

Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) Summary Sheet

Monday, April 13, 2020

Missoula Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) has mobilized to identify, assess and meet community needs that are outside the scope of the COVID-19 incident management team. Missoula's COAD currently includes six task forces addressing key areas of concern: **Economic Recovery, Food Security, Mental/Behavioral Health, Volunteer and Donations Management, Childcare, and Homelessness**. This summary sheet will provide updates on the progress of these task forces.

Economic Recovery

The task force has developed a four-step TEAM approach to navigating the current situation for businesses experiencing impacts due to COVID-19. These steps are designed to give businesses simple and clear guidance to ensure the health and safety of employees and access to available resources. This four-step approach is outlined at covid19.missoula.co/businessassistance <http://www.missoulapartnership.com/>.

The task force has enlisted the help of the University of Montana to quickly establish the Business Emergency Assistance & Recovery, or BEAR, Program. The BEAR Program is organizing navigators to advise businesses that do not have established relationships with dedicated professionals about resources created by the CARES Act. A link to register for assistance through the BEAR Program can be found at the <http://acceleratemontana.umt.edu/covid-resource/default.php>.

Childcare

Essential employees and others seeking childcare can visit covid19.missoula.co/schoolschildcareuniversity for locations and contact information on available childcare. The Missoula Emergency Child Care Task Force is working with the healthcare community to prepare other childcare solutions we may need.

Volunteer and Donations Management

In these unprecedented times, COVID-19 is straining all of us. Financial donations are, by far, the best way to help others in our community.

The United Way of Missoula County has partnered with Missoula County to administer our [emergency/disaster assistance fund](#) and disseminate contributions to this fund in a fair and equitable manner.

Organizations needing volunteers and those wishing to volunteer should use the [Volunteer Missoula](#) site to post needs and to offer services.



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Mental/Behavioral Health

We are working to stabilize our community's mental and behavioral health. Those who would like to reach out or need assistance will find a host of resources at covid19.missoula.co/mental-and-behavioral-health/

Food Security

The food supply at local pantries is stabilizing; however, food pantries are continuously requesting financial contributions to ensure a consistent supply of food. Food distributors, like Meals on Wheels, need PPE for their delivery drivers. Financial donations can be made to United Way or to the individual food bank by accessing their website.

Homelessness

The homelessness task force is working side by side with the health department to ensure critical COVID-19 messaging is reaching this population. Contingency plans are being formulated for shelters, and financial and housing assistance is being sought to limit the spread if an individual tests positive.

