

Chris Taggart

From: Shantil Siaperas <shantil@mtcounties.org>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 5:22 PM
To: Shantil Siaperas
Subject: FW: Comment Periods and Virtual Public Hearing for HUD "MEGA WAIVER"

Commissioners,

Please see the below email and distribute as necessary.

Thank you,

Shantil Siaperas
Communications Director
Montana Association of Counties

From: Community Development Division <comdev@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Shantil Siaperas <shantil@mtcounties.org>
Subject: Comment Periods and Virtual Public Hearing for HUD "MEGA WAIVER"



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



**COMMENT PERIODS AND VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR HUD
“MEGA WAIVER,” AMENDMENTS TO MONTANA’S 2015–
2019 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND ANNUAL ACTION PLANS, AND
DEVELOPMENT OF MONTANA’S 2020–2024 CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

The State of Montana, through the Departments of Commerce (Commerce) and Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), is

- Requesting a “Mega Waiver” from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that will waive certain regulatory requirements associated with Montana’s Consolidated Plan process and its Community Planning and Development (CPD) grant programs Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS or “HOPWA” and Emergency Solutions Grant or “ESG” to prevent the spread of COVID-19, mitigate its economic impacts, and assist impacted communities and households. Among other things, the waiver will allow for expedited use of CPD grant program funding, provide greater flexibility in noticing and public engagement processes, and extend the development and submission of the State’s 2020–2024

Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development (ConPlan) and 2020–2021 Annual Action Plan (AAP) to August 2021. Importantly, the 2015–2019 ConPlan and 2019 AAP, as well as the 2020–2024 ConPlan and 2020–2021 AAP will outline the use of not only CPD formula program funds but also those funds received as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). CPD grant programs include CDBG, HOME, HTF, ESG, HOPWA, CDBG CARES, and ESG CARES.

- Amending the 2015–2019 ConPlan and associated AAPs for years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Amendments serve the purpose of allowing for the use of CDBG CARES and ESG CARES funds, as well as expanding the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for not only the National Objective of Low and Moderate Income Benefit, but also for the National Objectives of (a) Urgent Need and (b) Slums and Blight. Due to repercussions of COVID-19, the State is considering using CDBG funds for Urgent Need activities.

Commerce and DPHHS will hold a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, **April 14, 2020, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** for the State’s Mega Waiver, 2015–2019 ConPlan and all associated AAP amendments, and 2020–2024 ConPlan development. The public hearing will present citizens with an overview of the State’s efforts to use existing and new resources to effectively respond to COVID-19, enumerate proposed updates to the 2015–2019 ConPlan and all associated AAP documents, and detail 2020–2024 ConPlan development efforts. The hearing will provide all interested parties with an opportunity to give input and participate in the waiver, amendment, and development processes. Comments regarding the Mega Waiver and program changes announced in the aforementioned plans must be submitted to Commerce no later than 5:00 p.m. on **April 15, 2020**. Due to the previously announced public comment period that began on March

29, 2020, Commerce will still respond to any comments submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on **April 28, 2020**, regarding the 2015–2019 ConPlan and AAP amendments, but will implement changes allowed under the Mega Waiver beginning April 16, 2020. Commerce will consider any comments or views provided in writing or orally during the public hearing while implementing its waiver flexibilities, amending its 2015–2019 ConPlan and AAP documents, and/or developing its 2020–2024 ConPlan. Additional presentation materials will also be made available in advance of the public hearing on the Commerce website.

Written comments may be submitted to the address or email below:

Montana Department of Commerce
Community Development Division
Attn: ConPlan
301 S. Park Avenue
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

DOCConPlan@mt.gov

The Mega Waiver and associated documents, updated ConPlan and AAP documents, and additional presentation materials are available on Commerce’s website at <http://commerce.mt.gov/conplan> or upon request.

The public hearing is open to all but will be limited to webinar and phone participation in response to COVID-19. To participate in the public hearing via webinar or phone, please register using the link provided at <http://commerce.mt.gov/conplan>.

Have questions? Email DOCConPlan@mt.gov

The Department of Commerce will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities or who have a Limited English Proficiency and who wish to participate in this process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice or presentation materials. Presentation materials will be provided in advance of the hearing. If you require an accommodation, contact the Department of Commerce no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 13, 2020, to advise us on the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Bonnie Martello or email DOCConPlan@mt.gov.

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

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