DATE AGENCY DESCRIPTION UPDATED: 8/14/14

NAME OF AGENCY: Women’s Opportunity & Resource Development (WORD)
PROGRAM: Futures Program

STREET ADDRESS: 2405 McIntosh Loop, Missoula, MT 59801
MAILING ADDRESS: 2405 McIntosh Loop, Missoula, MT 59801

CONTACT PERSON: Naomi Thornton, Program Director  PHONE: (406) 543-3550 x 229
CONTACT EMAIL: futures@wordinc.org
AGENCY WEBSITE: http://www.wordinc.org/futures

STUDENT PREFERENCE:  BSW student ☒  MSW student ☐  Either BSW or MSW ☒

A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING
WORD is a feminist non-profit organization offering innovative programming focused on assisting homeless and low-income women and their families in achieving economic self-sufficiency. The Futures Program uses a youth development approach to help young parents to reach their educational and vocational goals while being nurturing caretakers.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP
The Futures Program works with parents (men and women) under the age of 22 and their young children.

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
The Futures Program employs practicum students for various activities, such as staffing the Young Family Resource Center, where clients and their children can drop in for support, counseling and referral, use organizational resources to seek employment and other opportunities, attend parenting and leadership trainings and obtain basic needs assistance in the form of gas vouchers, toiletry, household and baby care items and more. Students also have the opportunity to lead client groups such as the Teen Parent Panel, which visits local high schools to help promote responsibility and encourage safe sexual practices.

D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS
Students are viewed as staff members and are expected to be dependable, willing to learn and open to constructive feedback and the challenge to grow, able to identify their learning needs, function independently and contribute to team meetings. Students are encouraged to attend weekly program meetings and bi-monthly organizational meetings. WORD welcomes the opportunity to mesh the academic with field experience. Experience working with children and at-risk groups is favorable. Must respect WORD’s feminist, pro-choice values.