



MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR AUGUST, 2009

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MEDA Membership Update

Two new members were added to MEDA in July: Jane Knudsen, PhillCo Economic Growth, Malta; Jason Smith, State Tribal Economic Development Council, Helena. MEDA's membership is now at 240. [Print MEDA Membership Directory.](#)

Grant and Funding Opportunities

1. [New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink](#) Check out these great community grant links. Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
2. [RBEG](#) – USDA/Rural Business Enterprise Grant. Applications now being accepted. This program provides grants to eligible public bodies, including Indian Tribes, and nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance or fund a revolving fund to assist small businesses. Applications will be accepted at the Rural Development Area Offices for 2 application deadline dates. The dates are August 24, 2009 and September 23, 2009. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt> for more information.
3. [USDA/RD B&I Guarantee](#) – This program provides a federal guarantee to lenders making commercial loans to most rural businesses. The guarantee allows the lender to provide more flexible rates and terms to businesses. Applications will be accepted and funded as approved until September 30, 2010. All projects scoring over 55 priority points will have a 90% guarantee, otherwise the guarantee percent will be the same as the regular program. Most business types are eligible except that all facilities with swimming pools, gambling revenues, or convenience stores (unless the convenience store offers quality jobs and sells E85 gasoline) are not eligible and should apply under the regular program. There are also funds available under the regular program through September 30, 2009. More information is available at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt>

Committee and Working Groups

MEDA Working Groups: With the exception of the BEAR group, MEDA's Working Groups are in a summer hiatus. Activity is expected to re-ignite in early fall.

Insurance Update: MEDA Board Member Terry Myhre provided a list of questions to determine the membership's interest in forming an insurance group. The questions were input into SurveyMonkey and are available to the membership until August 10th. If you haven't responded, please do so today!
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uU62_2b1UwXoKMM4xLfuEpQA_3d_3d

MEDA Web Committee: Progress continues on the update of the MEDA webpage. The searchable database framework is almost complete. A list of topics has been created to establish search criteria and a flashy email message has been designed to encourage the membership to submit their data for searcher's to find. The first phase of the process should be ready to roll out the middle of August. Other upgrades pending: improved registration process, Archive tab for Resource Team Reports, past events, working group pages, etc.; and a Resource tab that includes forms, job descriptions, conflict of interest templates, etc. Members only username: meda; password: membership09.

MEDA Fall Conference Committee: Please see update below. Do mark your calendar for Libby, September 14th and 15th.

Opportunities For You

Interested in sharpening your professional skills as an economic and community development practitioner? Looking for new tools to place in your economic development tool box? Check these out.

- ❖ **NADO's 2009 Annual Training Conference.** Visit <http://www.nado.org/conferences/annual.php> for details and information about registering...including a new on-line registration process.
- ❖ **Stimulus Funds, Jobs, and GSA Schedules**
Start by downloading the complimentary book [GSA Schedules: The Shortest Path to Federal Dollars](#) or call 301 652 9504, press 2.
- ❖ **Eureka! Profit 101 Workshop & Simulation**, ½ -day. Hosted by Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC) A highly interactive simulation & half-day workshop to learn and practice how to create meaningfully unique ideas to attract new customers and markets. MMEC is offering this introductory workshop for a limited time at no-fee. Sessions in Kalispell August 11th and Helena. For meeting place information and to register, go to www.mtmanufacturingcenter.com/Training/scheduled_training.htm
- ❖ **"Show me the Money"** publication discusses ARRA incentives/credits/programs for everything from biomass to transmission to clean coal. Visit <http://www.stoel.com/showresource.aspx?Show=5500>. Thanks to [Carolyn Keller](#), MBAC, for sharing this information. Carolyn learned about it at the PNEDC conference.
- ❖ **Finance Course.** Join CDFA this September 17-18, 2009 in Washington, DC for [The Industry Primer: Development Bond Finance Course](#).
- ❖ **Free Workshops** for minority or woman owned business owners on the topics of marketing and grant development. Multiple locations and dates. Contact Shannon Hahn at DBE at 1.800.883.5811.
- ❖ **IEDC Annual Conference** October 4 – 7; <http://www.iedconline.org/AnnualConference/index.html>
- ❖ **"Failure to Inform': Is There a Looming Media Crisis in Montana?"** September 30 and October 1, 2009, Missoula, Wheeler Center Conference. Save the dates; more information to follow. www.wheelercenter.org



MONTANA BEAR Report Learn what is new in your region with the statewide Montana BEAR Program's [monthly report](#). Highlights include: training planned for the Bitterroot area the last week in August; the roll out of Incumbent Workforce Training delayed due a legal review; Richland County's VISTA is on board;

Montana BEAR Program is to present at the IEDC Conference, October 5th, Reno, NV, to share the how-to's of building a low cost, innovative BEAR Team.

There were 22 business visits in July with three people conducting more than one visit: Dale Tolley 10, Brian Edwards 6 and Nancy Axtell 2. Flathead County – 10, Yellowstone County – 6, Cascade County – 1, Sweet Grass County – 1, Gallatin County – 2 and Park County – 1.

My Turn - Eureka!

Eureka! Profit 101: I was invited to a unique workshop that I felt would surely be a benefit to all sorts of groups I work with including MEDA, Montana Ambassadors and the Montana BEAR Teams. I was not disappointed. Todd Daniels, MMEC, is a dynamic facilitator who introduced participants to an innovative process that assists businesses in growing their profit. The workshop included six key learning concepts, all taught in a hands-on and interactive format. The workshop's business mantra is: "If you're not meaningfully unique, you'd better be cheap." Another workshop will be held in Kalispell on August 11th and in Helena August 19th. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity if at all possible. More information is at <http://www.mtmanufacturingcenter.com>

MEDA Fall Conference Update

No doubt you have your calendar marked for September 14th and 15th to be in Libby, Montana, for the MEDA Fall Conference. The MEDA Agenda Committee recently met and has a draft agenda in place. The theme is "Energy Alternatives: a Western Montana Perspective." In addition to great topics and presentations, the draft agenda includes golf, tours, great food and a bit of entertainment. The Fall Conference Agenda Committee is: Tracy

McIntyre (Chair), Rick Edwards, Debi Davidson, Jennifer Nelson, Steve Arveschoug, Andy Poole, Dick King and Jim Atchison. Those involved in economic development in the Libby area and Lincoln County are serving as hosts. Registration will be available soon.

Do you have a Success Story to share? [Download the report template](#) and send to MEDA.