



NEWS ADVISORY

Sept. 25, 2018

For immediate release

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## MISSOULA TO HOLD PILOT PROJECT EMPLOYMENT CONNECT

The Missoula At-Risk Housing Coalition and its partners invite all citizens who are unemployed or underemployed to participate in its first Project Employment Connect event on Friday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lifelong Learning Center at 310 S. Curtis St.

The pilot event is free of charge and requires no appointment. It will focus on building and strengthening employment in the Missoula area by offering hands-on help. Services at the event will include education about job training programs; programs for veterans, youth and young mothers; birth certificate and identification assistance; interview clothing; resume support and interview tips; reading glasses; haircuts; and community resource information.

Participants can also meet face-to-face with these employers:

- Daily's Premium Meats
- LaborMax Missoula
- Missoula Developmental Service Corporation
- Community Medical Center
- Opportunity Resources, Inc.
- LC Staffing
- Building Materials & Construction Solutions
- Missoula Works
- Lowe's Home Improvement
- Montana Air National Guard
- ALCOM LLC, and
- Platinum Career Solutions

For more than 10 years, Missoula's At-Risk Housing Coalition, along with the support of Mayor John Engen and the Missoula Board of County Commissioners, have hosted the annual Project Community Connect (formerly Project Homeless Connect), a one-stop, same-day basic need service and resource event for anyone struggling with housing and income insecurity. This year, the Coalition's planning members decided to pilot a smaller, employment-focused event in an attempt to meet year-round needs. The Coalition will hold the event with partners from the City of Missoula's Office of Housing and Community Development, United Way of Missoula County, Missoula Housing Authority, Missoula Job Service, 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church, Missoula Aging Services, Missoula Works, Big Sky Society for Human Resource Management and Title Services, Inc.

"Our 2018 Homeless Point-in-Time data indicates that the primary reason people lost their permanent housing was that they could not afford to pay their rents," said Theresa Williams, coordinator of Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. "For some people, a living-wage job will prevent losing their homes and all of their belongings; for others, it's just a stepping stone to solving their housing crisis. With this event, ARHC and our partners aim to increase awareness and shift perceptions around homelessness and poverty through personal experience and connection, as well as engage new community volunteers and planning team members and host at a new location."

### **About the At-Risk Housing Coalition**

The Missoula At-Risk Housing Coalition (ARHC) is an ongoing formal task force comprised of representatives from health and human service agencies and governmental departments. ARHC works on issues surrounding low-income housing and homelessness in Missoula and coordinates the local effort to plan and provide comprehensive services through a continuum of care model.

### **For interviews contact:**

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