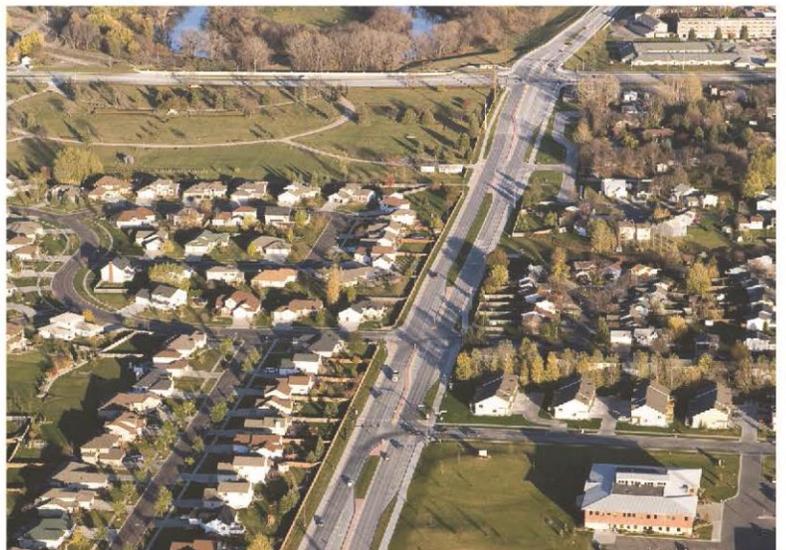


DYNAMIC COMMUNITY IMPACT PLANNING

CREATING A VISION AND PLAN FOR EVERY COMMUNITY'S FUTURE



PARTNERSHIP IN HELPING COMMUNITIES



DYNAMIC COMMUNITY IMPACT PLANNING

CREATING A VISION AND PLAN FOR EVERY COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

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INTRODUCTION

Proactive planning is the process of building strong, adaptive communities. Strategies driven by local assets and realities, a diverse industry base, a commitment to equality of opportunity and sustainable practices can ensure a strong foundation for long-term stability and growth for communities of every size in Montana.

Dedicated leadership is needed to raise awareness, help develop and communicate a common vision, and motivate community action. The influence of elected leaders and active citizens is critical to helping communities stay on course toward a vibrant future.

This document is a guide to inventorying community assets, developing a vision, and creating a plan, goals and strategies that will drive implementation. This document also outlines the importance of monitoring impacts to modify community plans, goals and implementation, making the process dynamic.

It is never, never too late to start planning. The NDSU Extension Service Center for Community Vitality and KLJ created this document as a resource for communities to begin the planning process. Best of luck! And don't forget we are here to help you during any phase of your planning and project development.



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Action Item—Developing Vision and Goals

A pathway to developing a community vision is to stimulate discussion within the community to gather grass-roots support. Elected officials or community leaders can lead the initiative, beginning with a community discussion to raise awareness and create a unified collaboration approach to establish a vision that will serve as a “beacon” to develop public policies, incentives, investments and initiatives promoting long-term stability and growth.

Ideas to begin the visioning process:

- Focused small-group community conversations
- Town hall meetings
- Public input meetings
- Community surveys
- Invite neighboring communities or county officials to participate
- Partner with consultant

Examples of a community vision could be:

(Community Name) is a safe community for people to raise their families and retire, and it fosters economic development opportunities for businesses to thrive while maintaining the integrity of our amenities, infrastructure and quality of place.

(Community Name) is a wonderful place to live, work and play. It’s a community where the people are as resilient and vibrant as the natural features that surround their home; it’s a place where lifelong residents and visitors alike feel they are part of the same tight-knit family.

A clear vision defined by goals provides a framework for strategic assessment and coordinating collaborative efforts to attain the desired goals and achieve the community vision.

Goals

After reviewing the list of traditional planning items, elected officials and community leaders can identify specific goals that align with the vision statement to keep the community on course to plan for and handle impacts.

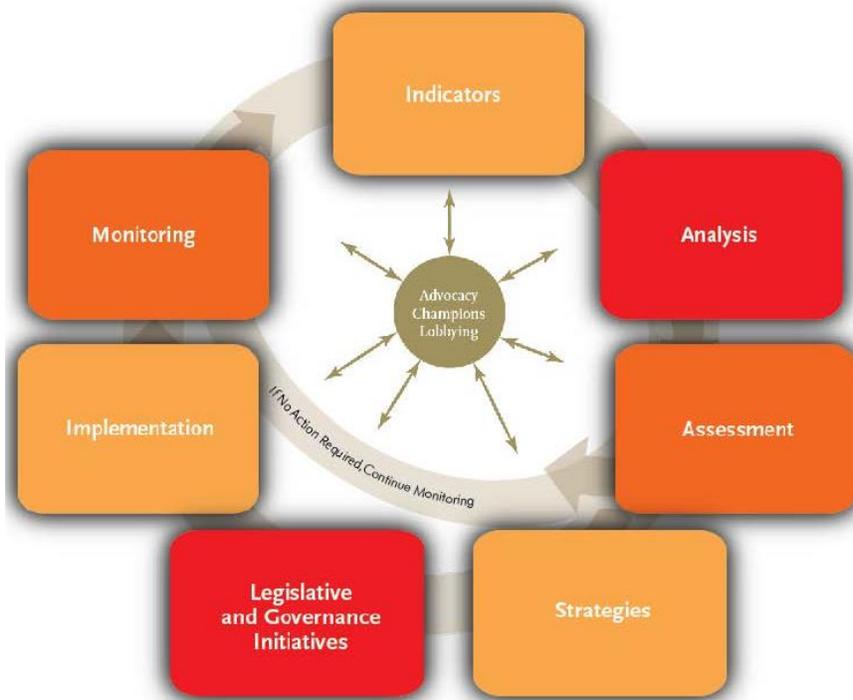
For example, if part of the community’s vision is to be a community where people can raise a family and retire, affordable housing is a goal for the community to pursue. The community inventory will assess how many housing units are available. If the community has an abundance of housing available, housing will not be a primary goal at this time in the planning phase. If it has a current housing shortage, the community will have to assess the city land available for housing development, ordinances, zoning, etc.

Always keep the vision in the forefront to help guide all planning and goal setting, which will help elevate some of the stress caused by the impacts.



Action Item—How to Plan Dynamic Community Planning Model

KLJ developed the Dynamic Community Planning Model below for any small, rural town or rapidly growing city to utilize as part of routine operations and planning processes. The intent was to create a model that extends the life of a community plan so it doesn't sit on a shelf or lose momentum when newly elected officials take office or a community leader moves out of town. If you would like more information about the planning model and how it works, contact KLJ's Government Relations or Community Planning groups.





Action Item—Take Inventory

The simplest and most effective action a community can take to start the planning process is assessing the inventory of current infrastructure, population and situations in the community. Taking inventory will identify current assets and shortcomings. Once the inventory is complete, elected officials and community leaders will have a quick reference guide, which will be a powerful tool during the planning process and will help the community prioritize goals and strategies.

In the Appendix: “Community Inventory” is a worksheet identifying key components of the community every elected official and community member should be aware of to begin planning. Inventory categories include:

- Community Profile
- Budgetary Information
- Land Development Regulations
- Infrastructure
- Development Application Review
- Administration of Building Permits and Plats
- Code Enforcement
- Emergency Management

FYI: If your community does not have documentation of hazards in your region, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has a list starting on Pages 3-7 of the Introduction to Hazard Mitigation training document, <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS393A/PDF/IS393.A-Lesson3.pdf>.



Action Item—How to Plan

The following is a list of elements or chapters typically contained in a comprehensive plan, which is an all-encompassing planning document developed with a community and planning consultant. Often communities choose to prepare a full comprehensive plan or comprehensive plan update with all of the outlined elements. However, due to funding constraints or the need to strategically focus on specific planning topics, some communities choose to prepare comprehensive plans of a more limited scope. Regardless of the scope of the planning project, communities proactively planning for the future are better positioned to proactively address community issues.

City Services

The demand for city services increase as a city grows. The range of services that can be studied include but are not limited to fire/EMS, police, street maintenance, public works and the various administrative services. City service plans include strategies and recommendations addressing:

- Future needs for new or expanded facilities, including facility relocation
- Desired level of service for city services and policies to maintain a minimum level of service
- Cost estimates and funding sources for new and/or expanded services and facilities
- An implementation plan specifying thresholds when action is needed

Future Land Use

Many communities experiencing strong development pressures need to plan for the type and location of future growth. A future land use plan accounts for the external economic factors that create opportunities for a community. A future land use plan provides greater predictability for the community, local government and those with plans to develop their property. A future land use plan also assists local government in land development decisions. The basic elements of a future land use plan include:

- Inventory and map of existing land uses
- Growth management strategies/programs to proactively manage the fiscal impacts of future growth
- Future land use policies providing land development guidelines
- Future land use map



Review of Zoning Ordinances

A zoning ordinance is one of the most important tools to implement when preparing a plan. Regulations contained in a zoning ordinance address many topics, including future land use, urban design, transportation, infrastructure, housing, parks and recreation, natural resources and historic resources. As such, communities often include as part of the preparation a review of the zoning ordinance that identifies specific amendments to implement plan goals, strategies and policies. Already known and identified shortcomings with a zoning ordinance also can guide the development of plan policies.

Urban Design

Urban design, when properly planned and implemented, can create a quality of place even in a rural community. An urban design plan weaves together the elements defining an environment, which include buildings, public space, streets and the landscape. High-quality design addresses inter-relationships among these elements, creating attractive places people enjoy experiencing, emphasizing the “public realm” (streets, pedestrian facilities, parks, etc.) as it physically relates to buildings and structures. It is implemented with detailed street and building design policies, as well as traffic and pedestrian circulation policies. These policies are further implemented with design standards in a community’s zoning ordinance.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure planning is the study of water, sewer and drainage systems. Because infrastructure often is required to support new development, infrastructure planning usually is combined with future land use planning. The capacity, layout and condition of the systems are studied. Recommendations are prepared to address existing deficiencies and improvements required to service future growth. Infrastructure policy can define or limit a community’s financial obligation associated with infrastructure improvements required to facilitate future growth.

Transportation

Transportation plans study all modes of transportation, including airports, rail, public transportation, motorized vehicles (cars and trucks), bicycling and pedestrians. The existing transportation network is studied to evaluate traffic safety and congestion. Future travel demand is forecasted to identify deficiencies in the transportation network as a result of increased traffic volumes. Access management plans, bicycle/pedestrian plans, safe routes to schools, truck routes, road maintenance programs and future roadway maps are items that can be prepared as stand-alone plans or incorporated into a full transportation planning chapter. Access management and street connectivity policies are fundamental topics of transportation planning that promote safe and efficient roadway systems.



Housing

Many communities in rapid growth areas struggle with housing issues. Strong demand for housing can create a limited supply for new residents and escalate prices, creating a financial burden on existing residents. A housing plan studies the existing housing market, determining if market barriers are affecting the development of a sufficient number and variety of housing products. Land costs, the supply of undeveloped residentially zoned property and the presence of regulatory (zoning and subdivision regulations) barriers are studied. A housing plan includes strategies and recommendations addressing:

- Affordable/workforce housing
- Temporary housing for industry workers (for example, oil and gas, construction)
- Revisions to zoning regulation to increase the number and variety of housing products
- Subsidized housing for low-income residents

Parks and Recreation

A recreation plan identifies all existing recreational facilities in a community and the characteristics (for example, ownership, location, type and age of facility, recreational programs offered and patronage). With public input, unmet recreational needs are identified. A recreation plan includes strategies and recommendations that address:

- Need or demand for new and/or expanded recreational programs and facilities
- Shared use of existing facilities (for example, schools, libraries, community centers)
- Community's desired level of service for parkland and policies to facilitate the acquisition of parkland

Economic Development

The economic development plan includes a profile of the local economy identifying the type and number of businesses in the community, characteristics of the local workforce and an evaluation of existing economic development programs. The plan identifies targeted industries to promote a diversified economy. Economic development plans include strategies and recommendation addressing:

- Main street/downtown revitalization
- Regulatory incentives, fast-track permitting and infrastructure cost-sharing arrangements
- Participation in regional, state and federal economic development and redevelopment programs
- Coordinated efforts by all local economic development organizations



Natural Resources

Natural resources contribute to the quality of life in a city. A natural resources plan establishes policies to protect and enhance existing natural resources (for example, tree cover, wetlands, streams and rivers).

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources also contribute to the quality of life in a city. Cultural resources include historic buildings and sites, museums, libraries, art galleries and studios. All cultural resources in a community are identified and policies and programs are recommended to protect and enhance the cultural resources in the community.



Action Item—Organize the Community

Like all other local government activities, planning requires the involvement and support of the community. Once the community has developed a plan and goals to embrace growth in population, recover from a natural disaster or deal with other issues in which community planning is needed, working on relationships for community support is crucial.

The public's values and views on planning activities need to be taken into consideration in the development of community goals and policies. The planning process typically includes structured activities such as:

- Community meetings and workshops
- Focus groups
- Direct-mail information
- Leadership group presentations and forums
- Social media and other media
- Stakeholder interviews
- Surveys to obtain the community's views and interests

These activities will provide the community with information regarding a potential project or policy and allow for questions to be submitted and answered. If the community as a whole is against a potential project or policy, the meeting, handouts or other sources of information will allow you to evaluate if the project or policy is needed and how to modify if necessary.

Most projects and policies will be driven by elected officials, economic development groups or community leaders who have a passion to improve the community and ensure sustainability. Sometimes people outside of the community will be needed to help move a plan or project forward; these people are called stakeholders.

Stakeholder buy-ins will make your community more competitive in the political and economic arena. By having stakeholder buy-ins, your community will show a unity of purpose. A few ways your community can benefit:

- Increased support for grant applications
- Demonstrated need for state or federal legislature to put money aside for your community
- Demonstrated need for assistance or financial help after a natural disaster

In the Appendix: "Montana Congressional and Agency Contact Information" is direct-contact information used when seeking support for planning and project efforts.

Finally, a community champion or champions should be identified to drive consistent and positive communication and efforts for the planning process.



Action Item—Planning Strategies

At this point, a lot of effort has taken place to inventory the current status of the community, organize and generate planning support, and develop a vision and goals. With the foundation in place, a community can identify planning strategies vital to moving the planning or project development forward.

After the goals have been established, three important factors need to be addressed and in place:

- Feasibility - likelihood of successful implementation
- Support - unity in the community, partners and/or stakeholders
- Ability - human, financial and technical resources

The identified goals may be in conflict with one or multiple factors for feasibility, support and ability. At this point, a community may need to evaluate alternatives to achieving desired goals.

For example, one of the community goals may be to increase recreational activity, including creating a bike path, renovating the community pool and purchasing new playground equipment. Achieving all of the goals at once may be a challenge, especially because funding for pools and other recreational amenities is difficult to locate. Therefore, the community may make the bike path and playground equipment priorities because financial resources are available, the community supports the project and the town can contribute land for development.

Communities have many different ways to receive project funding, including grants, grant and loan combinations, public/private partnerships, enterprise development, and raising fees and taxes. Funding projects is complex and competitive. Working with a professional to create a funding strategy is important for communities to consider if you are not working with a grant writer. Funding options to consider include:

Grants

Grants tend to be the most desirable funding source, but they are also the most competitive. The first thing a community should do is find a grant that best matches the project in need of funding. The more the project coincides with the grant requirements, the more likely the project will be chosen for funding. Every grant has a certain amount of money allocated from the funding source.

The funding amount will be divided among applicants who best display need for funding. Two components of a grant the applicant should look for are the award ceiling and floor. The award ceiling is the maximum amount the granting source will give an individual applicant. The award floor is the minimum amount given to an applicant. An example would be an entity applying for a grant with an award ceiling of \$100,000 and an award floor of \$50,000. The project they are



working on has an estimated cost of \$500,000. The most the entity will receive is \$100,000 and the least it will receive is \$50,000.

A grant almost always includes a match requirement. If the community funds part of its project with more than the match required, it will become more competitive among the others seeking grants. One example of a match requirement would be an applicant pursuing a grant with a ceiling of \$500,000. The grant requires a 25 percent match, leading the applicant to have a match of \$125,000 if the community asks for the full amount of \$500,000.

Grant and Loan Combination

Grant and loan combinations have designated percentages that a community can receive in the form of a grant and usually a low-interest loan from the awarding agency. The community will have to prove the capacity to pay back the loan portion to receive grant funds.

Public/Private Partnership

Under a public/private partnership, sometimes referred to as a public/private venture, a contractual arrangement is formed between public- and private-sector partners. These arrangements typically involve a government agency contracting with a private partner to renovate, construct, operate, maintain, and/or manage a facility or system, in whole or in part, that provides a public service. Under these arrangements, the agency may retain ownership of the public facility or system, but the private party generally invests its own capital to design and develop the properties. Typically, each partner shares an income resulting from the partnership. Such a venture, although a contractual arrangement, differs from typical service contracting in which the private-sector partner usually makes a substantial cash, at-risk, equity investment in the project, and the public sector gains access to new revenue or service delivery capacity without having to pay the private-sector partner.

Enterprise Development

Enterprise developments derive funding for a project rather than increasing taxes and fees to users. Examples would include using a portion of parking fees to pay for part of a new or remodeled parking facility. Or a school could utilize a wind turbine to offset energy needs and sell the unused electricity to the local energy supplier to pay back the cost of the wind turbine. These developments also could become a revenue stream for the community or in the second example, the school, to fund additional planning goals and projects.

Fees and Taxes

Some communities prefer to raise fees or taxes to pay for the project. This is common in an infrastructure project. A community will raise water fees to help pay the cost of a project relating to water.



Action Item—Implementation

A plan that is not implemented provides little benefit to a community. Implementation measures include actions and community investments. Implementation is the phase of planning efforts that puts goals and strategies to work. Implementation also is following through with real projects such as infrastructure, new services, new rules and regulations, or new facilities all designed to enhance the community's quality of life and respond to real needs of a community faced with growth and increasing demands.

After working through the planning strategies phase, a community will need to prioritize the goals/projects to implement first, which can be done a number of ways, such as:

- Managed directly through city staff
- Development of joint powers agreements with other legal public entities
- Development of a public/private partnership arrangement
- Hiring a consultant

The key is for the community to have a definitive plan in place to execute its project, which may require contracting for the services through a third party such as an engineering firm, consultant, developer, architectural firm or construction management firm.

No matter what method of implementation is used to pursue a project, the city will be required to provide the leadership to manage the implementation at all times.



Action Item—Ongoing Monitoring

The most important phase of an impact planning strategy, when dealing with rapidly changing circumstances, is the continuation of monitoring. A community needs to define methods of measuring change during growth and through the implementation of specific projects designed to mitigate or enhance the quality of life issues.

Monitoring can be accomplished in a number of ways:

- Collecting hard data, analyzing it and comparing the data with existing strategies and projects either in place or anticipated
- Setting deadline dates for implementation and take action or modify the plan if deadlines are not met
- Monitoring effective strategies and policies in place and duplicate where applicable
- Monitoring quality-of-life indicators and modify the plan as needed
 - Crime
 - Retention of youth
 - Housing availability and cost
 - Employment opportunities
 - Business startups
 - Increased transient population

Change is dynamic and, therefore, monitoring must be an ongoing process. It is like a “feedback” loop constantly taking the pulse of the community. The use of focus groups, public input sessions, communication with targeted interest groups, surveys through the mail or on line, and the use of social media can provide meaningful insight to the effectiveness of projects designed to meet specific needs. The monitoring effort also can trigger new needs and issues that can become targets for growth management consideration in the future.

Monitoring is about the measurement of the responsiveness of services, facilities and needs of the community. It provides the basis to adjust projects, re-evaluate goals and set new strategies in place to minimize negative impacts associated with growth and at the same time take advantage of positive impacts to the benefit of the community.



Checklist for Dynamic Community Impact Planning

Action Item	Champion	Deadline	Consultant Needed Y/N	Notes
Getting Started				
Inventory				
Types of Plans				
City Services				
Land Use				
Zoning Ordinances				
Urban Design				
Infrastructure				
Transportation				
Housing				
Parks & Rec				
Economic Development				
Natural Resources				
Developing Vision and Goals				
Vision				
Goals				
Identifying Funding Types				
Grants/Loans				
Public Private Partnerships				
Enterprise Development				
Fees/Taxes				
Implementation and Monitoring				
Schedule Reviews				
Update Inventory				
Update Plans				



DYNAMIC COMMUNITY IMPACT PLANNING CREATING A VISION AND PLAN FOR EVERY COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

→ Appendix

- Community Inventory Worksheet
- Montana Congressional and Agency Contact Information
- Montana State Resources



Community Inventory Worksheet

Community Profile

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
What is the population of your city/county/district?	
Have any changes in population occurred?	
Has school enrollment changed?	
Has the senior citizen population increased or decreased?	
Do the majority of young adults leave the community after graduation?	
Does the city or county own surplus vacant land? If so, what is the size and zoning of the parcels?	
How many single-family homes does the community have?	
How many single-family homes are being built or planned to be built?	
How many multifamily homes does the community have?	
How many multifamily homes are being built?	



Community Profile	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
What is the average household size?	
Does the community have a perceived shortage of housing?	
Has the cost of housing increased significantly in the past few years?	
What is the unemployment rate?	
Is the crime rate increasing in the community? If so, what types of crime?	
Does the community have an active economic development organization?	
Budgetary Information	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Does the city/county/district have a sales tax? If so, how much?	
What is the mill levy rate in your city/county/district?	
How does the mill levy rate compare with the rate in surrounding communities?	
When was the last time the mill levy rate was raised?	



Budgetary Information	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
What is the average house value?	
What is the average rent?	
What is the household income distribution?	
What is the city/ county/ district's level of debt bond rating?	
What are the established enterprise fees for sewer and water?	
How do water fees compare with fees in other communities?	
When was the last time water and sewer fees went in to a dedicated enterprise fund in the budget?	



Land Development Regulations	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Does your community have a zoning ordinance? If so, when was the ordinance adopted, and has your community updated or revised the zoning ordinance in the last 10 years?	
Does your community have storm water management regulations?	
Does your community have a subdivision ordinance? If so, when was the ordinance adopted, and has your community updated or revised the subdivision ordinance in the last 10 years?	
Infrastructure	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Does your community have a multiyear capital improvement plan that programs expenditures for future infrastructure improvements?	
How often are pumps, valves and meters inspected?	
Are fire hydrants flushed annually?	
Are water towers inspected and cleaned every five years?	



Infrastructure	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Are water meters inspected annually?	
Are the sewer mains flushed at least every other year?	
Are storm drain inlets and ditches annually cleared of debris?	
Does your community's waste water treatment facility have adequate capacity to accommodate future growth?	
Does your community have adequate water storage for fire suppression?	
Does your community have a road maintenance program?	
Has your community's most recent Insurance Service Office (ISO) report resulted in a drop in the overall score compared with the previous report?	
Does your community share resources of equipment with neighboring communities?	
Development Application Review	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Do building, zoning and plat application forms specify the information required to conduct a full review of the applications?	
Do you have professionally qualified staff or agents to review building, zoning and plat applications?	



Development Application Review

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Does staff or an agent prepare a staff report with recommendations on land development applications?	
Are application fees sufficient to cover the actual costs of administering and processing land development applications?	
Do elected officials approve land development applications subject to conditions?	
Is the elected officials' action on a land development application documented with findings of fact and conclusions of law?	
Does the applicant pay the costs for required public notice?	

Administration of Building Permits and Plats

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Does your community require inspections during the construction of a project? If so, at what stages in the construction are inspections conducted, and does the community charge a fee for the inspection?	
Does your community issue a certificate of occupancy or completion when the construction of a structure is complete?	
Does your community require a developer to complete all required infrastructure improvements or provide a financial guarantee in the form of a bond or letter of credit before the final plat is recorded?	
Does your community require a developer to dedicate a portion of a residential subdivision for a public park or provide a fee in lieu of dedication?	



Code Enforcement	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Does your community have a staff member who inspects alleged code violations?	
Has your community established a formal procedure for code enforcement activities?	
Does your community's code of ordinances adequately define a public nuisance and specify remedial or corrective measures?	
Emergency Management	
<i>Questions</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Does your community participate in the National Flood Insurance Program by having and enforcing flood plain management regulations?	
Does your community have an adopted emergency operations plan?	
Has your community participated in the preparation of a multijurisdictional hazard mitigation plan?	
Does your community have in place emergency mutual aid agreements with nearby communities?	

The answers for the Community Inventory Worksheet can be found at your local auditor's or administrator's office or in the Montana 2012 census results. A copy of the census results can be found at your local library or at www.2010.census.gov. KLJ's Community Planning and Government Relations groups also can help you inventory your community.



Appendix— Montana Congressional and Agency Contact Information

A. How to Contact Local Legislators and State Congressional Members

One of the most advantageous things a community can do to acquire stakeholder buy-in is to contact local legislators and members of Congress and explain the issues the community is working to overcome and the need for support. This will ensure your community has support from the state and federal level entities. By having legislators and members of Congress supporting the issue, funding sources, legislative bodies and relief aid agencies will see your community as more competitive than other communities when seeking financial assistance.

State Legislators

One of the best ways to contact a state legislator is to write a letter. Whether you send the letter by standard mail or email, writing always is better than calling. When writing a letter to a legislator, make sure to include your address, email or phone number, which will allow the legislator to reply to you. If the letter is addressing a legislative bill, make sure to include the bill number with the letter, clearly define the purpose of the letter and explain how the policy or issue will affect your community.

All contact information for the Montana House of Representative may be found at <http://legis.nd.gov/docs/pdf/houseroster.pdf>.

All contact information for the Montana Senate may be found at: <http://legis.nd.gov/docs/pdf/senateroster.pdf>.

Congressional Delegation

The same criteria apply to members of Congress, with one exception: Montana Sen. John Hoeven and Rep. Rick Berg prefer to be contacted by email, whereas Sen. Kent Conrad has mailing addresses and email options.

Sen. John Hoeven
www.hoeven.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp
<http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/>

Rep. Kevin Cramer
<http://cramer.house.gov/>

Sample letters used to contact members of Congress and legislators can be found at KLJ's resource page: www.kljeng.com/government/resources



Appendix—Montana State and Federal Resources

Agencies Important to Development

Stakeholders who impact community development also include state and federal agencies. Becoming familiar with them is very important due to the amount of influence these agencies have on projects. The state and federal agencies are also primary sources for funding. The top 11 state agencies that communities will use the most are:

Attorney General — is the chief legal counsel and adviser to state government in Montana. He represents and defends the interests of the state and the people of Montana in civil and criminal actions. www.ag.nd.gov

Office of the State Auditor —is separated into three divisions, one being the Division of Royalty Audits, which deals with federal royalty payments from oil, gas and coal leases in Montana. www.nd.gov/auditor

Department of Commerce — is the state's lead economic development agency and is charged with coordinating and focusing the state's economic development resources. www.commerce.nd.gov

Department of Emergency Management — provides 24/7 emergency communications and resource coordination, with more than 50 lead and support agencies, private enterprise and voluntary organizations to assist local jurisdictions in disaster and emergency response activities. www.nd.gov/des

Department of Health Division of Water Quality — oversees cleanup of oil and waste water spills and waste water disposal that could impact surface or useable aquifers; this oversight is based on the Health Department's responsibility for administering the federal Clean Water Act in Montana. www.ndhealth.gov/wq/

Housing Finance Agency — is a public financial institution dedicated to making housing affordable for all people in Montana. The agency facilitates affordable mortgage financing, assures the continued availability of low-income rental housing and seeks to provide for the state's changing housing needs. www.ndhfa.org

Industrial Commission – Department of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas Division — oversees mineral development, including drilling permits, well locations, drilling pads, reserve pits and deep waste water disposal wells. <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/>

Montana Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office — responsible for distributing state funds to local governments to enhance or repair public infrastructure impacted by oil and gas activity, particularly to entities that have limited sources of funds to complete projects. www.nd.gov/energyimpact/Default.aspx

Department of Transportation — keeps the transportations systems in Montana safe and well maintained. www.dot.nd.gov



Department of Trust Lands — consists of six divisions, such as the Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office, Minerals Management and Surface Managements divisions. www.land.nd.gov

State Water Commission — grants water permits, including permits for water needed for mineral development.
www.swc.state.nd.us/4dlink9/4dcgi/GetSubCategoryRecord/Permits%20and%20Applications/Water%20Permits

At the federal level, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also has a role in overseeing the disposal of waste water, as well as the impact mineral development has on water resources (based on the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act). Federal law, however, generally has taken a “hands off” approach on the impact mineral development has on water, but that may be changing as “fracking” is used more widely across the nation to enhance oil and gas production. See the EPA at www.epa.gov/rpdweb00/tenorm/oilandgas.html.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/contaminants/oilpits.htm) likewise recognizes that mineral development can impact water quality and the larger environment.

Additional federal agencies important to Montana include the ones listed on KLJ’s resource page: www.kljeng.com/government/resources.



For more information on this and other topics, see www.ag.ndsu.edu

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County Commissions, NDSU and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating
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