



Between 1973 and 1993, 2.2 million low-rent units disappeared from the market.

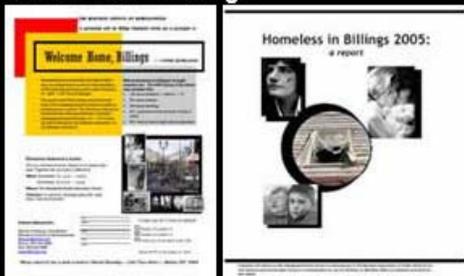
DATES TO REMEMBER

November 14 -- 15

Welcome Home, Billings: a community-based strategic planning process for addressing homelessness

-- **Mansfield Health Education Center**

- **Executive Summary** September 1, 2005 stakeholder meetings



Montana Council on Homelessness

MISSION: To develop and implement strategies to prevent and reduce homelessness in Montana overall and to end chronic homelessness by 2014.

- MTCoH
- Services: Access & Delivery
- Special Needs
- Housing
- Finance & Resources
- Education Jobs & Training
- Links

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[Acknowledgements](#)

Montana has been invited to take a team to the Policy Academy on Homeless Families with Children November 1 -- 3. The team will examine strategies for addressing homelessness among this population for inclusion in Montana's plan to end homelessness.



MTCOH

**Services:
Access &
Delivery**

**Special
Needs**

Housing

**Finance &
Resources**

**Education
Jobs &
Training**

Links

NEWS

Montana Council on Homelessness
e-News Updates

The MTCOH periodically distributes e-News Updates with news related to homelessness.

- August 2005: [Volume II, Issue 6](#)
 - June 2005: [Volume II, Issue 5](#)
 - April 2005: [Volume II, Issue 4](#)
 - March 2005: [Volume II, Issue 3](#)
 - February 2005: [Volume II, Issue 2](#)
 - January 2005: [Volume II, Issue 1](#)
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- December 2004: [Volume I, Issue 4](#)
 - October 2004: [Volume I, Issue 3](#)
 - August 2004: [Volume I, Issue 2](#)
 - August 2004: [Volume I, Issue 1](#)

To subscribe, write to Sherrie@MTCOH.org and write "Join Listserv" in the subject line.

Fresh News Daily

Newsfeed!

Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco News

- [Study: Blacks Have Less Access to Painkillers](#)
- [Alcohol Sting Cases Imperiled Over Identity of Informants](#)
- [BAT Said to Run Secret North Korean Cigarette Plant](#)
- [Violent Crime Down, But Youth Drug Arrests Increase](#)
- [Court Ends Gov't Bid to Take Past Tobacco Profits](#)
- [Cancer Risk from Tobacco Greater than Marijuana Smoking, Researcher Says](#)
- [Games Like 'Bud Pong' Seen as Front for Binging](#)
- [Smokers' Bones Take Longer to Heal, But Quitting Helps](#)
- [Denied Treatment by Managed Care? Tell Us Your Story](#)
- [Mass. to Open Recovery High School](#)

SOAR

Montana was one of 11 states recently chosen to participate in the SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) technical assistance opportunity sponsored by the Policy Academies to Improve Access to Mainstream Programs. This opportunity will provide a 2-day, professionally facilitated, action planning session that will yield community-specific approaches to increased access to disability benefits for homeless persons. This will be followed by a 4-day Train-the-Trainer program in December, and follow-up technical assistance.

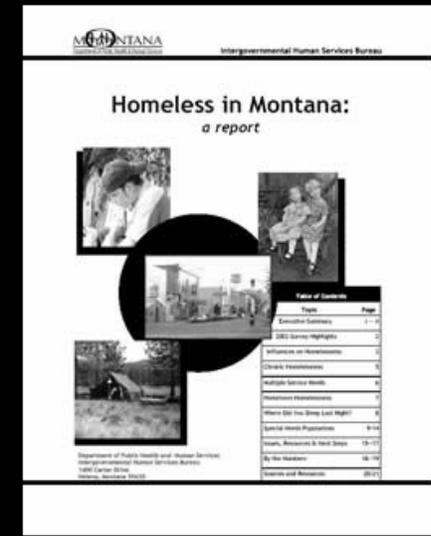


RESOURCES

- MTCoH
- Services: Access & Delivery
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- [Homeless in Montana, a report \(2004\)](#)
- [Executive Summary, Homeless in Montana \(2004\)](#)
- [Executive Summary, Homeless in Montana \(2005\)](#)
- Links to all copies of the MTCoH e-news updates have been included under the [News](#) link on this site.
- [Composite Homeless Survey 2003](#)
- [2005 Survey of the Homeless](#)

- www.MTCoH.org is intended to be a resource-rich site. If you have a resource you would like to add, please send a note and a link to Sherrie@MTCoH.org.
- If you run across a broken link, please e-mail Sherrie@MTCoH.org with the link.



Getting the Word Out

- Website
 - Link at bottom of all e-mails
 - Invitation to join listserv at bottom of all e-mails
 - Links to numerous resources on homelessness
 - Links to all MTCoH members
- Publications:
 - Homeless in Montana...Billings...Helena
 - e-News Update
 - Links on our website and others
- Public speaking and *not so public speaking*: putting a face on homelessness
 - Local television
 - Conferences
- Local surveys and focus groups
 - Local service inventories
 - Services, capacity, contact information

SO NOW WHAT?

Focus on Implementation, Integration, and Systems Change

- Change starts with a consistent message delivered over time. Montana's message is *"Homelessness is a problem in Montana, and the homeless aren't necessarily who you think they are."*
- Messages have to be structured to create the maximum possible impact
- Data, research, local information and *STORIES* must be combined to hit people intellectually and emotionally
- Part of this means bringing people together to talk about the issue: the Council, workgroups, strategic planning sessions...
- Implementation: When the message has begun to pick up momentum, there has to be some visible action — demonstration project, visible plans, activities, and the press.
- Integration — bringing people together from all points of the circle, using a consistent message, implementing consistent policies and being very inclusive
- Systems Change: *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell compares social change to an epidemic and says that at a certain point, things change "all at once"
- When enough people hear and buy in, they repeat it...begin to make small changes. The message hits critical mass when it takes on momentum of its own.



For more information, contact Sherrie Downing, Coordinator, MTCOH, at Sherrie@MTCOH.org