



7/19/22

To: Honorable Mayor Cole, Administrator Kukulski, and Members of Council

From: Matt Lundgren, Executive Director Montana Rescue Mission

Proposal: Addressing Public Safety Community Needs Through Emergency Sheltering Services

The Need: Billings has experienced a dramatic increase of individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues gathering at various locations throughout our community and becoming a public health and public safety issue. These individuals are negatively impacting law enforcement, public services and private businesses. This increase has been exacerbated by the pandemic and the legalization of marijuana. The community has expressed a desire to work toward addressing this issue by directing a portion of the public safety mil levy toward mitigating this impact.

The City Council also has an opportunity to direct some funds from the marijuana tax money to help mitigate these negative impacts on public safety driven by mental health issues and substance abuse. (In harmony with our proposal, a Mobile Crisis Response Team is also necessary to meet those in crisis on our streets that are not interested in pursuing solutions and directing them to services in ways that require special training and expertise beyond the training of law enforcement. We fully support this effort.) In addition to a Mobile Crisis Response Team, once people in mental health and substance abuse crisis's are stabilized, there is a need for housing these individuals beyond the confines of a costly jail cell or the Crisis Center, which is limited to 17 beds.

The Response: Montana Rescue Mission proposes that we use our 75 years of expertise, our facilities and our well-trained staff to help the city address this community need. In partnership with the Mobile Crisis Response Team, Law Enforcement and the Crisis Center, we will provide an emergency shelter for people whose mental health and substance abuse issues do not require hospitalization or incarceration. Provided people are not a danger to themselves or the other clients we serve, we will welcome guests nightly to our emergency shelter seven days a week, 365 days a year. We know that homelessness is not seasonal and the needs of law enforcement and public safety for mental health and substance abuse mitigation in our city do not cease with the warm weather.

We are asking the city to take an active partnership with us by helping fund a portion of our emergency shelter service and thereby expand our ability to meet the growing community need and offer a path forward to individuals experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues combined with homelessness. Due to both the pandemic and the legalization of marijuana, we have seen homeless individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues increase 40%. This increase is straining our resources and city help is needed to avoid a larger community crisis. As individuals who are a risk to public safety with mental health and/or substance abuse issues stay with us in our emergency shelter partially funded by city dollars, they will be provided avenues through which to access our long term shelter services which include licensed addiction counseling, mental health therapy, case management, food, clothing, spiritual care, and basic medical care.

The goal of Montana Rescue Mission in this partnership with the City is to promote Public Safety by working with individuals experiencing mental health or substance abuse issues combined with homelessness and to direct them towards healthier lifestyles, more productive decision making, and ultimately, stabilization which leads to reintegration into society, an enlarged workforce, and more productive taxpaying citizens. While other entities may want to take on this sheltering responsibility by providing a bed on a part time or seasonal basis, the Montana Rescue Mission will not only provide a bed but also access to our robust stable of resources (see attached) to help individuals end their homelessness and move forward out of addiction and mental health crises.

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www.montanarescuemission.org

The Impact: As you are aware, Montana Rescue Mission’s investment in our community is substantial. We have proven this by the work we have done for the last 75 years to successfully lead thousands out of homelessness. It is also proven by our current investment in a new campus which is a \$22 million solution driven space to help aid in ending homelessness and promoting public safety in our community.

I invite you to see the attached “Services synopsis” and “Shelter Impact Data” that describes the fruit of our work at ensuring Public Safety in our community.

We know of no other organization that has our type of reach, history, housing, shelter, counseling, care, or commitment to invest in helping individuals who are a Public Safety risk and who are experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues combined with homelessness. It is our aim to honor taxpayer intent and steward taxpayer dollars to best mitigate impacts on Public Safety by providing emergency shelter services.

Proposed Budget: Addressing Public Safety Community Needs Through Emergency Sheltering Services

Category	Annual Cost
Staffing:	\$373,300
Sheltering:	\$ 60,000
<u>Data/Admin/Overhead:</u>	<u>\$ 76,700</u>
Total Annual Budget/ Request	\$510,000

Terms and Conditions:

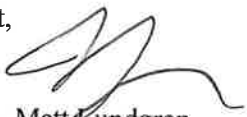
- 24 Month Contract.
- Payable in quarterly installments, net 30 days from invoice.
- We will operate our emergency shelter 365 days per year.
- We will accept those who are not a danger to themselves or others.
- We will accept qualifying referrals from Law Enforcement, Mobile Crisis Team, and Crisis Center, as well as walk ins.
- We will file quarterly reports with numbers served, numbers moved to our regular shelter, number of law enforcement, crisis center or mobile crisis unit referrals/hand offs as well as walk ins.
- We will meet with the City Administrator to deliver this data and provide quarterly updates.

We invite you to consider our proposal as detailed in our budget (above), impact data and operational specifics (attached).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

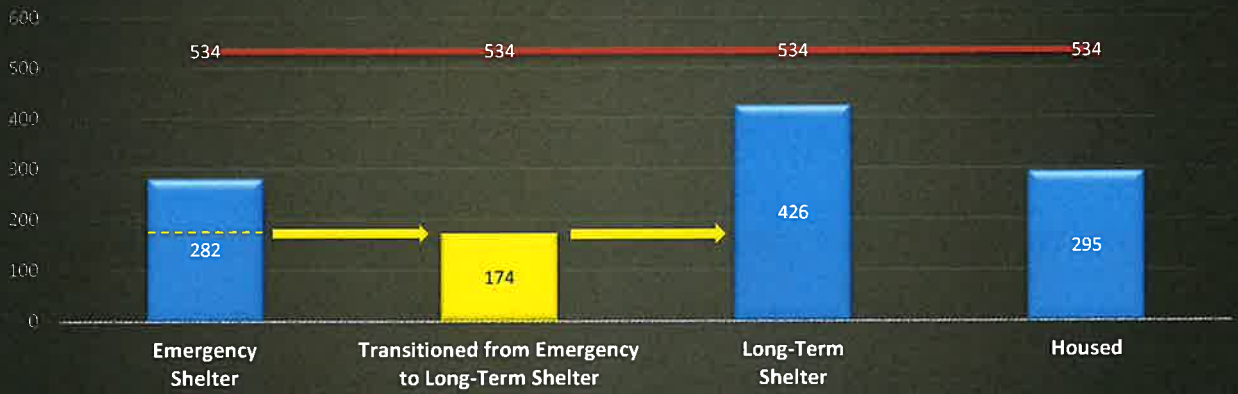
Thank you for this consideration.

Best,



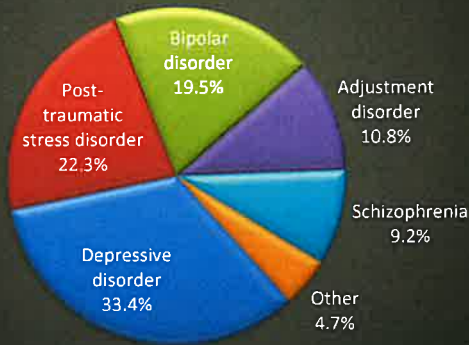
Rev. Matt Lundgren
Executive Director
Montana Rescue Mission

MRM Services Provided
 4/2022 through 6/2022 (one quarter)
 Total Unduplicated People Served = 534



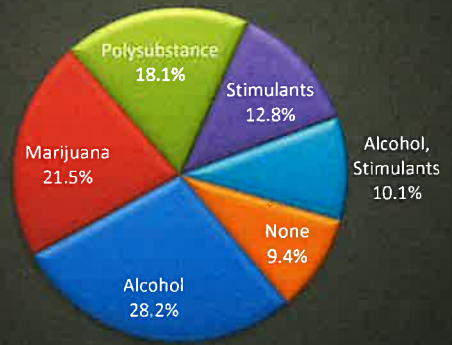
Population Mental Illness Diagnosis

4/2022 through 6/2022
 Total Unduplicated People Served = 534

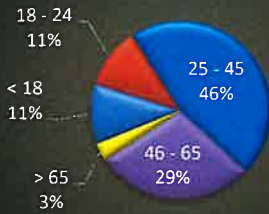


Population Substance Abuse Disorders

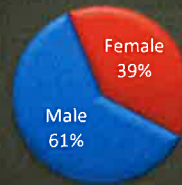
4/2022 through 6/2022
 Total Unduplicated People Served = 534



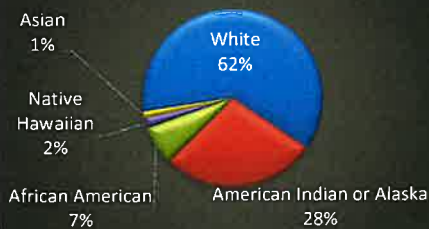
Age



Sex



Race



Ethnicity



Marital Status





Our Mission

To reflect the love of Jesus Christ, by providing emergency, temporary, and rehabilitative care for those experiencing hunger and homelessness.

Services for those in need. Men, Women, and Family Shelter

Basic Needs

We meet basic needs, such as, meals, showers, clothing, transportation, and laundry service.

Shelter

We offer safe emergency, temporary, and rehabilitative care facilities with secured entrances and surveillance systems. We provide 24/7/365 care with full support staff.

Behavioral Health/Case Management

We provide comprehensive mental health and addiction services which include peer support, group therapy, individual therapy, and clinical assessments.

Addiction Recovery

We provide substance abuse counseling through support and recovery groups. We offer chemical dependency evaluations.

Childcare/Youth Programs

We provide preschool/afterschool programs so families can work on themselves during their stay. We offer programs for youth ages 3-19, as well as, parenting education and support.

Vocational Training

We provide job skills training and internship programs to help guests gain experience to get back into the workforce.

Transitional Support

We provide rental assistance and transportation to allow guests to find safe, permanent, affordable housing and a means to get back and fourth to work.

Medical

We help with basic health check-ups and assist with referrals for medical support.

Education and Personal Growth

We offer adult education and training to help with financial skills, life skills and healthy living skills.

Housing

We help guests overcome housing barriers & assist with housing search & retention. Assist with essential housing needs, such as furniture and cookware and provide household management coaching.

LIVES • CHANGE • HERE

For More Information or to Learn About How We Can Help,
Please Visit us at 2822 Minnesota Avenue, Billings, MT 59101

www.montanarescuemission.org