



Update on Grant Funding Received by the City of Billings June 2024

Planning Department Conducts Housing Analysis



The City of Billings Planning & Community Services Department received a \$30,000 grant from the Montana Department of Commerce to be applied toward a housing study to be completed this year in response to the 2023 passage of the Montana Land Use Planning Act by the Montana Legislature.

More About This Project

- Attainable, affordable housing is in short supply in Montana, and in Billings. In passing the Montana Land Use Planning Act, the Montana Legislature spurred cities to reexamine land use policies and zoning in an effort to create more affordable housing options for working families.
- Billings already made adjustments in zoning to allow for more density in housing through zoning policy changes made in 2021.
- With \$30,000 in funding from the Montana Department of Commerce and general fund dollars, the Planning Department is embarking on a thorough local housing analysis. That study will look at population growth, income levels across the City, current housing costs, and current housing types suitable for Billings.
- Based on study findings, recommendations for further changes to zoning should result in an increased supply of affordable and other housing.
- One outcome of the zoning changes would be a reduction in development costs – as developers would not need to go through the rezoning application/approval process as often. A goal of the study is to have enough data to support zoning changes that allow higher density housing development.
- The planning department will also incorporate data and resulting recommendations in the upcoming City of Billings Growth Policy update.

More About This Funding Source

- The Montana Department of Commerce was provided funding by the Legislature in order to support municipalities with funding assistance as they work to comply with the Montana Land Use Planning Act by 2026.
- The grant work period is one year – with expected completion of the study by March 2025.

To learn more about this grant-funded project, contact:

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