Montana to help households facing an energy crisis in the five counties we serve.

In 2023, Energy Share helped **647** households facing an energy emergency totaling to **\$1,214,708**. Funds were used to cover **258** past due utility payments, **594** disconnect notices, and **119** utility deposits.



Child Care Services

Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship

Best Beginnings is a way for eligible households to make co-payments on child care. A total of **\$5,741,151** was used to assist **1,456** households with Child Care costs in 2023. The Best Beginnings Scholarship helped **1,198** families and **7,623** children in the Child Care Departments 14 county service area.



CACFP

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a way for registered child care providers to serve healthy foods to children in their care through cash reimbursements. **\$396,124** was reimbursed to **45** child care providers enrolled in the program. CACFP funds were used to provide healthy snacks and meals to **415** children.

Early Childhood Provider Services

HRDC 7 provides additional training opportunities for child care providers and their staff members. This ensures that all staff are aware of early childhood and safety practices. In 2023, a total of **305** child care providers attended **104** hours of **57** training courses.



Child Care Staff showing their support for Provider Appreciation Day.

Provider Financial Assistance

In 2023, HRDC District 7 received a grant that was used to provide financial assistance for new or existing child care programs. With this assistance, they could purchase approved early developmental equipment. The total amount of funding came to **\$33,000** for **24** child care programs.

WOYC Family Fun Fair

HRDC's Child Care Department hosted its 2nd annual and first in person Family Fun Fair event at the Billings Depot to kick off Week of the Young Child (WOYC). WOYC is a nationwide celebration to recognize the importance of high quality early childhood education. In 2023, a total of **430** children and adults attended the event along with **24** vendors that showcased their resources.



Housing & Emergency Services

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Through the Emergency Solutions Grant, HRDC District 7 is able to help those who are homeless or on the brink of homelessness. In 2023, a total of **\$488,577** was used to help **379** households find or maintain stable housing.



For Homeless Prevention, **\$172,208** was used to cover **37** rental arrears for **73** clients. For Rapid Re-housing services, **\$91,990** paid **45** security deposits on rental units for **84** clients and **\$223,890** was used to pay **123** months of rent for **91** clients.

Yellowstone County Burial Service

For households unable to afford a burial service for their loved one, our district offers assistance to help cover those expenses. **\$64,278** was used for **36** burials in Yellowstone County.

General Relief

Yellowstone County residents without dependents and are waiting for SSI/SSDI approval can utilize our general assistance program for financial assistance. A total of **\$82,271** was used to help **25** clients in 2023. Assistance was provided for **151** rental payments, **44** utility payments, **111** hygiene kits and **119** transportation vouchers.

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)

Often referred to as Rural Section 8, the Housing Choice Voucher pays a portion of a client's rent in an approved dwelling unit. HRDC district 7 is the HCV Field office for Big Horn, Stillwater, Carbon, Sweet Grass and Yellowstone Counties (Excluding the city of Billings). In 2023, a total of **\$1,668,175** was used to cover **1,221** months of rent and **159** utility payments for **172** households.



Transportation

Wheels to Work is a program helping to eliminate transportation barriers for clients to get or look for work. **\$61,327** was used to provide **123** transportation services for **88** households in 2023. The types of services includes bus passes, gas cards, and minor car repairs, ensuring they could get to their job or interview.

Employment Training & Food

Career Pathways

For households receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), Pathways is an opportunity to explore career avenues and develop hands on work experience in a field they are interested in. A total of **\$172,254** provided employment training services to **1,500** clients in 2023. **50** clients participated in **116** hours of job readiness training or on-the-job work experience.

SNAP Employment & Training

Households enrolled in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) are eligible for SNAP Employment and Training. This program helps residents of Yellowstone County find work experience, education, and training activities that lead to economic self-sufficiency.



\$56,744 provided **152** clients with employment training services helping in several different areas. Supportive assistance while in the program includes **320** transportation vouchers, and **21** services for clients to obtain work appropriate clothing.

HELP-Link

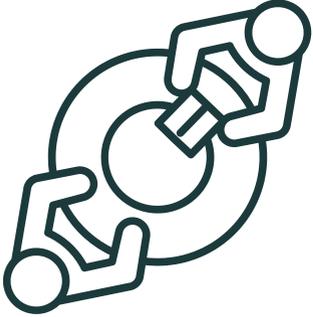
Montana Medicaid Recipients could utilize HELP-Link at HRDC District 7 to find individualized career avenues leading to better paying employment. HELP-Link provided **\$122,926** to help **100** clients find personalized career opportunities. **59** clients attended **208** career counseling sessions. Funding also provided support for **39** supplies for school or work, and **68** services to cover supplies needed for post-secondary education.



Crow Food Distribution (FDPIR)

Households living on or near the Crow Reservation that meet income requirements could receive monthly food commodities from our Crow Food Distribution Warehouse. **\$830,294** provided **897** food commodity boxes to **377** clients in 2023.

Youth Services



Alternative Education

The Alternative Education Center offers tutoring services for students wanting to take the HiSET (High School Equivalency). The center can also help students study for the written driver's license exam, college prep readiness, and high school course work. A total of **51** clients utilized **412** hours of tutoring sessions offered at the Alternative Education Center in 2023.

WIOA, Youth Employment & Training

Youth employment & training is a WIOA Program to help ages 14-24 find a career path. A total of **\$101,888** was used to help **59** clients prepare for the workforce. **29** clients received job readiness training, **8** received on-the-job training at one of our registered youth work experience sites. Financial assistance was used to purchase **148** employment or educational supplies and **77** transportation services for **27** clients.

Harmony House & Youth Demonstration Project (YDP)

YDP and Harmony House provide wrap around services for young clients ages 16-22 who identify as homeless. Both programs focus on helping clients find stable housing, build permanent connections in the community, work on their Social/Emotional wellbeing, and gain an education and employment. Clients are dual enrolled in Alternative Education and our WIOA program.

\$56,649 in supportive services was used to help **16** young clients in 2023. This included transportation vouchers, rental & utility payments, employment supplies, etc.



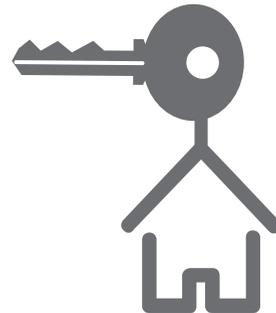
Money Management & Bundled Services

Home Center Services

HRDC's Home Center offers financial literacy classes and housing counseling services for clients of any income. Homebuyer education courses are also available which are offered in Billings on the second Saturday of every month.



In 2023, a total of **481** clients attended **1,996** financial literacy workshops offered at the Home Center. **531** clients attended a First Time Homebuyer Course. **56** individuals who attended pre-purchase housing counseling closed on a home.



Family Forward

The Family Forward Project is designed to address multiple barriers and needs at once. This project focuses on meaningful life domains for clients to follow, including child care, mental health, transportation, etc.

Through one-on-one case management, clients establish goals and create a feasible plan to meet those goals. A total of **339** services were provided to **42** households and **107** clients to tackle barriers they face for their family in 2023.



Putting it altogether

Child Care Assistance - \$4,890,425
Low Income Energy Assistance - \$1,089,036
Section 8 Housing (Est.) - \$699,147
Pathways Direct Client Assistance - \$65,659
Crow Food Distribution - \$151,417

Total Financial & Commodity Services - \$9,895,984

Revenue & Support

Program Grants – \$10,657,248
Service Fees - \$444,394
Contributions - \$ 6,660
Interest - \$ 33,811
Miscellaneous - \$68,779
In-Kind Contributions - \$1,250

Total - \$11,212,082

Expenses

Community Development - \$175,728
Emergency Food & Housing - \$1,739,464
Energy Programs - \$3,108,028
Employment Assistance - \$1,916,288
Family Development - \$3,196,1120
General & Administrative - \$858,841

Total - \$10,994,461

Campus Directory

Main Office

7 North 31st Street, Billings, MT 59103
Office 406.247.4732 | Fax 406.248.2943

HRDC District 7's Home Center

3124 1st Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101
Office 406.206.2717 | Fax 406.206.2716

Energy Assistance, Alternative Education, Youth

3116 1st Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101
Office 406.247.4778 | Fax 406.247.4791

Crow Food Commodities Warehouse

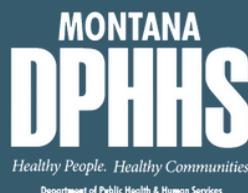
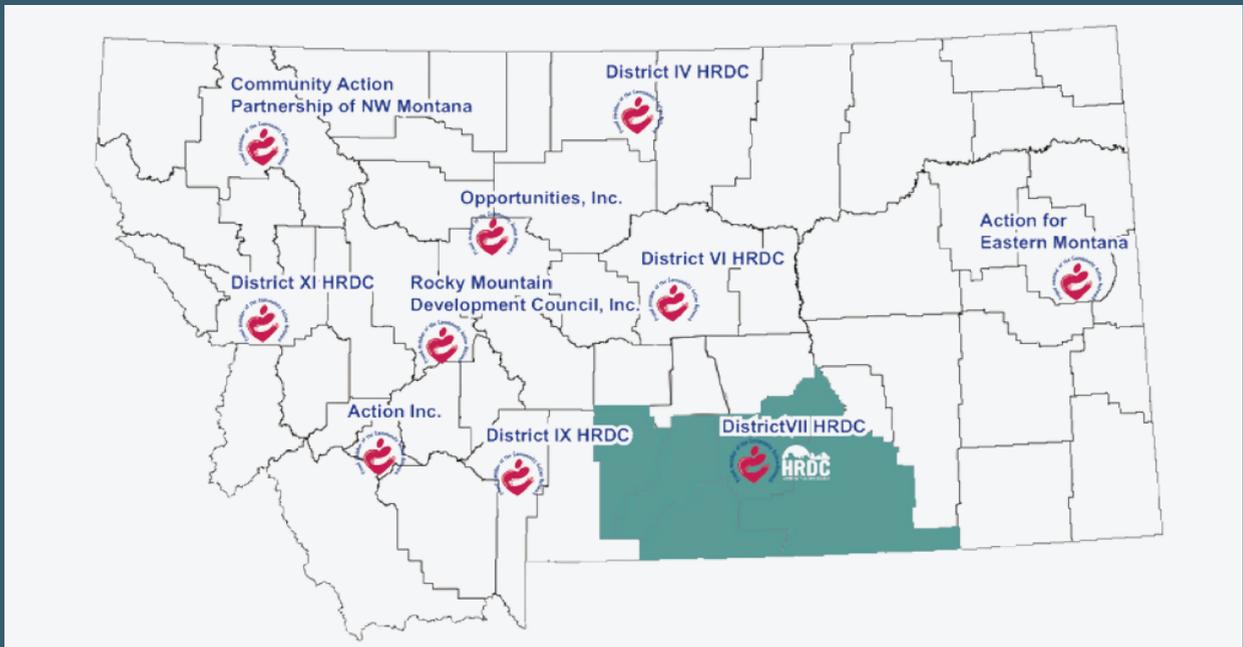
409 North Crook, Hardin, MT 59034
Office 406.665.2523 | Fax 406.665.1026

Find us on social media!



Facebook: @HRDC7 & @HRDC7ChildCare
Instagram: @hrdc7_community_action_agency
LinkedIn: District 7 Human Resource
Development Council

Find us online at hrdc7.org and thehomecenter.org!
Give us a call or email info@hrdc7.org



This project is funded in whole or in part under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department. 50 copies were published at about \$4.85 per copy for a total of \$242.99.