

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 24, 2021 Patti Webster, CEO/Executive Director HomeFront formerly Housing Authority of Billings

## \$500 Landlord Incentive For all New HAB Section 8 Vouchers Leased

[Billings, MT]: Today, HomeFront announces a new Landlord Incentive paying \$500 to all landlords for any new vouchers leased. This incentive is available until funding is depleted. This milestone is a major move for HomeFront in its mission to lease up 200 Housing Choice Vouchers in our community.

This news comes in the wake of a turbulent and tight rental market with COVID-19 eviction moratoriums at the state and national level, more need than availability for affordable and assisted housing, owners choosing to sell given the real estate market along with many recent initiatives and accomplishments of the company, including:

- Rebranding from Housing Authority of Billings to HomeFront Partners for a Better Billings;
- HAB Development purchasing a hotel (Off the Streets Shelter) for low barrier shelter and Quarantine/Isolation site for our community in response to the emergency pandemic which is operated by the Continuum of Care (CoC). Over 400 unique individuals have been served with over 8000 shelter nights provided in the most recent 6-month period;
- Finalization of Strategic Plan to carry out new housing initiatives.

"I am hoping that this landlord incentive will engage additional landlords and will open up housing opportunities to over 100 families who have vouchers ready to use, but cannot find housing in the community."

**About HomeFront:** HomeFront is this community's Public Housing Authority (PHA). In 1973, the citizens of Billings voted for us to be this community's PHA. Our mission is to elevate the quality of life in our community by creating innovative, affordable, and sustainable neighborhoods. We do this by inspiring individuals and families, promoting partnerships and cultivating change.

"HomeFront is the largest housing provider in the state of Montana, besides the state program itself. We serve over 1700 families daily from our office and work with over 500 landlords with our Housing choice voucher program, infusing over \$600,000.00 a month into the community through public/private partnerships by means of Housing Assistance payments to landlords."

To learn more about HomeFront visit, <u>www.homefrontpartners.org</u>. Please direct all landlord incentive questions to Eligibility Specialist, Kate M. at katem@homefrontpartners.org, or by calling 406-237-1912.