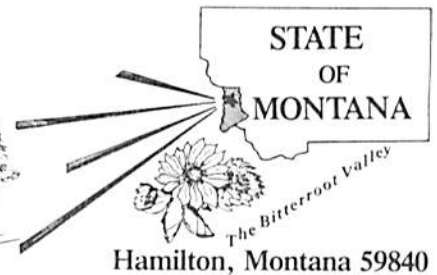
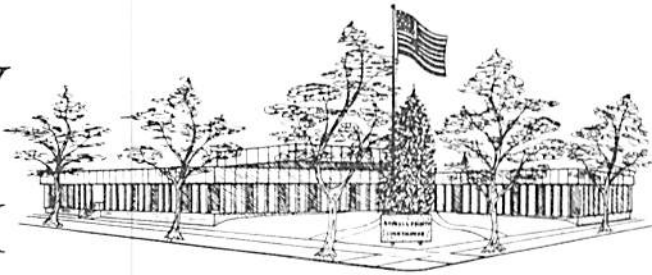


# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Hamilton, Montana 59840

Ravalli County Commissioners  
215 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Hamilton, MT. 59840  
406-375-6500  
commissioners@rc.mt.gov

April 1, 2014

Board of Directors  
Sapphire Community Health, Inc.  
303 N Third Street  
Hamilton MT 59840

Dear Board Members:


The Ravalli County Board of Commissioners would like to express support for the Sapphire Community Health Center, Inc. application to the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration for funding under the New Access Point funding opportunity.


Sapphire Community Health Center (CHC) is requesting funds to establish a community health center that will provide primary and preventative care to lower income residents of Ravalli County. The Community Health Center will be located in Hamilton, Montana. The CHC model of comprehensive primary and preventative care, which will be offered on a sliding fee scale to those at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline, will assist our many lower income and uninsured and underinsured residents to access quality health care.


Of the approximately 40,617 people who reside in the county, 16,479 (41%) have incomes under 200% of poverty (Census Estimate, 2012). In Ravalli County 8,332 (21%) of the county population is uninsured (American Community Survey 2012). The 2012 per capita income in Ravalli County was estimated at \$32,327, well below the state level of \$38,555. The county lies at only 74% of the U.S. per capita income (US Bureau of Economic Analysis). These are but a few of the indicators demonstrating the need for New Access Point funding.

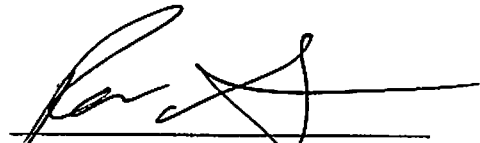
The Ravalli County Board of Commissioners is concerned about the health of all county residents, and therefore is pleased to see a non-governmental organization expend effort to bring accessible quality primary care to medically underserved residents of Ravalli County.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Chilcott, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J.R. Iman, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Burrows, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Stoltz, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Suzy Foss, Member