



MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR MARCH 2010

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Take the [Main Street Survey](#) and assist with strategic planning and revitalization for this program.

MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The first round of MEDA's scholarship competition for 2010 is now closed. The Scholarship Committee received six applications and will be determining award winners soon.

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. Are you preparing a CDBG Public Facilities application for FY2011? (Deadline: May 21, 2010). If so, please E-mail FKromkowski@mt.gov or give him a call: 406/841-2780. Frank has a running list of potential CDBG Public Facilities applications and wants to have it as complete as possible. You can download the FFY2011 CDBG Public Facilities Application Guidelines at http://comdev.mt.gov/CDD_CDBG_PF.asp Printed copies of the Guidelines will be available at the Missoula (March 4) and Billings (March 11) CDBG half-day workshop (and also at the W2ASACT workshops).
3. "Money – We Got It, You Want It" Learn excellent information for your infrastructure projects. See workshop dates and locations [here](#).
4. USDA/RD Montana 2010 application deadlines are now available.
 - Rural Business Enterprise Grant – May 14, 2010
 - Native American RBEG earmark – March 5, 2010
 - Rural Business Opportunity Grant – April 30, 2010
 - Native American RBOG earmark – April 30, 2010
 - Intermediary Relending Program – Accepted on quarterly basis, next deadline March 31, 2010
 - Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant – Accepted quarterly, next deadline March 31, 2010
 - Value Added Producer Grant – to be announced in the Federal Register
 - Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) – open application period with projects funded as approved except that the final deadline for applying for 2010 funding has been set for May 28, 2010
 - REAP Audit Grants – to be announced in the Federal Register
 - REAP Feasibility Grants – to be announced in the Federal Register
 - Biorefinery Assistance Program (Section 9003) – to be announced in the Federal Register
 - Repowering Assistance Program (Section 9004) – to be announced in the Federal Register
 - Advanced Biofuels Producer Payments (Section 9005) to be announced in the Federal Register
 - Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program – A new program to provide revolving loan funds and technical assistance grants to LDOs to assist small businesses of 10 employees or less will have the rules and deadlines published in the Federal Register.
 - Business & Industry are funded when approved.

Committee and Working Groups

Resource Teams: The work conducted by Resource Teams during the past five years continues to be proven valuable. Consultants, new elected officials, and community planners regularly contact the MEDA office and ask for copies of Resource Team Reports. Recently, a request was made for a team's return visit so that the team could see and learn all that has been accomplished since the assessment five years ago.

This tool is still available. If you are interested in the process, please contact the MEDA office.

Professional Development Committee. Planning will begin in March to organize the pre-conference on June 9th. The focus will be on federal and state programs to enable those involved in economic development to receive a refresher course on available programs. Following the presentations, a time will be set aside for program representatives to discuss specific projects with attendees. Committee members include Brett Doney (Chair), Kellie Danielson (Vice Chair), Lisa Perry, Gloria O'Rourke, Steve Arveschoug, Linda Twitchell and Tracy McIntyre.

What happened to your Working Group?: Several MEDA Members commented last month that they do not wish to utilize Facebook or LinkedIn to re-mobilize their working group. If you would like to proceed as we did before these tools were available, just contact the MEDA office and we will "go."

MEDA BEAR Working Group: This working group will hold a conference call on March 9th at 3:00pm. You are welcome to join this group as it guides the implementation of the Montana BEAR Program. Dial in: 712.432.0175 pin 217279.

MEDA Spring Conference: The MEDA Agenda Committee and the Sponsorship Committee are hard at work. The theme for the June 9 – 11 conference is "Montana's Economy: Life Outside the Boot." The Sponsorship Committee has identified potential sponsors and is making calls. Jim Atchison is Committee Chair with other committee members: Jason Rittal, Jim Davison, Mike Coryell, Kim Morisaki, Leslie Messer, Linda Twitchell, Andy Poole, Lisa Perry and Gloria O'Rourke.

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.

1. View all of the [Training News](#) for Montana Nonprofit Association.
2. *Save the Date:*
"The 'Next' Economy: A Statewide Public Discussion on Jobs and Innovation"
Monday and Tuesday, April 5 & 6; The Grantree Inn, Bozeman, MT
More information coming soon. *Registration is open*, at <http://www.wheelercenter.org>
3. Rural Dynamics Inc has posted the following FIVE Northern Plains Conference Toolkits on their website:
 1. Communications
 2. Native Communities Toolkit
 3. Policy Toolkit
 4. Systems Thinking
 5. Asset Building Programs Toolkit

All are available for viewing in both online flash version and printable PDF version at:
<http://www.ruraldynamics.org/northern-plains-conference-toolkits>



MONTANA BEAR Report Learn what is new in your region with the statewide Montana BEAR Program's monthly report.

View the February 2010 [report](#) as well as the [2009 Annual Report](#). There were seven business visits in February held in the following counties: Richland – 2, Lake – 2, Lewis and Clark – 1 and Yellowstone – 2. A GoToMeeting is set for March 15th at 10:00am for everyone to learn how to access the IWT funds.



CENSUS 2010 NEWS

The US Census Bureau is gearing up for the Census 2010 count. Record your own Public Service Announcement about the importance and benefits of the Census to your community by calling 720-533-4230. If you designate a radio station, the Census will do all the production and send it to the station. Check CEIC's Census 2010 web site

http://ceic.mt.gov/2010_Web/index.asp for updates.

My Turn: You may have already heard that Senator Max Baucus is planning another Economic Summit, September 13th and 14th, in Butte. This will no doubt be a huge event for Montana as previous summits have held powerful outcomes for the state. What you may not know, is that MEDA is playing a key role as fiscal partner in this event. In future newsletters leading up to the summit, MEDA Members will be kept informed as to how our organization is adding to the success of the summit. Stay tuned!

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