



January 22, 2024

P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59103  
P 406.657.8433  
F 406.657.8390

Montana Department of Commerce  
Community Development Division  
301 S. Park  
P.O. Box 200523  
Helena, MT 59620

Subject: Support for Grant Application – Montana Community Reinvestment Plan Act (HB 819)

To Whom it May Concern,

The Billings City Council is writing to express its support for the submittal of our grant application under the Montana Community Reinvestment Plan Act (HB 819). The purpose of this grant is to address housing needs and offer a regional, community-based solution to creating affordable, attainable workforce housing infrastructure in the state.

As per Section 22 of HB 819, \$1 million has been appropriated to the Department of Commerce to provide planning grants to local governments and tribal governments for planning and zoning reforms aimed at increasing housing supply. The City of Billings, in alignment with the 2023 Legislature's passing of the Montana Land Use Planning Act (SB 382), is set to launch a new round of comprehensive planning, specifically a growth policy update, in early 2024.

Our City Council has budgeted \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2024 to conduct this comprehensive planning effort over the next two and a half years. A crucial component of this initiative is the Housing Analysis, mandated by SB 382, which will inform the future zoning and infrastructure plans of the city to accommodate the projected number of housing units needed in the next 20 years.

We are seeking your support for our grant application to fund the Housing Analysis component of the comprehensive planning. The grant, administered by the Montana Department of Commerce Community Division, has a maximum limit of \$30,000, and we are proposing the full amount to support this essential project addressing our city's housing needs.



---

P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59103  
P 406.657.8433  
F 406.657.8390

Your support in this endeavor is crucial to the success of our comprehensive planning efforts and the realization of our shared goal to enhance housing opportunities for our community. We believe that this grant will significantly contribute to the success of our Housing Analysis, enabling us to plan for the future growth and development of our city effectively.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your support and collaboration in securing the necessary resources to address the housing needs of the City of Billings.

Sincerely,

William A. Cole, Mayor  
City of Billings



CITY OF  
**Billings**

---

P.O. Box 1178  
Billings, MT 59103  
**P** 406.657.8433  
**F** 406.657.8390

---

[billingsmt.gov](http://billingsmt.gov)