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MOUNTAINVIEW MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES \$38 MILLION FROM USDA TO BUILD NEW HEALTH CARE FACILITY IN WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

(March 10, 2023, White Sulphur Springs, Mont.) – Mountainview Medical Center is pleased to announce that the USDA will invest \$38,250,000 to build a new health care facility in White Sulphur Springs.

This investment will be used to replace the Mountainview Medical Center in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. The new facility will include a critical access hospital, emergency room, procedure suite, imaging, lab, physical therapy, long-term care, rural health clinic, and business office. The hospital will provide 25 beds, of which seven will be acute care beds, and 18 swing beds to provide senior living care. It will include a clinic area and allow for the continuation and expansion of much-needed medical services for White Sulphur Springs and the surrounding communities, which benefits over 1,800 rural residents living in Meagher County.

With the funding provided through USDA's <u>Community Facilities Direct and Guaranteed Loan</u> Programs, Mountainview Medical Center is now on track to break ground on the new facility this summer. The equity needed for the project is already secured and Mountainview Medical Center is near completion of the design phase.

"This investment from the USDA represents the largest investment in our community's healthcare since our hospital was first built in 1949," said Rob Brandt, CEO at Mountainview Medical Center. "The support of USDA, along with dedicated community members, employees, partners, and local businesses, will help ensure quality health care for our community for decades to come. We are very proud of the care we deliver, and we plan to expand services for our community."

Many of Montana's rural hospitals were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s with federal funds appropriated by the Hill-Burton Act.

"Montana's hospitals are aging faster than other hospitals nationwide. After decades of renovations and updates, our rural hospitals are reaching a point where new construction is the

most cost-efficient approach to maintaining a safe environment for their communities' health care services," said Bob Olsen, Interim CEO at the Montana Hospital Association. "It's also an excellent opportunity for these hospitals to update their facilities to better meet the communities' needs, which often include an emphasis on outpatient services and the flexibility to adapt to the community's changing needs over time."

The USDA Rural Development funds will help to finance construction costs and upgrades in furniture, fixtures and equipment. USDA Rural Development loans have helped to build health care facilities in rural areas across the region including Beartooth Billings Clinic in Red Lodge and Livingston HealthCare in Livingston.

The new facility is expected to open January 2025. Infusion Architects is designing the new facility and Sletten Construction has been selected as the builder.

About Mountainview Medical Center

Mountainview Medical Center, located in White Sulphur Springs, Montana, is a rural integrated delivery system offering emergency services, hospitalization, long-term care, and a primary care clinic for the residents and visitors of White Sulphur Springs and Meagher County.

As a frontier community, 75 miles from the nearest stoplight, Mountainview is in a unique position to provide services to a wide array of people. Sparsely populated ranchland and National Forest Service land is the backdrop to our critical access hospital. MMC is a vital part of the community, providing primary care, emergency services, and tending to the needs of the elderly population in long-term care. For more information, visit mvmc.org.

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