

Emily Harris-Shears, MSW She/Her/Hers

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Experience

University of Montana

Adjunct Instructor, School of Social Work, December 2022-Present

- Teach Public Policy courses to ensure core competencies are met
- Develop curriculum, activities and assignments that push participants to explore and deepen relationships to social policy
- Work collaboratively with students and faculty to support learning objectives

City of Missoula

Senior Housing Policy Specialist, October 2020 – Present

- Implement strategies adopted in the city-wide housing policy, A Place to Call Home
- Advise on senior leadership and community stakeholders on best practices, market needs and funding approaches
- Facilitate Fair Housing education and consumer-facing support
- Collaborate with HUD program staff to leverage resources and maximize impact
- Develop and implement a community process for seating an Affordable Housing Resident Oversight Committee that reflects the racial and economic diversity of Missoula
- Manage budget of \$1.8M, annually
- Work collaboratively with broad range of stakeholders including impacted residents to understand priorities for design and implementation of housing policies
- Work with housing developers to identify partnership incentives and support process navigation
- Provide capacity building support to elected officials, grantees, developers, and other stakeholders
- Manage dedicated affordable projects between for-profit developers and the City

Building Changes

Senior Manager, Capacity Building & Grantmaking, April 2017 – October 2020

- Partnered with stakeholders to develop and implement grants totaling \$5MM annually, targeted to impact families experiencing homelessness
- Provided focused technical assistance to local municipal government on HUD funding alignment, crisis response system barriers and reduction strategies to increase access and positive housing outcomes

- Led learning collaborative to elevate promising practices for McKinney-Vento Liaisons and housing providers serving students experiencing homelessness
- Provided consultation, training and capacity building support to nonprofits, government and philanthropic partners around emerging and evidence-based practices including Shelter Diversion, Rapid Re-Housing and Coordinated Entry
- Served on Snohomish County's Partnership to End Homelessness Continuum of Care Board and subcommittees including the Data Analysis Committee and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project Initiative Team as a representative of philanthropy
- Represented funders on the King County Coordinated Entry Policy Advisory Committee

Indiana Housing Community Development Authority

Program Coordinator, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), July 2015 – 2017

- Coordinated application process and oversaw funding allocations of over \$3 million to ESG subrecipients across the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care
- Designed Provider Learning Collaborative model to implement Rapid Re-housing evidence based best practices
- Initiated and delivered \$1,150,000 annual partnership with agency administering Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) to increase investment of Rapid Re housing and Homelessness Prevention services
- Monitored funded programs and provide technical assistance to award sub-recipients through 1:1 interaction, webinar-based training opportunities and engagement in community forums
- Created and monitored policies in alignment with Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) regulations and goals of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness Opening Doors Strategic Plan

Catholic Community Services

Program Director, Coordinated Entry and Rapid Rehousing, 2012-2015

- Designed and implemented three unique, county-wide housing programs resulting in permanent housing outcomes for hundreds of people experiencing homelessness annually
- Coached and developed program staff in emerging service delivery models
- Maintained program operating budget of \$2.2 million, consisting of multiple federal funding sources
- Developed and maintained strong working relationships with community partners, consumers and elected officials through presentations, task force participation and the creation of population-specific advisory groups

Education

Master of Social Work, Arizona State University, Tempe Arizona

Advanced Standing – Policy, Administration and Community emphasis

Bachelor of Social Work, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff Arizona

Continuing Education and Community Experience

YWCA of Missoula Board Member

March 2024-Present

Montana Housing Coalition Board Member

January 2024-Present

NYU Furman Center Local Housing Solutions Policy Cohort

June 2022-January 2023

Fair Housing Specialist Certification

March 2023-Present

Certified Tax Credit Specialist

National Center for Housing Management | October 2021 – present

Grounded Solutions Network Shared Equity Housing Course

October 2021

Housing and Economic Development Learning Cohort

Funders Together to End Homelessness | 2017-2019

Affordable Housing Development Leadership Cohort

King County Housing Development Consortium | 2018