

Bank awards \$10K to housing coalition

Funds to support the Park County Housing Coalition

ENTERPRISE STAFF

With help from FHLB Des Moines, Opportunity Bank of Montana has gifted \$10,000 to the Human Resource Development Council of District IX (HRDC) to support the Park County Housing Coalition (PCHC).

“We’re thrilled to be able to provide these much-needed funds to support the PCHC’s Housing Action plan and support opening doors for our neighbors across Park County,” said Megan Watts, Opportunity Bank’s Livingston Branch president. “As a Montana-born community bank, we understand that affordable housing is crucial for healthy communities.”

To help address the problem of housing availability and affordability, more than 80 Park County residents and partners came together to find solutions and lend their support to the Park County Housing Coalition and implement the 2022 Park County Housing Action Plan. Supporting entities include the City of Livingston, HRDC, the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, SW MT Flood Relief Fund, glassybaby, MSU Extension, and the Kendeda Fund.

Opportunity Bank Mortgage Loan Officer Becky Miller sits on the housing coalition’s Steering Committee.

The grant from Opportunity Bank, distributed to the HRDC for use by the PCHC, will provide the last 20% of the local investment required to fund the housing coalition for a second year. The funds were presented on May 14.

The funding was part of a matching program with FHLB Des Moines. These grants are part of a larger effort by FHLB Des Moines to return a portion of their income to the community, with the aim of supporting housing and local development initiatives across its district, which includes 13 states and three U.S. Pacific territories, according to a press release from Opportunity Bank.

“Numerous organizations across this district have benefitted from these efforts,” reads the release. “The recipient nonprofits are leaders in addressing crucial community needs, including affordable housing, economic development, and community improvement.”

The grant to HRDC was one of four issued to Montana nonprofit organizations through the matching program with FHLB Des Moines. Other organizations receiving grants to support affordable housing or community development needs in Montana include:

_ Gallatin Housing Impact Fund — NeighborWorks Montana — \$10,000

_ Homeward — \$10,000

_ NeighborWorks Great Falls — \$10,000 “We truly appreciate FHLB Des Moines and the Member Impact Fund,” said Laura Clark, president and CEO of Opportunity Bank. “This partnership enables our contributions to stretch further, enhancing our support for our communities. Montana thrives on the strength of its communities. Through this partnership, we are continuing our mission of contributing to strong futures for Montanans.”

For more information on the Park County Housing Coalition, visit parkcountyhousing.com.

HOUSING



Megan Watts, at left, presents a check to Lila Fleishman and Katherine Daly. Watts is president of Opportunity Bank Livingston Branch, Fleishman is HRDC District IX Community Development Director, and Daly is the Park County Housing Coalition program manager. OPPORTUNITY BANK

[Copyright \(c\) 2024 Livingston Enterprise, Edition 5/16/2024](#)
[Powered by TECNAVIA](#)
