



# District 7, Human Resources Development Council

*Community Action Pages Vol 11 Iss 2*

## The Latest

### Energy Assistance options this summer

With spring officially here and summer on its way, now is a good time as any to find ways to save energy. Our resources in Energy Assistance provide households with ways to afford their energy bill primarily in the winter months. Energy Share is offered year round for energy emergencies, This program helped more than 2,000 households for emergency utility assistance in 2024.



Were you approved during the LIHEAP heating season or have questions about what other energy assistance options are available for warmer months? Call our Energy Services line at 406-247-4778 for additional information.

### Community Action day at the Capitol

April 3<sup>rd</sup> was Montana Community Action day. All 10 districts of the Community Action Network traveled to Helena to talk with their local legislative representatives about how their efforts meet the needs of their communities. It was a day filled with connection and comradery!



Thank you to all the representatives who spoke with us. We appreciate all you did during this legislative session. It was also a great kick off to Community Action Month in May.

### Reminders

#### Finger Printing Appointments

- [Click here to see schedule](#)

#### Billings JobService at HRDC

- Wednesdays 1-3 pm

#### Best Beginnings Applications

- [Click here to learn more](#)
- [Find your Child Care Agency](#)

#### Office Closures

- Juneteenth - 6/19
- Independence Day - 7/04

Click here to sign up  
for our newsletter



or scan  
the QR  
code



# Find us at the Care & Connection Expo May 31

HRDC District 7 will be tabling at the Montana Employment & Training Care & Connection Expo in the Community Room at the Billings Public Library on May 31 from 10am-3 pm. We'll be there to talk about what types of programming available at the agency.

Is there an event you would like HRDC to attend this summer? Contact our outreach team at 406-247-4743.



## Community Spotlight: Veterans Navigation Network

Founded in 2019 by Army Ranger veteran Blake Fuhrman, VNN connects service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF) to vital services across Montana and beyond. With holistic, veteran-led support, VNN provides resource navigation

case management, peer mentorship, and advocacy, serving over 1,500 veterans to date. In January 2025, VNN moved to the HRDC building to accommodate their growing team. Their

### Key Programs & Initiatives

**Warrior Bridge:** Supports Native American veterans through culturally competent resource navigation, intensive case management, peer mentorship, and crisis intervention.

**Family Connection:** Offers spouses, caregivers, and children personalized support, including VA navigation, peer groups, and wellness events

**Justice-Involved Veteran Program:** Assists incarcerated and reentering veterans through reentry case management, court advocacy, peer mentorship, and behavioral health connections.

VetConnect events and resource fairs have connected nearly 2,500 SMVF since 2022 with services and fostered camaraderie through BBQs, wellness outings a new short film initiative featuring local veterans' stories. Click here to learn more about this organization that prioritizes inclusivity, and community rooted solutions for yellow vets and their families

**BHAC Veterans Subcommittee:** leads statewide policy advisory group addressing veteran mental health challenges. Focus areas include PTSD, substance use, and community reintegration.

**Montana Warriors Forward:** drives Montana's statewide suicide prevention effort through leadership in the Governor's Challenge to end veteran suicide and its evolution into Warriors Forward.

**Veteran Service Providers Network:** Coordinates this Montana coalition, providing logistics, engagement, and shared learning to optimize services for veterans.

# A huge thanks to....

Rimrock Subaru for being a WEX Site where Youth clients can build work skills

Western Security Bank for their Donation to HRDC's Home Center!

VELDT Boutique for their generosity in helping our young moms living in Harmony House

Charlene Johnson with Plenty Doors Community Development Corporation and Lodgegrass Mayor Quincy Dabney for letting our Hardin team meet with community members and connect them with our resources