

**MONTANA GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION ACT
GRANT APPLICATION
STATE FISCAL
YEARS 2027-2028
JULY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2028**

***NG911 AND ELECTIONS GIS FOR
SHERIDAN COUNTY***



APPLICATION FOR FY2027 MGIA GRANT FUNDING

SECTION 1 – ORGANIZATION, PARTNER, AND PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Provide basic information about your organization, the total MGIA grant request and any match, and a short executive summary of your project (up to 400 words). Identify the FY2027 MGIA grant program priority, whether the project is one or multiple years, and list all funding partners.

Primary Applicant Contact Information <i>(Please fill this section out in its entirety)</i>	
Name of Agency/Entity:	Sheridan County
Department:	Sheridan County 911
Division/Section:	
Street:	100 W Laurel Ave
City:	Plentywood
County:	Sheridan
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59254
Project Manager Contact Information:	
Name:	Amanda Christensen
Title:	Director
Email Address:	achristensen@sheridancountymt.gov
Phone Number:	406-765-7-1200
Secondary Project Manager Contact Information	
Name:	Ruth Lagerquist
Title:	Dispatcher
Email Address	rlagerquist@sheridancountymt.gov
Phone Number:	406-765-1200
Authorized Signer Contact Information	
Name	
Title	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

Funding Partners <i>(required for each partner, add rows as needed)</i>	
Name of Contact:	Lindsay Brensdal
Name of Agency:	Sheridan County Clerk and Recorder's Office
Street:	100 W Laurel Ave
City:	Plentywood
County:	Sheridan
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59254
Contact Email Address:	lbrensdal@sheridancountymt.gov
Contact Phone Number:	406-765-3403
Name of Contact:	Ken Heppner
Name of Agency:	Sheridan County Planning Department
Street:	100 W Laurel Ave
City:	Plentywood
County:	Sheridan
State:	Montana
Zip Code:	59254
Contact Email Address:	kheppner@sheridancountymt.gov
Contact Phone Number:	406-765-3411

NOTE: Each identified Funding Partner MUST also submit a letter of support.

Proposal Information	
Date Submitted:	
Identified Grant Priority: <i>*See the Montana Geospatial Info Plan for information on priorities.</i>	NG911 and Geo-Enabled Elections
Proposal Prepared By:	Amanda Christensen, Director, Sheridan County 911
Short Title of Proposal:	NG911 and Election GIS for Sheridan County
Executive Summary	
<p>Sheridan County sits in the northeast corner of Montana. We have a population of 3539 people according to the 2020 census. Sheridan County 911 has been working on improving the quality of our GIS data for almost a decade. In 2023, Sheridan County 911 was awarded the MLIA grant. With those funds, we were able to accelerate our work. After that grant cycle was complete, we continued the work to validate our GIS data and are currently over 90% finished according to the new matrix from the Montana State Library.</p> <p>We are requesting grant funds to help us finish this project at a faster pace as we know NG911 is no longer just something we dream about. It's at our door step. Continuing to update, validate and verify our geodata will be pivotal in ensuring we're ready.</p> <p>In addition to the work our GIS contractor is doing, our 911 Director as well as additional 911 staff, along with our Elections Coordinator and County Planner will work with Sheridan County's data to continue assisting with the validation and updating process. Our contractor believes with an additional twenty hours of work per month on our behalf, he can have our geodata 100% validated and verified by the end of this new grant cycle.</p> <p>The work to validate and update our GIS will benefit not only Sheridan County 911 in our quest to be NG911 ready but will also address the needs of election officials to ensure Sheridan County's voting districts are accurate and true by validating that every Montana voter's address is accurately mapped and voting districts are correctly outlined.</p>	
MGIA Grant Funding Request and Match	
Total Requested MGIA Funds:	\$36,000
Total Matched Funds:	\$25,000

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC BENEFIT

Briefly explain how your project supports one or more MSDI Themes or initiatives, what you will deliver, and how the results will benefit multiple agencies and Montana communities through local impact, cost savings, or efficiency gains.

10% of the Total Score - 300-word limit

Sheridan County doesn't have a large population but there are houses and business from the northeast corner all the way to the southeastern most point. There are over a thousand miles of county roads and almost 140 miles of state highway in our county. Confirmed GIS data in an area that large is especially important to Sheridan County 911 and the responders we dispatch. Having verified addresses is imperative in the timely arrival of help to the citizens who call on us and that timely arrival saves lives. Finding a caller that has no idea where they are used to be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Up-to-date geodata helps remove that hay, leaving the needle much easier to find.

Sheridan County Elections are employing the same GIS data as Sheridan County 911 to make sure that every Montana voter is in the correct voting district, helping to ensure they are represented as accurately as possible. Sheridan County Elections will benefit equally from the GIS data Sheridan County 911 is striving to complete verification and validation of.

Our GIS validation project is ongoing. Over the past three years, we have made great strides in NG911 readiness with the amount of data we have collected, verified and validated. Should we be fortunate enough to be awarded funds, we will continue towards the goal of having our GIS data 100% ready for NG911.

SECTION 3 – PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

Use this section to show that your organization and team can successfully deliver and manage the project. Briefly describe your relevant experience with similar projects or grants, name the primary and secondary Project Managers and their roles, and explain how you will oversee any consultants, meet reporting requirements, and invoice the State Library for reimbursement.

10% of Total Score - 2-page limit

SHERIDAN COUNTY 911 WAS AWARDED THE MLIA GRANT IN 2023. RUTH LAGERQUIST, WHO WILL SERVE AS OUR SECONDARY PROJECT MANAGER SHOULD WE BE AWARDED THIS GRANT, WAS SHERIDAN COUNTY 911 DIRECTOR AT THE TIME AND SERVED AS THE PROJECT MANAGER. WORKING WITH OUR GIS CONTRACTOR AND THE MONTANA STATE LIBRARY, RUTH WAS ABLE TO TAKE OUR GIS INFORMATION FROM A SYSTEM FULL OF ERRORS TO THE 93.13% VERIFIED PROGRAM IT IS TODAY.

AMANDA CHRISTENSEN IS SHERIDAN COUNTY 911'S DIRECTOR. SHE WILL SERVE AS PRIMARY PROJECT MANAGER FOR THIS GRANT. IN ADDITION TO COMMUNICATING WITH OUR GIS CONTRACTOR ABOUT THE PROJECT, AMANDA WILL OVERSEE THE SUBMISSION OF FINACIAL REPORTS AND REPORTS OF PROGRESS TO THE MONTANA STATE LIBRARY AS WELL AS MANAGE INVOICING AND PAYMENT BETWEEN OUR GIS CONTRACTOR AND THE MSL. REPORTS WILL BE SENT QUARTERLY. INVOICING THE MONTANA STATE LIBRARY WILL BE TIMELY IN CONJUNCTION WITH PAYMENTS MADE TO OUR GIS CONTRACTOR.

AS MENTIONED, RUTH LAGERQUIST WILL FILL THE ROLE OF SECONDARY PROJECT MANAGER. SHE WILL ASSIST OUR PRIMARY PROJECT MANAGER BY COORDINATING THE FLOW OF NEW AND UPDATED ADDRESS DATA BETWEEN THE COUNTY PLANNER AND OUR CURRENT GIS CONTRACTOR. HAVING PREVIOUSLY MANAGED A GRANT OF THIS NATURE, RUTH WILL ALSO SHARE HER EXPERIENCE AND IS ABLE TO HELP AMANDA NAVIGATE THE PROCESS IF NECESSARY. RUTH HAS NEARLY 38 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN EMERGENCY DISPATCH AND HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING OUR GIS DATA TO ITS CURRENT LEVEL. SHE WILL BE AN ASSET TO AMANDA AS SHE CAN LEND HER EXPIRIENCE AND INSIGHT

SECTION 4 – SCOPE OF WORK

The Scope of Work (SOW) section explains what your project will accomplish, how it will be carried out, and what it will produce. Applicants should develop their SOW using the Workbook provided, then copy the completed version into this section. Define goals, objectives, and tasks concisely but with enough detail to show clear, logical steps from project purpose to on-the-ground work and deliverables, and ensure that your SOW directly supports the Geospatial Information Plan priority you selected.

Formatting of the SOW is critical. Use the required multilevel list structure provided in the Workbook. If needed, the required formatting can be found within this word document in the *Home Menu Ribbon > Paragraph Section > Multilevel List > List Library*.

Tasks must appear in chronological order, each with a specific completion date. All hardware or equipment purchases must be listed as separate, clearly justified tasks.

40% OF TOTAL SCORE – 4 page-limit

Goal 1. North Dakota boundaries defined

Objective 1.1. By August 30, 2026 we will have submitted to the MSL the boundaries that have been snapped to the agreed upon border in North Dakota to eliminate gaps and overlaps.

Task 1.1.1. Realign PSAP and ESN boundaries to agreed upon ND border, including snapping and splitting roads based on the updated boundary and submit the data to the MSL

-Completion Date: August 30, 2026

Goal 2. Road centerline boundaries

Objective 2.1. By September 30, 2026 we will have split and snapped all road centerlines to PSAP boundaries to ensure correct jurisdictional boundaries.

Task 2.1.1. Using state provided PSAP boundaries, we will realign roads to reflect the proper jurisdiction response.

-Completion Date: September 30, 2026

Goal 3. City/ Town boundaries

Objective 3.1. By November 30, 2026 we will have the administrative boundaries verified to help ensure the correct voting districts for geo-enabled elections.

Task 3.1.1. Working with city/town staff, Sheridan County 911, Sheridan County 911's GIS contractor and the Sheridan County Elections Office, we will verify voting

districts and corporate limit boundaries and make necessary changes. Corrected data will be send to election staff at the MSL.

-Completion Date: November 30, 2026

Goal 4. MSAG to Road Center Line clean-up

Objective 4.1. We are currently at 84.46% complete in this goal. By January 1, 2027, we plan to be at 100% to help ensure calls to Sheridan County 911 are routed based on precise geographical data.

Task 4.1.1. Sheridan County 911 staff, the Sheridan County Planning Office and Sheridan County 911's GIS contractor will work together to determine which address ranges need updating or to be added to either the MSAG or the road centerlines GIS data layer.

-Completion Date: January 1. 2027

Goal 5. ALI Validation

Objective 5.1. Our ALI data is 0% verified. By June 30, 2028, we plan to bring that up to 100% validation to help ensure accurate emergency call routing and faster emergency response times.

Task 5.1.1. Sheridan County 911 staff will work with the Montana State Library to learn how to download the ALI and MSAG datasets

-Completion Date: June 30, 2028

Task 5.1.2. Sheridan County 911 staff, along with the Sheridan County Planning Office and Sheridan County 911's GIS contractor will verify current addresses in the legacy system, making sure we have a valid and/or matching location for each address.

-Completion Date: June 30, 2028

Task 5.1.3. We will move from legacy ALI to a GIS based system

-Completion Date: June 30, 2026

Goal 6. Duplicate address clean up

Objective 6.1. It is our goal to have all duplicate address cleaned up and align points to structures to help enable geo-elections.

Task 6.1.1. Run GIS based tools to identify duplicate address points

-Completion Date: June 30, 2028

Task 6.1.2. Sheridan County 911 staff will work with Sheridan County Planning Office and Sheridan County 911's GIS contractor to determine which address point is correct.

-Completion Date: June 30, 2026

SECTION 5 – BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND BUDGET TABLE

Use this section to explain your project’s financial need and overall funding plan, including how MGIA funds, your own funds, and any partner contributions will cover the full cost of the work. Briefly state whether this is one-time project work or support for ongoing maintenance, and summarize any matching funds (cash or in-kind) and the approximate share of the total project they represent.

You must also complete Budget Table using the provided Excel spreadsheet. Applications without a completed budget table will be rejected.

30% of total score – 2-page limit

SINCE THE LAST FUNDING GRANT ENDED, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING SLOWLY WITH OUR GIS CONTRACTOR TO FURTHER ADVANCE OUR GIS GOALS. WITH FUNDING FROM THIS GRANT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH THOSE GOALS- 100% VALIDATION OF OUR GIS DATA AND ASSURANCE THAT SHERIDAN COUNTY 911 WILL BE READY FOR NG911, AND A FAR GREATER PACE.

WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH OUR GIS CONTRACTOR ABOUT WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO GET OUR VALIDATION TO 100% COMPLETENESS. HE EXPRESSED THAT A WORKLOAD OF 30 HOURS PER MONTH FOR THE DURATION OF THIS GRANT CYCLE SHOULD SEE US TO THE END OF THIS PROJECT. OUR CURRENT GIS BUDGET IS \$9000 PER YEAR AND PAYS FOR TEN HOURS PER MONTH. WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE MGIA GRANT, SHOULD WE BE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR APPLICATION, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THAT 30 TOTAL HOURS PER MONTH. SHERIDAN COUNTY WILL ALSO BE DEDICATING \$7,000 OF IN-KIND WORK FROM STAFF IN THE 911 AND PLANNING DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS STAFF IN THE ELECTIONS OFFICE FOR THE MANAGEMENT, DATA COLLECTION AND VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION USED TO FURTHER UPDATE OUR GIS DATABASE.

.SECTION 6 – PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Use this section to explain how the results of your project will be maintained and used after the grant ends, including who will be responsible, how ongoing costs will be funded, and how the work will fit into your regular operations. Describe how you will coordinate with the Montana State Library on any MSDI data updates and, if you are new to GIS, how this project will help you establish sustainable workflows and build long-term GIS capacity.

10% of score - 300-word limit

Sheridan County has been using its current GIS budget of \$9000 per year to slowly work towards NG911 readiness by maintaining the progress we accomplished during the last MLIA grant cycle, as well continuing to update and validate GIS data. After the current grant ends, we will continue the upkeep of our GIS data by working with our GIS contractor and Sheridan County Planning Department to verify new location data and correct any errors brought to our attention. Should there be any layer left less than 100% validated, we will make bringing it to that level a priority.

Sheridan County 911 will facilitate the collection and verification of new data as well as any changes that need to be made to the existing GIS database.

Data will continue to be sent to the Montana State Library to update and maintain our GIS records. Our GIS contractor has an established relationship with the MSL and will continue working with them to ensure the information is accurate and usable.

The information we gather, validate, verify and correct will be used not only by Sheridan County emergency responders to save lives and property but also by the Sheridan County Elections Office to ensure Montana voters are accurately represented. In short, this grant will be used to better the lives of today's Montanans as well as those of future generations.

SECTION 7 - RENEWABLE GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY

Please use [this web map to research and identify past awarded MGIA Grants](#).

Applicants awarded MGIA Grants within the past five years, must provide a written narrative for each grant awarded, outlining the successes and failures of the grant. Explain how tasks, timelines, and deliverables of the project were or were not met. Demonstrate how past project failures will ensure future successes. (200-word limit each).

Our successes far outweighed any failures with our previous MGIA grant. Procedures were fine-tuned, lessons were learned, and the county employees involved learned more about GIS and how it impacts Elections and NG911 preparedness.

Timelines were adhered to, and tasks were performed as listed. Deliverables nearly met the requirements, but we found that much required to be revisited in the validation process. Our contractor worked the allowed hours per month, according to budgetary plan, but validations to the extent needed does take time and ultimately we were unable to reach 100% correctness. Since the grant ended, our contractor has continued to work on the geodata as per county budget, and does make progress accordingly.

The Montana State Library employees have been of immeasurable help to ourselves as well as our contractor and we would like to acknowledge their assistance and talent.



**CLERK AND RECORDER
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR**

100 West Laurel Avenue
Plentywood MT 59254-1699

406.765.3403
406.765.2609 Fax
record_supt@sheridancountymt.gov
www.sheridancountymt.org

Lindsey Brensda

February 3, 2025

TO: Montana Geospatial Advisory Council

RE: MGIA Grant Fiscal Years 26/27

I am writing this letter in support of Sheridan County 911/Dispatch receiving the MGIA Grant for FY26 and FY27. The MGIA Grant will help us continue with the validation and updating of the County's GIS data they started with their previous grant. With this grant, Sheridan County will be able to focus on validation of the County's ALI and addressing, verifying and improving voting district boundaries, and update town and city boundaries to the correct voting districts for geo-enabled elections. This grant will be extremely beneficial for the elections process. Montana's Election System, ElectMT uses Total Addressing for assigning address points to voters. ElectMT and Total Address receive data points from the County's Elections Office, the County's GIS, 911, the Department of Revenue, etc. It's extremely important for elections that there is a single address point that matches across the various agencies. The previous grant was a key tool in making sure that the address points we have for elections are the address points Sheridan County's GIS/Planning Department and 911/Dispatch are also using. The new grant will help continue making sure our address points are correct and consistent across the board. This is imperative for our geo-enabled elections and redistricting within the County and the State. Sheridan County Elections looks forward to better serving the voters of our County and the MGIA Grant will go a long way in supporting our mission and the mission of Sheridan County 911/Dispatch to update, streamline, and maintain the County's GIS data.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Brensda

Lindsey Brensdal
Sheridan County
Clerk & Recorder/Superintendent of Schools/Election Administrator



2/09/2026

Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant
C/O: MGIA Grant Coordinator

Subject: County Planning Support for 911 Dispatch – MGIA Grant Application

Dear Montana Geospatial Information Act grant,

On behalf of the Sheridan County Planning Department, I would like to offer this letter of support for the Sheridan County 911 and their application to the Montana Geospatial Information Act Grant. As Sheridan County's Planning/GIS coordinator, I would like to express my strong support for Sheridan County 911 and their on-going work of having clean and accurate GIS information for the NextGen 911 system.

The Sheridan County Planning Department recognizes the critical importance of this project in addressing local infrastructure and safety needs, and is committed to assisting the 911 dispatching through:

- Staff participation in issuing new addresses for rural Sheridan County
- Coordinating and monitoring the validity of the current address data, roads, bridges, and waterway geodatabases
- Ensuring up-to-date mapping is available for 911 dispatching incidents and emergencies

I respectfully urge the MGIA Grant administrator to give strong consideration to their application.

Sincerely,

Ken Heppner

PLANNING OFFICE

100 West Laurel Ave
Plentywood, MT 59254
406-765-3411

planning@sheridancountymt.gov

www.sheridancountymt.gov/planning



Sheridan County 911

MGIA GRANT DETAILED BUDGET TABLE

Tasks	Category Type	Funding Source	Hours	Rate	Cost
Task 1.1.1	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	40	75	\$ 3,000.00
Task 1.1.1	Contractual	Sheridan County 911 Cash	20	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,500.00
Task 2.1.1	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	20	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,500.00
Task 2.1.1	Contractual	Sheridan County 911 Cash	10	\$ 75.00	\$ 750.00
Task 3.1.1	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	40	\$ 75.00	\$ 3,000.00
Task 3.1.1	Contractual	Sheridan County 911 Cash	20	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,500.00
Task 3.1.1	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County 911 In-Kind	20	\$ 35.00	\$ 700.00
Task 3.1.1	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan Count Elections Office In-	10	\$ 35.00	\$ 350.00
Task 4.1.1	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	20	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,500.00
Task 4.1.1	Contractual	Sheridan County 911 Cash	10	\$ 75.00	\$ 750.00
Task 4.1.1	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County 911 In-Kind	10	\$ 35.00	\$ 350.00
Task 4.1.1	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County Planning In-Kind	10	\$ 35.00	\$ 350.00
Task 5.1.1	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County 911 In-Kind	5	\$ 35.00	\$ 175.00
Task 5.1.2	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	90	\$ 75.00	\$ 6,750.00
Task 5.1.2	Contractual	Sheridan County 911 Cash	45	\$ 75.00	\$ 3,375.00
Task 5.1.2	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County 911 In-Kind	25	\$ 35.00	\$ 875.00
Task 5.1.2	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County Planning In-Kind	10	\$ 35.00	\$ 350.00
Task 5.1.3	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	90	\$ 75.00	\$ 6,750.00
Task 5.1.3	Contractual	Sheridan County 911 Cash	45	\$ 75.00	\$ 3,375.00
Task 5.1.3	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County 911 In-Kind	30	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,050.00
Task 6.1.1	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	90	\$ 75.00	\$ 6,750.00
Task 6.1.1	Contractual	Sheridan County 911 Cash	45	\$ 75.00	\$ 3,375.00
Task 6.1.1	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County 911 In-Kind	30	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,050.00
Task 6.1.1	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County Planning In-Kind	10	\$ 35.00	\$ 350.00
Task 6.1.2	Contractual	MGIA Grant Funds	90	\$ 75.00	\$ 6,750.00
Task 6.1.2	Contractual	Sheridan County 911 Cash	45	\$ 75.00	\$ 3,375.00
Task 6.1.2	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County 911 In-Kind	30	\$ 35.00	\$ 1,050.00
Task 6.1.2	Personnel (incl. fringe benefits)	Sheridan County Planning In-Kind	10	\$ 35.00	\$ 350.00
			Totals:	920	\$ 61,000.00

Statement

Sheridan County Finance Office
 100 W Laurel Ave
 Plentywood MT 59254

Date
6/10/2024

To:
Montana State Library MGIA_FY24_05 Grant PO Bo 201800 1515 E Sixth Ave Helena, Mt 59620-1800

Amount Due
4,500.00

Date	Date	Transaction	Amount	Total
5/30/2024	5/01-5/31/2024	Geographic Innovations for Sheridan County 911/Elections	2,250.00	2,250.00
6/10/2024	6/01-6/10/2024	Geographic Innovations for Sheridan County 911/Elections	2,250.00	2,250.00
				Amount Due
				4,500.00

*May + June
 Final Pmt*