



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297 (406) 552-6001

July 11, 2025

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
U.S. House of Representatives
224 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Zinke,

I am writing to respectfully urge your support for continued funding of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and to oppose any efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce this essential federal investment. The CDBG program delivers measurable, life-changing benefits to your constituents in Missoula and across Montana, supporting housing stability, economic resilience, and local control over critical community needs.

Since 2020 alone, CDBG funds have been used in Missoula to:

- Provide priority rehabilitation for **118 affordable housing units**
- Construct **406 new affordable homes**
- Acquire **2 affordable community land trust homes**
- Install accessibility ramps for **22 households living with disabilities**
- Offer financial and housing education to **1,465 individuals**, and more

These investments are not abstract; they provide tangible, cost-effective support to veterans, seniors, families, and people with disabilities. This work **reduces long-term public expenditures related to emergency services, healthcare, and shelter reliance, while promoting dignity, independence, and stability for Montanans.**

We are especially grateful for your leadership and advocacy for veterans. Missoula's CDBG funds have supported emergency housing and service facilities that assist veterans experiencing homelessness—an area where your voice and commitment have made a real difference. This work directly supports shared state and federal goals to reduce and ultimately end veteran homelessness.

CDBG's flexibility is also one of its greatest strengths. As someone who has consistently supported **decentralized, community-driven solutions**, you'll recognize the value in a program that empowers local governments to prioritize their own needs through structured community

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engagement. In Missoula, our CDBG funding decisions are shaped by robust public input and formal planning processes like our Consolidated Plan, ensuring that federal dollars are aligned with Montana-defined priorities.

Representative Zinke, the CDBG program is a proven, accountable investment that produces real outcomes in communities across your district. **The City of Missoula's annual CDBG allocation catalyzes millions of private sector dollars each year on projects that meet community goals.** We respectfully ask that you stand with Missoula and other Montana communities by voting to preserve and protect this vital program.

Thank you for your continued service and for your dedication to the people of Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrea Davis". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Andrea Davis
Mayor