

## Reaching People with Disabilities through Healthy Communities

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Montana Independent Living Project, Cassie Weightman	
<p><b>This project has impacted my life because:</b></p>	<p>The project has made a profound impact on Butte by giving major energy and attention to the needs of inclusivity when planning healthy communities. It also gave inclusivity considerations a seat at the table when decisions are being made.</p>
<p><b>The most influential policy, system, or environmental change of this project to me was:</b></p>	<p>The systems change of tying the local health department into the grant allowed our public health leader to intimately become familiar with considering the needs of people with disabilities in every aspect, and the impact it has on a healthy community.</p>
<p><b>As a result of this, I/we:</b> <i>(List how you have been impacted, influenced, affected – e.g. tell us something you can do now that you couldn't before, or what the change has helped to improve)</i></p>	<p>Butte gained a beautiful park facility (Stodden Park) that is completely inclusive. We were brought into conversations that directly made decisions that led to inclusivity. We were also at the table for the park street/excelsior street projects, which will result in more accessible paths of travel around uptown Butte.</p>
<p><b>What was the emotional connection, self-efficacy, or “ah-ha” moment for this project?</b></p>	<p>To feel the impact of a community not thinking of something as ‘for the disabled’ but rather, not even noticing that everyone can use this space because it was so well planned out and executed (and accessible). This is extremely powerful.</p>

***Please note that testimonials may be edited for clarity by the NACDD Communications Department.***