



2010 MONTANA BEAR ROUNDUP WEBINAR SUMMARY

Due to restricted travel budgets, the MEDA BEAR Working Group felt it would be best to hold a webinar instead of a face-to-face Montana BEAR Roundup as in the past. While the networking was missing as well as sharing “what works” stories, the information gleaned in the hour and a half webinar, held November 15th, was practical and thorough. Over 40 BEAR Team members joined the call. Below is a summary of the information shared as well as the presentation file.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: How it impacts Main Street Employers



BEAR Team members requested assistance in understanding how health care reform could impact Montana business owners. While the issue is extremely complicated and could change in the near future, Gina Reilly, Employee Benefits Sales Executive Vice President for Payne Financial Group, Inc., shared an overview of what to expect. Gina explained just how health care reform came about and what to expect as each deadline for implementation approaches. [View the entire presentation online.](#)

INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING GRANT UPDATE



Dave Morey, 21ST Century Workforce Bureau Chief, provided an update to the BEAR Teams regarding the Incumbent Worker Training Grant:

- Disbursements are on track. This means there will not be a need to restrict grant applications.
- Regarding applications make sure:
 - The applications are complete.
 - The employer has signed the documents.
- A field manual is in the works that will assist those working with the grant forms.
- To assist with the work load, individuals at Job Services in Billings, Missoula, Hamilton and Polson are being trained to approve the grants.

Dave and Chris Wilhelm are available to come to your community and visit with your BEAR Team if the team needs assistance with the grant process.

USING EXECUTIVEPULSE FOR YOUR REGION'S DATA NEEDS



Laith Wardi, CEcD, President, ExecutivePulse, praised the Montana BEAR Program for redesigning and shortening the Montana survey. The new survey encourages conversation and provides guideposts for discussion rather than an abrupt question and answer format. Laith encouraged teams to take advantage of the option to adapt the survey to gather specific information on specific topics in your area. This would be a way to gather local information for your community. Finally, Laith reminded the teams that ExecutivePulse provides technical support 24/7 and would be happy to host training webinars upon request.

CLOSING

Gloria O'Rourke thanked the presenters and those who joined the call. The MEDA BEAR Working Group will hold a conference call in the near future and will hold a face-to-face meeting during the April MEDA Conference April 28th – 29th.