

Email: Barbara.Shawyer@ed.gov

September 7, 2005

Dr. Alex Capdeville  
Chancellor  
Montana State University Northern  
200 Cowan Hall  
P.O. Box 7751  
Havre, MT 59501

Dear Dr. Capdeville:

Thank you for advising me of the Montana State University Northern's possible interest in acquiring the former BLM Lewistown Field Office property in Lewistown, Montana.

Enclosed are copies of the materials that will be required to prepare an application to acquire the former BLM Lewistown Field Office property at public benefit allowance discount for educational purposes through the U.S. Department of Education.

Please recognize that the application process is competitive in nature. Other organizations may also have expressed interest in acquiring this property through the U.S. Department of Education or through similar programs conducted by other Federal government agencies. Your proposal must therefore convincingly demonstrate that the highest and best use of the former BLM Lewistown Field Office property will be achieved through implementation of the educational programs set forth in your application.

If your application is approved, it will comprise a contractual obligation that will be binding upon the Montana State University Northern for a period of thirty (30) years. In order to avoid the possibility of future misunderstanding, your proposed program of use should be as specific as possible and provide a clear, unambiguous commitment to conduct certain educational programs throughout the entire facility and should demonstrate that you have an immediate need and ability to use all of the property requested.

It would be advisable to additionally note that the nature and content of the programs proposed in your application determine the exact amount of the public benefit allowance discount. Instructional programs are usually eligible for a full 100 percent discount while other activities may qualify at lesser discounts; thereby requiring that the applicant pay at least some percentage of the acquisition price of the property.

Since the application process is governed by fairly stringent time limitations that have been established under Federal regulations, ***your completed application must be received by 5 p.m. CDT on Friday, August 19, 2005, at the Washington, D.C. office.*** (Facsimile transmissions will be accepted at the number noted above.) I realize that this deadline may be difficult to meet, but I encourage you to try to submit an application within the time allotted under Federal regulations if you remain interested in the property.

If you have not already done so, I'd like to encourage you to make arrangements to tour the property prior to submitting your application. Please contact Ms. Linda Perry at (817) 978-4246 and she will put you in touch with the project manager.

If you have any questions regarding the application process or would like electronic files of the application, or have questions about the former BLM Lewistown Field Office property, I encourage you to feel free to contact me at your convenience. I look forward to receiving your application by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Shawyer  
Federal Real Property Assistance Program

Enclosures