

SHERIDAN COUNTY
APPLICATION FOR ONE CENT OPTIONAL TAX FUNDS

FISCAL YEARS 2011 TO 2015
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns **PHONE:** 307.672.3848 or 751.5792

CONTACT PERSON: Jessica Lindsley **ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 6196 Sheridan, WY 82801

AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: \$12,000 **AMOUNT APPROVED:** _____

TAX STATUS: 501(3) (c) **FEDERAL ID NO:** 83-0309911 **EMAIL:** jessica@sheridanhabitat.org

DESCRIBE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION: Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns works with the Sheridan Community to provide safe, decent affordable housing to qualified Sheridan County families and individuals.

DESCRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTION PROCESS: The Executive Committee annually evaluates the transitions on the board and the areas of the community not represented. The Executive Committee then puts together a nomination committee that handles the recruitment of new members. The next review and nomination will happen at the April 20th meeting.

NO OF BOARD MEMBERS: 16 **TERM:** 3 year

LIST NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS: Emily Betzler, Dick Birkholz, Jane Jennings, Mary Beth Evers, Dave Heuck, Tara King, Bob McDowell, Brent Milner, Dave Nicolarsen, Erin Nitschke, Sharon Olsen, John Orwig, Stan Peddicord, Rick Rossa, Frank Smedley, and Rick Thompson.

BRIEFLY LIST PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES FOR REQUESTED FUNDS (Indicate if the funds are to be used for an operational subsidy or for one-time expenditures such as a project or equipment acquisition or capital improvements; indicate whether other sources are available and been applied for; indicate the reason County, rather than the City, Optional One Cent Sales tax funds are appropriate; if possible, estimate the number of citizens that will benefit):

Established in 1994, Habitat has partnered with homeowners, volunteers, and community organizations to build affordable homes serving those families and individuals that fall between 30 and 60 percent of the state's median income. In Sheridan County, Habitat has successfully built 18 homes with one more home to be completed by June 2010 and two more to be started in April 2010. The requested funds of \$12,000 will be used as a one-time expenditure for the construction costs of the 22nd Habitat home to be built in Sheridan County. The family will be selected in the fall of 2010.

The demand for nonprofit services increases during times of economic stress and recession. As more families continue to experience the stresses of the current economy – job losses, divorces, and foreclosures - there will be an increased demand for Habitat Homes. As the only organization in the northeastern Wyoming area that serves this segment of the population, Habitat is presented with the challenge and opportunity to increase the number of homes it builds a year. This number is greatly impacted by the amount of funding available via grants, the attendance at fundraisers, in-kind donations by contractors, and the number of volunteers.

Habitat's board of directors is very aware of the financial challenges facing the organization's mission as we experience a decrease in funding. However, these same challenges, and many more, are placed on the families we serve. Habitat will continue to strategically increase the number of homes built in order to address the growing need for affordable housing and make homeownership more accessible.

Habitat benefits from a unique situation in that each new partner family contributes to the sustainability of Habitat's program. Monthly mortgage payments make up a portion of the operating budget and helps Habitat to continue building more homes. Habitat also operates a Habitat ReStore; a warehouse that sells recycled building materials and home furnishings. ReStore is projected to earn \$70,000 over the next year which is then divided between Sheridan and Johnson County.

Habitat homes are generally built within the City of Sheridan; however, the families we serve and volunteers we recruit represent Sheridan County which is why we have applied for the County One Cent Sales Tax Fund. Also, the benefits of affordable housing are not limited to city limits. Affordable housing supports a diverse local workforce; directs economic benefits to the local community such as increased demand for goods and local employment opportunities; accommodates people with different skills; and promotes economic and social integration – stabilizing housing costs so families can afford to meet education and health costs.

Habitat for Humanity believes that one Habitat home serves more than just the family living inside. More than 500 community volunteers work on one Habitat home throughout the duration of construction. One hundred volunteers travel to Sheridan Community to help with each home. After the family moves in, the schools, employers, neighbors, churches, and the overall County benefit from the success of the program.

OBLIGATIONS:

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES OF APPROVED FUNDS (Indicate amount per year and years for which funds are requested):

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1. <u>\$5,000</u>	<u>To be used in 2011, for the foundation of the 22nd Habitat home in Sheridan County.</u>
2. <u>\$6,000</u>	<u>To be used in 2011, on the construction materials for the 22nd Habitat home.</u>
3. <u>\$1,000</u>	<u>To support the needs of the more than 300 community volunteers and traveling volunteers that are anticipated to help with the construction of the 22nd home in Sheridan.</u>

GOALS AND BENEFITS TO THE SHERIDAN AREA COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURES LISTED ABOVE:

1. To build more affordable housing in Sheridan, Wyoming by involving community volunteers. Community volunteers are used in all parts of this project. Throughout the construction of one home more than 500 volunteers participate in construction alone, with a significant number of those volunteers being from other communities. Local businesses and contractors have donated services and materials to make the projects economically feasible.
2. To make purchasing a home possible for one low income families that earn 30 – 60 percent of the state median income. As the need for housing escalates, the correlation between a stable home and issues such as health, educational opportunities, safety and security becomes more obvious. Habitat's no-interest loan makes purchasing a home possible and provides a way out of the costly, competitive rental market by partnering with qualified families to build affordable homes. The benefits of affordable homeownership are universally recognized in that they promote both family and community social and economic stability and are a prerequisite for effective community and economic development.
3. To provide volunteers of all ages and demographics a valuable volunteering opportunity as they work alongside the Habitat homeowners. Establishing these relationships helps to shorten the divide in the community between various socio-economic groups and provides an opportunity for citizens to become contributing members of their community.

4. To share with visiting volunteers the warmth and strength of the Sheridan Community. This summer, through Habitat's RV-Care-A-Vanners program, more than 100 volunteers will be traveling to Sheridan staying at the local campgrounds, RV parks, and hotels and visiting Sheridan's local tourism attractions while spending 40 hours a week working on Habitat's construction sites.
5. Affordable housing in Sheridan County continues to be rated as a greatest need in each of the community and county assessments conducted in 2006 and 2009. In the most recent survey completed in the 2009 County Assessment – all 810 respondents ranked affordable housing as highest need in Sheridan County after medical care. Communities benefit from affordable housing because it contributes to sustainable and dynamic local communities.

DESCRIBE LAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BENEFITS ATTRIBUTED TO CURRENT ONE CENT OPTIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED (If applicable):

Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns did not apply for One Cent Optional Funds last year.


PLEASE INDICATE IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS APPLYING FOR THE CITY OF SHERIDAN OPTIONAL ONE CENT TAX FUNDS. IF SO, THE AMOUNT REQUESTED AND FOR WHAT YEAR(S) AND PURPOSE.

Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns plans to apply for the City of Sheridan Optional One Cent Tax Funds. We will request \$15,000 for the 2010-2011 construction of three new Habitat homes in Sheridan.

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR LAST FISCAL YEAR AUDIT (Or a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement).**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE LATEST IRS FORM 990 (If Applicable).**

SIGNED: 
 Title: Exec. Director
 Date: 4.1.10

Please complete this application. You may provide additional information if you wish.