

Spare Change for Real Change Grant Request for Proposals – 2011

The Board of the Downtown Billings Business Improvement District (BID) established the fundraising and public education campaign “Spare Change for Real Change” in the fall of 2005 with two major goals in mind. The first was to encourage the public to reconsider their method of giving by reminding them that change given to a panhandler is too often used to feed an addiction, and there are other, better ways to give.

Second, the Business Improvement District is responsible for considering the welfare of the local businesses, but should do so with a heart for all members of our community; as a result, they seek to use the program to educate community members throughout Billings about homelessness.

This year, the program has grown substantially, from a few hundred dollars a year in change (collected from boxes on the counters of local businesses) to a campaign that includes a 5K and bicycle crit race fundraiser as well as donation meters at sponsoring businesses and organizations. Funds raised through these sponsorships and the events will be granted annually to organizations collaborating with the Mayor’s Committee on Homelessness or the Billings Area Resource Network to combat homelessness in Billings.

The BID is hereby releasing a Request for Proposals for a grant or grants up to \$7500 to help improve quality of life for the homeless in Billings.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding through Spare Change for Real Change, the applicant must:

- Be an active member of the Mayor’s Committee on Homelessness or the Billings Area Resource Network.
- Be a 501(c) 3 or governmental organization.
- Provide or identify matching funds
 - Be able to clearly identify a significant community need, and have developed a clear plan to address that need.
 - Have the capacity to account for expenditure of the funds, and report on the success of the program.

Areas of Funding Preference

The Spare Change for Real Change grants committee will evaluate proposals based on the stated goals of Billings’ 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, “Welcome Home Billings,” giving particular preference to programs that support access to education and jobs for the homeless, and those programs that address the needs of families and children. A strategic framework for the plan and other details about the initiative can be found online at

www.ci.billings.mt.us/homeless.The goals of “Welcome Home Billings” are as follows:

- Increase the city’s supply of decent, affordable housing.
- Provide adequate emergency homeless prevention programs.
- Expand treatment /service capacity and linkage to essential services.
- Increase personal income levels and economic opportunities.

Exclusions

Spare Change for Real Change grants cannot be used:

- By a for-profit organization
- To fund political campaigns or initiatives

Application Procedure

Applicants must submit a Spare Change for Real Change Grant Application, which must include a detailed budget for the proposed initiative. The application must be accompanied by a cover letter with any additional information that may be helpful to the committee, signed by the Organization's Director or Board President. The granting committee may contact applicants for further information as they deem necessary.

Once granted, funds must be expended within 12 months. All grantees will be required to complete a monitoring review 12 months following the receipt of funds.

Deadlines

Applications must be received by Spare Change for Real Change by September 15, 2011. Applicants will know the status of their request by September 30, 2011. Please submit materials to:

Spare Change for Real Change
2815 2nd Ave North
Billings, MT 59101
Fax: 406.294.5060

If you have any questions, you can contact us via phone at 406.294.5060, or email us at info@4realchange.org. You can also visit our website, at www.4realchange.org.

yes ___ no

How many individuals will you serve? _____ How many families? _____

Do you screen for income eligibility? ___ yes ___ no

If so, what criteria do you use? yes ___ no

Please attach a budget for the project.

Percent of grant money that will be used for admin: _____%

Will you provide matching funds? ___ yes ___ no

Source of matching: yes ___ no

How will the project be evaluated?

How will the project be sustained?

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Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____