

Housing Solutions Fund



UNITED WAY
Missoula County



Prevent homelessness by helping vulnerable Missoula households secure housing, maintain housing, or quickly resolve their homelessness.

United Way's HSF is widely regarded by local caseworkers and city and county government as **one of Missoula's most effective tools to prevent homelessness**. From November 2021 to October 2024, **the HSF has stabilized housing for approximately 715 households – more than 2,000 people**.

People experience homelessness for many different reasons: unaffordable rent, poor credit, negative rental history (including past-due utility payments), a lack of a support network that can lead to eviction, lack of available housing options, not earning enough from a job to pay for housing. Each of these requires a slightly different solution.

The HSF is flexible. It allows caseworkers to ask for and receive the help their clients need – whether it's paying for rental applications for a new apartment, or helping with a utility or rental deposit. Some people simply need a bus ticket to return to their family network outside of Missoula.

- Since November 2021, United Way's HSF has allocated **more than \$582,000** to approximately **715 households**.
- It has supported local people in resolving their housing situation, either by stabilizing their housing and preventing them from falling into homelessness, or assisting them in quickly exiting homelessness.
- The average assistance has increased since the fund opened in November 2021, from \$415 to \$925.
- The most common uses of the fund are for rental deposits and/or assistance, rental-application fees, payment of utility bills in arrears, reunification assistance, and personal identification costs.
- The HSF is **fast and flexible**. The fund can help in the way each person needs it most. It trusts people to identify their own needs and barriers and supports them in finding a resolution. Most requests are evaluated and fulfilled within 72 hours, with payments made directly to housing or other vendors.

The Housing Solutions Fund is made possible through funding and collaboration between United Way of Missoula County, the Human Resource Council, and the City and County of Missoula.

Funders include the City of Missoula, Missoula County, Wells Fargo, the Otto Bremer Trust, and individual donors.

Questions? Contact **Eric Legvold, Director of Impact, United Way of Missoula County** eric@missoulaunitedway.org 406.549.6104



Scan to **Give to the**
HSF now

Version 10.24



Scan to sign up for **updates**
from Reaching Home