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CONTACT: Mike Barton, Director, Office of Planning and Grants

PHONE: 258-3874

E-MAIL: mbarton@co.missoula.mt.us

CITY COMPLETES NEW POVERELLO SITE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The City of Missoula today submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a Request for Release of Funds (RROF) on behalf of the Poverello Center, Inc., for a grant awarded in 2009. The funding, if released, will facilitate purchase and construction of a new emergency shelter and soup kitchen at 1106 – 1112 West Broadway, generally known as the Trails End.

In 2009, the Poverello Center, Inc., of Missoula received an Economic Development Initiative (EDI) Special Project grant to expand and/or relocate the homeless shelter and soup kitchen it has operated in an old boarding house at 535 Ryman St. in downtown Missoula since 1981. When HUD provides funding for projects such as this, it requires that local government ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). On Feb. 16, the City published its Environmental Review Record (see <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=1111>), which resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact. That publication initiated a month-long opportunity for public comment on the environmental analysis.

The City received 24 comments and has reviewed each. The City determined that none of the comments identified a material shortcoming in the environmental analysis, as articulated in the Response to Comment the City has made available on its website: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/poverello>. Accordingly, today the City submitted the RROF to HUD.

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Missoula's certification for a period of 15 days from its actual receipt of the RROF only if they are made on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Missoula; (b) the City of Missoula has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;

(c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before the approval of a release of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504, has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region VIII Office, 8ADE, 1670 Broadway Street, Colorado 80202-4801. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

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