

Title	MDT Housing Support	10/29/2025
	by David OConnor in FY26 Microgrant Fund	id. 52121215
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Original Submission 10/29/2025

Score	n/a
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Request Name	MDT Housing Support
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Who will be the fiscal sponsor of this request?	Big Sky Community Housing Trust
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Description	<p>Highway 191 is the second busiest highway in southern Montana, behind only Interstate 90. It's critical that we have a dedicated Montana Department of Transportation staff member based in Big Sky whose responsibility is to maintain both Hwy 191 and MT 64.</p> <p>Josh Ritchie, MDT's new Maintenance Manager for Bozeman, emphasized that he could significantly improve maintenance on these corridors if additional staff were available. The stretch from Four Corners to the Yellowstone National Park boundary currently has the most open positions of any district in Montana. To compensate, MDT has temporarily rotated plow drivers from other parts of the state, for two-week winter shifts—a short-term fix that's neither efficient nor sustainable.</p> <p>To address this, the Big Sky Chamber and the Big Sky Housing Trust engaged four community partners, Big Sky Resort, Big Sky Owners Association, Big Sky Transportation District, and Lone Mountain Land Company, and secured 36% of the total project cost. The MDT employee who will be assigned to this position will contribute 28%.</p> <p>Our request is to fund the remaining 36% of the cost for this one-year pilot project. This will ensure a snowplow, maintenance truck and staff based in Big Sky for 12 months.</p> <p>We are confident this project will demonstrate measurable improvements in road safety, maintenance response times, and overall quality of service on Hwy 191 and MT 64 roads that are vital to the safety and success of our entire community.</p>
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Select the projects Investment Type	Programming
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Select the projects Impact Area	Housing
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Where will this project be taking place?	Highways MT-64 & US-191
Please explain the community benefit of the project	<p>Residents, commuters, visitors, and first responders are all impacted by insufficient plowing and maintenance on our local highways. The drastically improved response time afforded by enabling MDT to house a full-time employee in Big Sky will have an immediate and tangible impact on all users of our local roads, increasing driver safety and accident response time while decreasing commuter and visitor travel impact, as well as cumulative degradation of the roads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-round MDT employee, with both a snow plow and maintenance truck to be based in Big Sky • Plowing on MT 64 to receive 30% more plowing compared to past years • Quicker response to plowing and adding sand to MT64 • Quicker response to maintenance and repairs on MT64 and 191 • Driver and equipment will only work between Yellowstone park boundary to 4 Corners • Plowing and maintenance will continue to be supported from Bozeman as in the past. This would not be a replacement for that service, but an enhancement to it.
What is the Resort Tax request for this project?	15750
What is the total cost of this project?	43500
Provide a list of the expenses this should this project be awarded funding	<p>Residential rent contribution to enable an MDT plow and maintenance employee to be Big Sky based. Overall contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSRAD: \$15,750 • MDT Employee Participation: \$12,000 • Matching Funds (Lone Mountain Land, Big Sky Resort, Big Sky Owners' Association, Big Sky Transportation District): \$15,750
When do you plan to have incurred the costs being requested?	12/1/2025
Please provide any additional information on this request if needed	There is a two-bedroom apartment in the newly-opening Riverview Place apartments reserved for this use, beginning 12/1/25.

Please provide the name(s) and email addresses of who will be representing this request at the next BSRAD board meeting

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Application Review & Final Submission

If your application is still in progress you may save your work using the "Save Draft" button. If your application is complete and ready for District review submit using the "Submit Form" button. Once submitted you may not make changes or edits to your application. Application Review: Applications generally will be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting. The board meeting schedule can be found on the District website. If received less than 10 days before the next regularly scheduled meeting it will not be reviewed until the following month/meeting. The applicant must be present at the review meeting to answer questions or provide more information requested by the Board. Application review will not occur during the regular Annual Allocation Meetings.
