


Energy Share of Montana




and Universal Systems Benefits Funds

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Energy Share of Montana

- Helps Montanans facing energy emergencies
 - Once every ten years
 - 10%-15% of clients repay their assistance
- Established by a group of concerned human service agencies, utility companies and electric cooperatives
- Have helped 53,000 Montana families since 1983

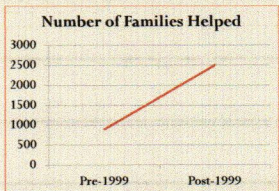
And ...

- In addition to emergency bill assistance we operate some small programs to help with energy conservation.
 - Energy West and MDU fund furnace and water heater safety & efficiency programs, and low-income weatherization
 - Endowment earnings fund a small refrigerator replacement program for elderly and disabled who own their home
- Help about 220 families a year

Effect of USB funds on Energy Share

- Energy Share started receiving USB contributions in 1999
- The number of families we help increased from an average of 900 per year to 2,500 per year

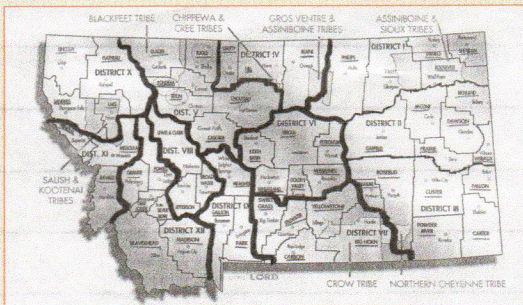


Human Resource Development Councils (HRDCs) distribute Energy Share funds

- Energy Share fits well with LIEAP and weatherization
- Each HRDC Coordinates a Local Energy Share Committee
- Contractual guidelines and local flexibility give people a hand up
- Applications are reviewed individually

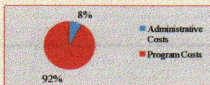


HRDC Service Areas



What's so great about Energy Share?

- Helps many of your constituents who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in tough circumstances and need some help
- Has a low admin rate
- Is funded in the private sector
 - Individuals
 - Small businesses
 - USB contributions





USB Funds + Energy Share = A Good Deal for Montana

- All entities that pay USB funds are supportive of Energy Share:
 - Utility companies
 - Electric cooperatives
 - Large electric users (many of which continue to *choose* to donate at least some of their USB funds to Energy Share even though they have the option to self-direct)

Conclusion

- USB funding has had a huge impact on Energy Share's ability to help Montanans
- Assistance decisions are made locally
- USB has had 17 years of success:
 - It requires no state money
 - It saves energy and helps people in need
 - It doesn't need to be fixed!



The Energy Share Board looks forward to your continued support of Universal Systems Benefits.

