

LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR PROJECT GRANT
Under Title III of the Older Americans Act
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
Summary Sheet

Applicant Agency: HRDC, District IX

Mailing/Street Address: 32 South Tracy
City, State, Zip: Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-587-4486

Compliance Director: Hannah Altman
Transportation Director: Sunshine Ross
E-Mail: haltman@thehrdc.org; sross@thehrdc.org

Type of Organization: City County Private Non-Profit Other (specify):

Geographic area to be served: Gallatin and Park Counties

List services to be provided:	Estimated # of unduplicated persons to be served during project period for each services type:	Estimated # of unduplicated units of service during project period for each listed service type:
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Homemaker Program	Gallatin County	Units of service
Homemaker – Personal Care	20	1200 hours
Respite Services	5	300 hours
Homemaker Program	Park County	
Homemaker – Personal Care	20	1000 hours
Respite Services	10	500 hours
Galavan	Gallatin County	
Para Transit Services	300	17,500 rides
RSVP	Gallatin and Park Counties	
Volunteer Opportunities	150	22,000 hours
SHIP/I&A	Gallatin and Park Counties	
	300	375 units of service
Senior Reach	Gallatin and Park Counties	
	55	220 units of service

Applicant agrees that the project described in this Letter of Intent will be operational July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 and certifies that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information in this application is true and correct and the attached conditions will be complied with if the grant is awarded.

Heather Grenier

Type or print person authorized to sign

Signature

President/CEO

Title

Date

Linda Young

Type or print person authorized to sign

Signature

Board Chair

Title

Date

LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR PROJECT GRANT
Under Title III of the Older Americans Act
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Project Description Sheet

1. Service or Project Name: HRDC Homemaker Program– Gallatin and Park Counties

2. Provide a description of how your program will spend the Title III funding.

Title III funding will be spent on the Homemaker Program in providing in-home non-medical homemaking services and respite services to low-income, at-risk adults 60 and older and their caregivers allowing them to live safely and independently in their own homes. We serve low-income at-risk seniors in maintaining their dignity and independence. Services include weekly homemaker visits and one on one support. Homemakers provide weekly assistance with basic household assistance such as essential shopping, laundry, light meal preparation and light housekeeping. As of Feb 2025, we no longer provide skilled nursing care for our Homemaker customers in Gallatin County.



The Homemaker Program develops and delivers services based on an individual's needs as well as considering the nature of their support system of family and friends. We assist low-income seniors who are at risk of premature nursing home placement due to lack of involvement from family or friends and/or lack of financial resources to pay for the necessary services needed to live safely in their own homes.

Poverty is a common thread among seniors across the country and southwest Montana is no exception. All of our current Homemaker customers earn less than \$19,562/year (125% of Federal Poverty Line) which is significantly less than what is necessary according to the Elder Index.

Gallatin County, MT

RENTER

The Elder Index is:
\$31,464 / year
*This is 94% of the national average of
\$33,348*



 Miscellaneous (Single) **\$356**
 Transportation (Single) **\$286**
 Housing (Renter) **\$916**

 Food (Single) **\$324**
 Poor health **\$740**
Monthly Total **\$2,622**

Park County, MT

RENTER

The Elder Index is:
\$30,156 / year
*This is 90% of the national average of
\$33,348*

 Miscellaneous (Single) **\$356**
 Transportation (Single) **\$286**
 Housing (Renter) **\$807**

 Food (Single) **\$324**
 Poor health **\$740**
Monthly Total **\$2,513**

*The Elder Index measures how much income an older adult requires to meet his or her basic needs without assistance. The index does not include extras such as vacations, meals out, entertainment, electronics or gifts.

Providing Homemaker and Respite services through HRDC costs just **\$259 per month/customer**—a fraction of cost of **\$4908 per month for an assisted living facility**, translating to **over 94% in savings**. As of 2024, according to Genworth's Cost of Care Survey, the average cost of residing in an assisted living

facility in Montana is \$4,908/month. Without our Homemaker services helping individuals maintain their independence, Medicaid would cover the significantly higher costs of assisted living.

3. Statement of how your project will coordinate services with other community programs. (Include a description of referral systems.)

We actively collaborate with healthcare providers, social service agencies, and nonprofit organizations to create a network of care. By leveraging these partnerships, we maximize resources, avoid service duplication, and enhance the overall well-being of those we serve. We utilize a referral system to connect clients with essential community resources including other HRDC programs:

Client Assessment & Identification of Needs:

- Staff conducts thorough assessments to determine the specific needs of each client.
- We identify gaps in services and explore external resources that could provide additional support.

Referral Process:

- We maintain a directory of community programs, including healthcare services (Community Health Partners, Bozeman Health, Livingston Healthcare), housing assistance, food banks, transportation providers (Galavan, Streamline, Angel Line and Wind Rider) and mental health resources (CHP, local LCSW providers, L'Esprit).
- When a need is identified, we make direct referrals through these established partnerships, ensuring a smooth transition to the appropriate service.
- We assist clients in navigating application processes (SNAP, Medicaid Waiver, Medicare Enrollment, Meals on Wheels) and follow up to confirm they have accessed the needed support.

Collaboration with Key Community Partners:

- Healthcare Providers: We work closely with hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and home healthcare agencies to ensure clients receive medical care, therapy, and assistive devices.
- Other Senior Services Providers: Through partnerships with senior centers, AARP, in home providers, we help connect clients with in-home support, meal delivery services, and financial assistance programs.
- Housing & Emergency Assistance: We coordinate with shelters, subsidized and supportive housing, and energy assistance programs to help clients maintain safe and stable living conditions.
- Social & Emotional Support: Mental health services, support groups, and volunteer companion programs (Befrienders) are key partners in addressing emotional and psychological well-being.

Ongoing Monitoring & Follow-Up:

- Our team maintains regular contact with both clients and partner agencies to ensure successful service connections.
- We adjust referrals as needed based on evolving circumstances and emerging needs.

4. Statement of how your project will fulfill the mission of the Older Americans Act. (Include a description of criteria for selection of clients, outreach and targeting activities and how the project fulfills the objectives of the Older Americans Act.)

The OAA's mission is to help older people maintain maximum independence in their homes and communities and to promote a continuum of care for the vulnerable elderly. The mission of HRDC is to instill hope, develop resources, design solutions and change lives. We envision a place where poverty has no impact because opportunities and quality of life are equally afforded to everyone. We believe the essential needs of our grandparents and your grandparents must be met. We specifically serve older adults in maintaining their dignity and independence while living safely in their own homes.

Our criteria and selection include individuals age 60 and older, low income, have no appropriate and/or affordable alternative for care. Priority is given for those 75 and older. All of our services are provided at **no cost** to the senior or their caregiver.

We focus outreach efforts on community organizations that serve seniors and provide assurance that those most in need will be made aware of our service. In particular, those having ongoing contact with seniors include Bozeman, Belgrade, Livingston, Manhattan and Three Forks Senior Centers, Help Center, Veteran's Administration, MT Dept. of Public Health and Human Services – Senior and Long Term Care Program Officer, Home Health Agencies, Physicians, Discharge Planners, Nursing Homes, and senior and low income housing. Additional outreach efforts include distribution of flyers, webpage (www.thehrdc.org), weekly outreach at Senior Centers, staff involvement in community meetings, and the HRDC Board of Directors.

Key Metrics (FY 23-24)

1. **How many clients are you serving?** 56 seniors
2. **Who are they?** Low income at risk seniors (60 years and older) living independently and caregivers
3. **What services do you give them?** Monthly Skilled Nursing Care (Gallatin County only), Weekly Homemaker Assistance and Respite Care
4. **What does it cost?** \$173,847
5. **What does it cost per service delivered?** \$173,847, divided by 3276 service hours = \$53/service (436 Skilled Nursing hours, 2142 Homemaker hours and 689 Respite hours)
6. **What happens to the clients as a result of the service?** The goal is for clients to maintain their dignity and remain safely in their own homes.
7. **What does it cost per outcome?** \$173,847 divided by 56 clients = \$3104/year to keep a senior safely in their own home.

Customer Story:

Daniel, a 74-year-old gentleman, has lived much of his life in solitude. Estranged from his only remaining family member, his sister, he had no real social connections beyond polite exchanges with neighbors and occasional coffee outings at a nearby restaurant. A fiercely private and independent person, Daniel never relied on others for support. However, after suffering a fall that left him with a broken hip, he found himself struggling to keep his apartment in livable condition. He was at risk of losing his apartment due to failure to pass an inspection. With great reluctance, he reached out to us for help.

From the start, Daniel was paired with Luther, a Homemaker/Helper who proved to be a perfect match. Though hesitant at first, Daniel gradually became comfortable with our visits. The weekly interactions with our kind, compassionate, and nonjudgmental staff became more than just assistance—they became a source of comfort and connection. His apartment was no longer a source of stress, and he found reassurance in knowing that people genuinely cared about him. Through our support, we also identified other unmet needs, including his long-standing dental issues. Thanks to the Donated Dental Program, Daniel received dentures for the first time, significantly improving his quality of life.

Then, one Sunday morning, Daniel called in distress—he had fallen and couldn't get up. As I asked him questions, he described how his feet had "slipped out from under" him and how it hurt to move. I suspected another hip fracture and urged him to stay still while we called EMS. Surprisingly, his first concern was not for himself, but for his beloved elderly cat, Willie. He was anxious about who would care for Willie in his absence.

Our program typically adheres to strict guidelines, but sometimes, extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary measures. With no viable alternative, staff shared daily visits to ensure Willie was well cared for. We recognized that Daniel's emotional well-being was just as crucial as his physical recovery.

During his hospital stay, Daniel struggled emotionally. One day, he called, overwhelmed and in need of a morale boost. Staff knew exactly what might lift his spirits—we arranged a surprise visit from Willie. The moment Daniel saw his cherished cat, his mood transformed instantly. It was a heartwarming success.

As his recovery continued, Daniel was transferred to rehab for a few weeks. To make his stay more comfortable, we shopped for essentials—sweatpants, shirts, t-shirts, and underwear—ensuring he had everything he needed. Meanwhile, staff kept him updated on Willie's well-being, which gave us the perfect opportunity to prepare his apartment for his return.

With volunteer's help, we fixed Daniel's broken bed, deep-cleaned the space, stocked up on convenient food (for both Daniel and Willie), and even provided a new comforter, pillows, and sheets. We also hooked up his television, making sure he'd be comfortable once he was back home. Additionally, we coordinated with Daniel's rehab nurse to arrange for a walker, bath bench, and other assistive devices that would aid in his recovery.

Today, Daniel and Willie are doing well—almost back to normal. Through compassion, connection, and a little extra care, we've helped ensure that Daniel can continue living independently with dignity, surrounded by the love of his most loyal companion.

5. If extra funding was available, what would you do to increase services and how would you plan to spend the money?

We would use additional funds to increase wages for our staff as well as serve additional customers. Currently we have over 50 individuals on our wait list.

6. Please provide letters of support from other local community-based and/or institutional programs, agencies or organizations involved with older adults.

See attached letters of support

7. List wage range of all employees funded in full or in part by this contract: \$20.00- \$58.00

8. Project *unit* cost: \$173,847, divided by 3276 service hours = \$53/service (436 Skilled Nursing hours, 2142 Homemaker hours and 689 Respite hours)

9. Is this project covered by liability insurance? Yes

How much? \$4,000,000 (General) \$2,000,000 (Professional Liability)

10. How many years has this project received Title III funding: 45 years (Park County) and 30 years (Gallatin County)

Please provide a detailed estimated budget for this Title III service for the fiscal year 2025-2026 as follows
(list appropriate estimated resources):

Homemaker Services– Gallatin County

Expenses	7/1/25-6/30/26	Resources	7/1/24-6/30/26
Personnel and fringe	\$50,600.00	Area IV Funds	\$62,350.00
Admin	\$11,000.00	Other: Donations	
Insurance	\$1000.00	Other: County	\$3,500.00
Supplies	\$500.00		
Communication	\$600.00		
Space	\$1000.00		
Travel/Training	\$1150.00		
TOTAL	\$65,850.00	TOTAL	\$65,850.00

Respite Services – Gallatin County

Expenses	7/1/25-6/30/26	Resources	7/1/25-6/30/26
Personnel and fringe	\$34,855.00	Area IV Funds	\$31,000.00
Admin	\$8,020.00	Other: Donations	\$9,500.00
Insurance	\$100.00	Other: County	\$4,500.00
Supplies	\$50.00		
Communication	\$250.00		
Space	\$975.00		
Travel/Training	\$750.00		
TOTAL	\$45,000.00	TOTAL	\$45,000.00

Homemaker Services – Park County

Expenses	7/1/25-6/30/26	Resources	7/1/25-6/30/26
Personnel and fringe	\$32,626.00	Area IV Funds	\$35,550.00
Admin	\$8,024.00	Other: Donations	\$1,250.00
Insurance	\$750.00	Other: Private Foundation(s)	\$2,500.00
Supplies	\$500.00	Other: HRDC	\$4,000.00
Communication	\$250.00	Other:	
Travel/Training	\$1150.00		
TOTAL	\$43,300.00	TOTAL	\$43,300.00

Respite Services – Park County

Expenses	7/1/25-6/30/26	Resources	7/1/25-6/30/26
Personnel and fringe	\$18,500.00	Area IV Funds	\$23,500.00
Admin	\$10,000.00	Other: Donations	\$250.00
Insurance	\$100.00	Other: Private Foundation(s)	\$2,500.00
Communication	\$250.00	Other: HRDC	\$3,000.00
Travel/Training	\$400.00		
TOTAL	\$29,250.00	TOTAL	\$29,250.00



March 11th, 2025

Jim Marks
Program Director
Area IV Agency on Aging
P.O. Box 1717
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Jim Marks,

This letter is to express my support for HRDC's Homemaker Program. My name is Margaret Davies and I am the Store and Senior Grocery Coordinator at HRDC. I oversee HRDC's food bank during operating hours, and I support seniors and homebound individuals in accessing supplemental food, many of whom also benefit from the Homemaker Program.

HRDC's homemakers assist with errands, laundry, shopping, meal preparation, medication reminders, and cleaning. Just as importantly, homemakers offer companionship, which plays a vital role in the wellbeing of our aging neighbors.

Through my work with seniors, I have seen firsthand how essential this companionship is for those living independently. For some of our clients, visits from grocery delivery drivers and homemakers are their only interactions for days at a time. We know that isolation can be detrimental, which makes this program not only beneficial but truly life-changing.

This program uplifts the dignity and wellness of our seniors in both the ways it helps with practical tasks and enables living independently, and in the ways it supports the mental wellness of this population through socialization

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Margaret Davies, MSPH
Store and Senior Grocery Coordinator, HRDC

406.587.4486

hello@thehrdc.org

206 E Griffin Dr
Bozeman, MT 59715



The Help Center – Telecare

699 Farmhouse Ln, Bozeman, MT 59715

Business phone: 406-587-7511. Hotline: 406-586-3333 Fax: 406-587-2034 Web:

www.bozemanhelpcenter.org Email: info@bozemanhelpcenter.org

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer my full support for the HRDC Homemaker Program. They consistently demonstrate a strong commitment to serving seniors in our community, many of whom are in the low-income bracket. The Homemaker Program plays a vital role in helping these individuals live safely and independently at home for as long as possible.

Sherry, Andi and the team are incredibly devoted to supporting our elders. They consistently go above and beyond to help the seniors in Gallatin Valley preserve their independence and dignity. This dedication brings significant benefits not only to the seniors they assist but also to the community at large.

At times, we refer to the Homemaker Program when we need additional assistance for one of our Telecare clients. We are grateful for the collaborative support we receive from the staff, who are always helpful in identifying appropriate solutions.

The Help Center has had the privilege of working alongside the Homemaker Program for many years and looks forward to continuing this valuable partnership in the future.

Sincerely,

Kathy Allen
Program Manager
Help Center Telecare



March 6, 2025

RE: Letter of Support for Park County Homemaker Program

Jim Marks

Area IV Agency on Aging

PO Box 1717

Helena MT 59624

Dear Mr. Marks,

As Interim Director of the Park City-County Health Department I understand the importance of the Homemaker Program in Park County. The Homemaker program provides many services to Park County's seniors which include help with food and meal preparation, referrals to other services, help to insure safe independent living, human interaction and friendship and household chores. The homemakers can often be the only point of contact for these seniors during the week and can provide check-in and companionship.

The services also make it possible for a number of our seniors and disabled to remain living in their own homes. This benefit brings a sense of security, dignity, comfort and accomplishment that often touches other family and friends as well, providing benefit to an even larger community. The program also helps increase individuals' social connections that can result in decreased loneliness and social isolation, improving physical and psychological health.

Thank you for your continued support of Park County Homemakers.

Laurel Desnick MD

Health Officer/Interim Health Department Director



Sherwood Inn Apartments
325 South Main Street #106
Livingston, Montana 59047
Phone (406) 451-1079 Fax (406) 582-1653



3/6/2025

Jim Marks
Area IV Agency on Aging
PO Box 1717
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Mr. Marks,

I am writing this letter in whole-hearted support of the HRDC Homemaker Program. Homemakers are a necessary lifeline for many residents here at the Sherwood Inn and throughout the community. I have the privilege of seeing in action the goal of this program: assisting vulnerable older adults in living healthy, independent lives in their own homes for as long as safely possible.

The individuals who engage in this program need just a little extra help in the home to remain independent. Many of these individuals also experience social isolation for many reasons including health challenges and transportation barriers. Homemakers help to bridge these gaps and aid in reducing social isolation by performing the cleaning tasks customers can no longer accomplish on their own, by running errands when needed, and by building rapport with their customers. Additionally, without the support of the homemakers many of my residents would not be able to remain housed at the Sherwood.

I have heard multiple Sherwood Inn residents express immense gratitude for their Homemakers, not just for the tasks they complete, but for their genuine care and support.

Homemakers are often the only point of human contact customers have each week. Homemakers offer a set of eyes and ears, keeping tabs on individuals who otherwise would go weeks without seeing another human. This contact is vital to the health and longevity of these customers.

The value of the Homemaker Program for vulnerable older adults in our community cannot be overstated. It is certainly an indispensable program here at the Sherwood Inn and I believe it is truly an essential and impactful service in our community.

Sincerely, *Krisit K Baukol*

Krisit Baukol
Property Site Manager

Sherwood Inn, Summit and Livingston Land Trust Cottages

March 12, 2025

Jim Marks
Area IV Agency on Aging
PO Box 1717
Helena, MT 59624

Dear Mr. Marks:

This is a letter of support for the HRDC Homemaker program. The Homemaker program of Park County is an important resource for vulnerable seniors who wish to live healthy, safe and independent lives in their own homes.

One, the Homemaker program provides important material services such as light housekeeping, meal prep and grocery shopping, improving safety and comfort in individuals' homes. By providing routine, scheduled and predictable contact with one person, can help abate social isolation and the loneliness that results.

Two, Homemakers increase safety by providing a valuable set of eyes and ears. This support is important to assure prompt medical or emergency care, when needed. But also, a Homemaker is in a position to observe any changes in the individual senior's ability to care for themselves and report it to their supervisor so that follow-up can be done.

Three, the Homemaker program often has a multiplier effect, expanding contact with community resources such as Senior Supper Club of the Livingston Food Resource Center and the Park County Senior Center. These services then provide their own predictable, routine, contact with one person or a set of people, expanding and strengthening the senior's support network.

Finally, the Homemaker program can be a valuable resource for families who need respite services. The family member who knows their senior has consistent, personal help will be more likely to support that senior's ability to live independently. For those family members who cannot be present on a daily basis, there can be relief in knowing that there is a community and personal contact that can be a reliable resource.

As a previous coordinator for the Park County Homemaker program, I can state from experience that the value of the Homemaker program for our community cannot be overstated. At the individual and collective level, it makes life safer, healthier and more inclusive for everyone.

Sincerely,

Mary Beebe
Sherwood Inn Apartments' Service Coordinator
325 S Main Street
Livingston MT 597047
406.388.2883