



**News
Release**

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Homeword Announces New Executive Director

Missoula – Homeword is thrilled to reintroduce Karissa Trujillo as its new executive director. Following a thorough national search, the Executive Director Hiring Committee selected Trujillo to fill the position. She will lead the organization forward as it continues to strengthen Montana communities by teaching homebuyer and financial education and providing homes Montanans can afford.

Chair of Homeword’s Executive Director Hiring Committee Jessica Vizzutti said the committee was unanimous in naming Trujillo the top candidate and Homeword's next executive director.

“Her outstanding vision, extensive housing background and thoughtful leadership make her the perfect person to continue Homeword's work across Montana,” said Vizzutti.

Homeword hired Trujillo as the operations and program director in 2016 and promoted her to deputy director in 2022. She served in these critical roles on the organization’s leadership team for seven years, dedicating herself to Homeword’s mission and work.

With the transition of former executive director Andrea Davis into the role of Missoula's mayor, Homeword’s board of directors appointed Trujillo interim executive director to take the helm of the organization in November 2023.

“I am excited to continue in this role,” said Trujillo. “The team at Homeword is the best around, and the work that Homeword does is invaluable.”

Trujillo earned master’s degrees in public administration and education from the University of Montana, where she worked as associate director for New Student and Family Programs for over nine years.

In addition to her deep professional experience in both public and nonprofit sectors, Trujillo has earned the NeighborWorks certification in Homeownership Counseling for Program Managers and Executive Directors as well as the NeighborWorks Center for Homeownership Education and Counseling (NCHEC) Homeownership Counseling certificate. Karissa has a Housing Development Finance Professional certificate from the National Development Council as well.

Trujillo grew up in Arlee, Montana, and has lived in Missoula since college. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons as well as their rescue dogs. Her favorite things about Missoula are the people and the strong sense of community.

As Homeward moves forward with a new executive director, the organization invites support in the form of donations to its Transition Fund. Direct donations to the Transition Fund are instrumental in Homeward's growth and ensure that these investments are both impactful and immediate. Visit www.homeward.org/donate for more information.

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