

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

2016  
Annual Report



District 7 HRDC Community Action Agency



## OUR MISSION

To 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.

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Dear Friends,

In 2016, with your help, HRDC was able to make a positive impact on close to 16,000 individuals. Whether it's getting a job, earning a high school diploma, paying for energy bills, or purchasing a home for the very first time, these are all experiences achieved through the many programs of HRDC. Together, with our committed partners, generous funders, dedicated staff, and community leaders, we aim to restore **HOPE**, by extending **RESPECT**, encouraging individuals to **DREAM** of a better future, and ultimately **CHANGE** the economic landscape of our communities.

You are helping us change lives for people, and we are grateful for your support. Together we are helping people move forward. Because when good things happen here, the whole community thrives.

Regards,



Chief Executive Officer

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





# 2016 Outcomes at a Glance

Last year, HRDC assisted **15,991** individuals who came to us for help.

**6,531** individuals received energy assistance

**652** individuals who were unemployed obtained a job

**427** individuals received food assistance

**1,661** community members received no-cost tax preparation

Through **47** different funding sources, and working with **710** different partner

organizations, HRDC was able to assist **7,561** families in our community.



### Child Care Assistance

HRDC administers the state of Montana's Best Beginnings Childcare Scholarship program. Scholarship recipients must meet specific work and income requirements and attend a licensed child care center; registered group center; family child care home; or legally certified child care provider.

**1,599** families obtained child care through the Best Beginnings Scholarship program.

**2,477** children were provided with a safe, healthy child care setting.

**\$6,967,851** subsidized low-income kids at qualifying child care providers.

### Early Childhood Provider Services

HRDC provides oversight and many resources to ensure child care providers are given the tools they need to deliver safe, affordable, and quality services.

**152** trainings were offered to licensed child care professionals.

**657** hours of classroom training were attended.

### Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

HRDC administers the CACFP for the Montana Department of Health and Human Services in our region. This program reduces the costs of child care while ensuring children receive healthy and nutritious meals.



**62** licensed child care providers enrolled in CACFP.

**\$407,599** was reimbursed to licensed providers enrolled in the CACFP program.





# HRDC Education

## Alternative Education

Earning a High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) certificate is the first step in breaking the poverty cycle. HRDC offers one-on-one, self-paced tutoring for low-income individuals ages 16 and older who are pursuing a high school diploma, or who have been unsuccessful in achieving their GED.

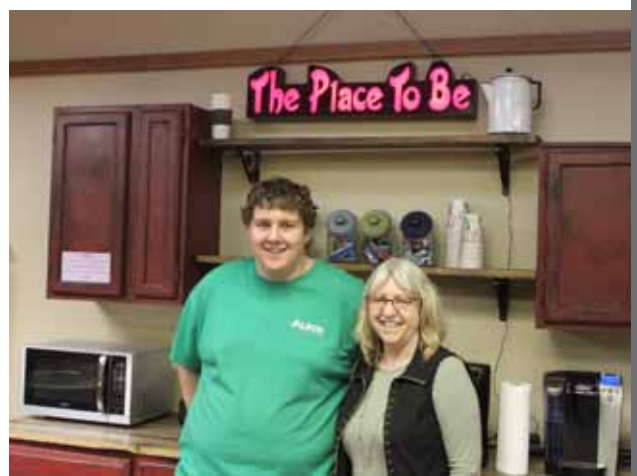
Tutoring is also available for low-income high school students who need assistance with coursework, college prep readiness for the ACT or SAT, driver's license written exams, and remedial reading and math for all ages.

Matt (pictured below) is one of HRDC's recent success stories. Matt completed his HiSET and earned his diploma with the help of the Alternative Education Program. He states:

*"HRDC has helped me in many ways. Before I started, I had no hope in my mind for a diploma or a future of any sorts. Now, thanks to the program, my sight of what I want to be and will be has opened up, and the world is full of opportunities."*

**5,582** hours of tutoring were logged in the HRDC Education Center in 2016.

**115** students received help with either HiSET, ACT, SAT, driver's license exams, or college prep readiness.



# HRDC Employment & Training

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T)

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

**130** individuals found employment.

**\$22,215** was distributed for transportation assistance.

**24** vouchers for clothing were distributed.

## 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 for eligible participants begins at the Office of Public Assistance.

**389** individuals found employment.

**\$123,871** was distributed for transportation assistance.

**1,641** vouchers for clothing were distributed.

**14** individuals received education supplies and class fee assistance.

## Work Experience Program (WEX)

Work sites provide participants with volunteer opportunities to receive mentoring, one-the-job training, and work experience. Participants continue to receive TANF and SNAP benefits while in the program.

**223** individuals received on-the-job training.





# HRDC Emergency Services

## Emergency Solutions Grant

HRDC's Emergency Solutions program helps Yellowstone County residents regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. Eligible individuals seeking emergency shelter, homeless prevention, and rapid re-housing, are assigned a case manager. Shelters and housing must meet minimum safety, sanitation, and HUD standards.

**38** households received security deposits.

**66** months of rent were paid out.

## General Relief

General Relief provides rental assistance to individuals without dependents who are waiting for SSI/SSDI approval.

**17** disabled individuals with no income in the household received housing assistance.

## Continuum of Care, Rapid Re-Housing

**33** households received security deposits.

**57** months of rent were paid out.

## County Burial

**49** low-income families received burial assistance for a loved one.





# HRDC Energy Assistance



## Energy Share

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

**\$222,271** in assistance was provided through Energy Share.

**635** households were assisted through Energy Share.

## Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

LIEAP provides low-income households, both homeowners and renters, with access to residential energy in order to heat their homes and power appliances, including life-saving equipment for the disabled and elderly.

**2,906** households were assisted through LIEAP in 2016.

**\$559.63** was the average household benefit paid.

**\$2237.00** was the maximum benefit paid out to a household.



## 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.

**160** homes were weatherized in 2016.

**31** homes had furnaces replaced using other funds.



# HRDC Food

## Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

HRDC operates the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) in Hardin, serving the Crow Reservation. The program provides a variety of healthy and nutritious foods, from canned fruits and vegetables to dry goods, frozen meats, and fresh produce. All enrolled low-income tribal members living on or near the Crow Reservation are eligible as well as low-income, non-enrolled tribal members and non-native people living on or near the Crow Reservation.

**426** low-income individuals received food through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

# HRDC Transportation

## Wheels for Work

Funded in part by 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.

- 252** families were served.
- 108** households received gas vouchers.
- 97** households received bus passes.
- 47** low-income individuals received car repairs.



# HRDC Housing

## 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 lifeskills 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 as they leave the program.

**12** homeless young mothers were residents of Harmony House Transitional Living Program.



## The Home Center

The Home Center is a one-stop shop for families and individuals looking for information on finding a quality rental, becoming a homeowner, and for homeowners who want to improve their homes or are facing foreclosure.

The Home Center is a collaborative effort among local agencies providing housing services in Yellowstone County: HRDC, Billings Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, Homeward, Rural Dynamics, Inc., the City of Billings, Community Leadership and Development, Inc. (CLDI), and NeighborWorks Montana.

**238** individuals graduated from Homebuyer Education.

**204** individual homeownership planning sessions were conducted.

**82** home purchases were made as a result of these individual planning sessions.

**134** individuals graduated from the RentStrong rental education program.

## Housing Choice Voucher Program

**387** individuals were able to secure safe and affordable rental housing.

**186** families received **\$779,540** in rental assistance paid directly to property owners in our rural communities.



# HRDC 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 up to \$4 depending on the program. While in the savings program, participants learn financial management skills to help improve their economic situation.

**59** program participants saved a total of **\$35,690**.

**14** hard-working savers met their objective and used their savings to purchase a home (8 individuals) or pursue secondary education (6 individuals).

## **VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)**

The VITA program provides no-cost income tax return preparation and electronic filing for individuals and families who have a qualifying adjusted gross income. Both state and federal tax returns are prepared by IRS trained and certified community volunteers.

**1,661** low- to moderate-income individuals had their taxes prepared for free.

**\$2,925,942** income tax refunds total secured.

**33** volunteer tax preparers spent a total of **1,928** hours preparing taxes.



# HRDC Youth



## Youth Employment

The youth employment program provides both summer and year-round work and training opportunities to better prepare Montana's youth ages 16-24. The program goals are aimed at providing long-term economic self-sufficiency.

**63** youth participated in the Work Investment Act Employment and Training Program and  
**26** youth participated in the Youth Corrections Employment and Training Program.

## Summer Work Experience for Youth Employment

Youth employment sites provide youth residing in our five county region with work opportunities to develop skills, knowledge, and work behaviors.

**77** participants enrolled in the Summer Youth Program through TANF and CSBG.  
**69** local businesses participated in the 2016 Youth Employment Program.





HRDC offers thanks to these individuals and businesses for their contributions throughout the year.

A-1 Landscaping	Good Earth Market	St. Vincent's Healthcare
Albertsons (6th & Central)	Great American Bagel	Sam's Club
Albertsons (Main Street)	Ann Guthals	Rob Saylor
Albertsons (Rehberg & Grand)	Healthy by Design	Scheels
Anonymous	Jimmy John's	The Spoke Shop
Baskin Robbins	Denise Jordan	Subway Restaurants, Wally Wovetich
Billings Chamber of Commerce	Keller Williams Premier Brokers	Target (Central Avenue)
Billings Clinic	Kotowicz - Hopa Mountain's StoryMakers	Target (Main Street)
Kevin Booke	Margo Land	Tractor Supply Inc.
Aaron Cofer	LaVie	Twice as Nice
Connoisseur Media	LFMC Foundation	Van's IGA
Costco	Lucky's Market	Walmart (King Avenue)
Dairy Queen	Sharon Miller	Walmart (Main Street)
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Montana-Dakota Utilities Company	Walmart (Laurel)
ExxonMobil Billings Refinery	Mr. Thrifty	Walt Acra, Family Services
Family Services	Oasis Waterpark	Eric Wendt
First Interstate Bank	Barb Pewitt	Wendy's of Montana
Food Services of America	Esther Pewitt	Willard's Garage Inc.
Jeri Fowler	ProBuild Company LLC	Beverly Wirtala
Gainan's	The Reef	Yellowstone Bank
Geyser Park	Riverstone Health	

**289** individuals from the community volunteered their time at HRDC.

**3,011** total hours were given by these volunteers.

**\$72,686** total value of those volunteer hours.

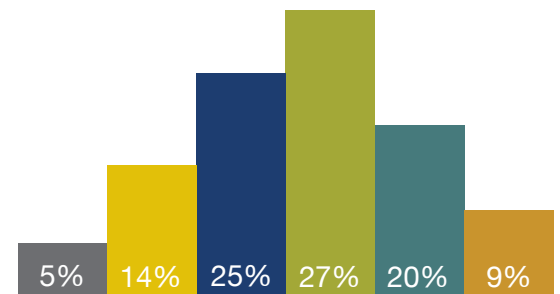


## Revenues:

Program Grants .....	\$6,997,019
Fee for Service .....	309,467
Contributions .....	9,764
Interest .....	815
Rental Income .....	32,177
Miscellaneous .....	30,907
In-Kind Contributions .....	95,333
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,475,682</b>

## Expenses:

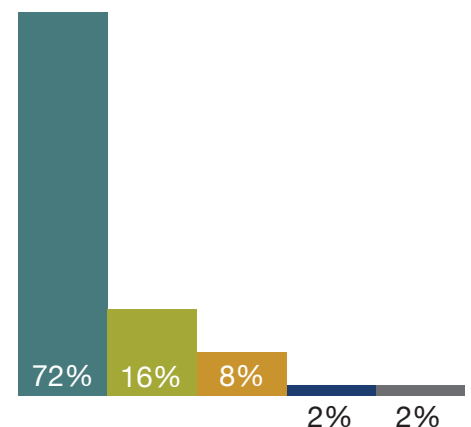
■ Community Development .....	\$410,600
■ Emergency Food & Housing .....	1,060,460
■ Energy Programs .....	1,846,867
■ Employment Assistance .....	1,996,695
■ Family Development .....	1,468,340
■ Management & General .....	746,542
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,529,504</b>



## Client Services:

Client Services leveraged in the community through HRDC's program operations and client benefits paid by the state directly to clients or on their behalf not flowing through HRDC

■ Child Care Assistance .....	\$6,967,851
■ Low Income Energy Assistance.....	1,556,880
■ Section 8 Housing (estimate) .....	753,927
■ Crow Reservation Food Distribution .....	180,002
■ WoRC Client Direct Assistance .....	162,854
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,621,514</b>



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

The Home Center  
3124 1st Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101  
office 406.206.2717 | fax 406.206.2716

Matched Savings/Financial Education  
office 406.206.2717 | fax 406.206.2716

Youth Employment  
3116 1st Avenue North, Billings, MT 59101  
office 406.247.4732 | fax 406.247.4747

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

Find us online at [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).



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