



MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

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MEDA Membership Update

Three new members were added to MEDA in August: Liz Ching, Economic Development, Sen. Max Baucus; Kelly Schmitt, Ruby Environmental, Portland, OR; Jerilee Wilkerson, Cut Bank Development Corp. MEDA Membership now stands at 241. [Print MEDA Membership Directory.](#)



BEAR Training in Hamilton, August 25th.

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. STATE ENERGY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT - Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration has announced the availability of approximately \$190 million in grant funds to State Workforce Investment Boards (SWIB) of the 50 states, District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Grant funds awarded under this SGA will be used to provide training, job placement, and related activities that reflect a comprehensive statewide energy sector strategy including the Governor's overall workforce vision, State energy policies, and training activities that lead to employment in targeted industry sectors. Please contact Adam de Yong (406.444.3662 or adeyong2@mt.gov) with any questions regarding the application or grant process.
3. Save the Date! EPA Region 8 will be hosting a Brownfields Grant Guidelines Q&A session for potential applicants on September 15, 2009, 11:00AM-1:00PM EDT. Pre-registration is required and will be available soon. Instructions for pre-registering will be available at: http://www.epa.gov/region8/land_waste/bfhome/bfhome.html

The US EPA is accepting proposals for (approx.) \$79.4 million under its Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup (ARC) grant programs. Grant application guidelines are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm#pg> Proposals are due October 16, 2009. Staff in the EPA Denver office will provide a brief overview of this funding opportunity and be available to answer questions from potential applicants. The audio for this event will be broadcast using phone (conference call) and streaming audio simulcast. The conference call-in number and access code are: 1-866-299-3188 / access code 3033127074#
For more information, contact - Daniel Heffernan at 303-312-7074 or heffernan.daniel@epa.gov

Committee and Working Groups

Insurance Update: Only about 20 MEDA Members responded to the survey regarding interest in forming an insurance group. MEDA Board Member Terry Myhre has taken the data collected and is in contact with an insurance company.

MEDA Web Committee: Great progress has been made regarding the MEDA website. A survey was sent to the membership mid August to gather data on each member's areas of expertise. In addition, the new conference registration system is in place. Feedback regarding the ease of registration has been received. Yet to come: 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 Area username: meda; password: membership09.

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.

- ❖ Workshop on Online Marketing for Rural Businesses -- Rural business owners can receive hands-on training in website development and online marketing at an eCommerce Workshop Sept. 15-16 in Billings, sponsored by the Montana Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Western Rural Development Center. More information about the Montana eCommerce Workshop is available by emailing Perri Walborn with the Montana Department of Agriculture at pwalborn@mt.gov or calling 406-444-2402.
- ❖ Pitch to Investors: Looking for advice on how to help client companies successfully pitch to investors? Join NBIA at 2 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 24, for "Preparing Client Companies to Pitch to Investors." During this interactive online training, experienced incubation professionals will explain characteristics of a successful 10-minute pitch and explore common mistakes entrepreneurs should avoid. Cost is \$49 for members and \$79 for nonmembers. Click here for more information and to register. Questions? E-mail education@nbia.org or call (740) 593-4331.
- ❖ Main Street conference on Sept. 28-29 in Helena at the Great Northern Best Western Hotel. Early registration runs until Sept. 16, and costs \$150 (including some meals). From Sept. 17-23, registration will be \$175. For more information about the sessions, speakers' bios, and to register, please click on www.mtmainstreet.mt.gov/conference.asp.
- ❖ Thanks to Charlie Wright for passing along this great website – all about Recovery Act funding. http://www.grants.gov/applicants/recovery_webinar.jsp
- ❖ MTIP Workshop: Intellectual Property Awareness – Building and Protecting IP Value plus University Tech Transfer and STTR Overview. September 17th 1:00pm – 5:00pm; Cost is \$45. Missoula, MonTEC, 1121 E. Broadway. More info and registration at <http://mtip.mt.gov>
- ❖ **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: A training was held in Hamilton on August 25th for BEAR Team participants in Hamilton and Missoula; progress in composing proposed rules for the IWT funds rollout and Montana

Business Assistance Connection has hired Del Schubring to assist with the area's BEAR Program.

There were 12 business visits in August – one was a first-ever visit in Sheridan County. Brian Edwards had the most business visits with 4. Outreach Specialists with two visits included Nancy Axtell, Terri Knutson and Heatehr Mousley. County totals: Yellowstone 4, Cascade 1, Gallatin 3, Sheridan 1, Ravalli 2 and Carbon 1.

My Turn - Hosts are Passionate!

It has been my pleasure to work with three amazing women from Lincoln County who have taken on the task of serving as hosts for the Fall MEDA Conference: Tracy McIntyre (Eureka Rural Development Partners), Debi Davidson (Kootenai River Development council) and Jennifer Nelson (Northwest Montana Economic Development District). These economic development professionals have spent hours contacting speakers, identifying sponsors and planning down to the detail to ensure MEDA Members have an incredible and unforgettable conference experience. Tracy, Debi and Jennifer all have beyond-full-time jobs and yet made time for MEDA. Thank you – and get ready, MEDA Members, for a dynamic conference!



WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

As the debate proceeds on health care, some timely numbers have been released by the U.S. Census Bureau by the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Program. In 2006, the most current data available, 18.9% of Montanans under the age of 65 were uninsured, ranking the state 15th highest uninsured rate. Judith Basin County recorded the highest uninsured rate at 36.9% in the state while Lewis and Clark County and Silver Bow County had the lowest rate at 13.7%

For access to both the 2005 and 2006 health insurance numbers, go to <http://ceic.mt.gov/demographics.asp> then scroll down to Health Insurance Estimates. Questions? Contact Susan Ockert, Senior Research Economist Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC), Department of Commerce, (406) 841-2740 sockert@mt.gov <http://ceic.mt.gov>

MEDA Fall Conference Countdown

Check out the latest MEDA Agenda changes at http://www.medamembers.org/Fall_Conference_Agenda.pdf . Your conference hosts have arranged tours, informative speakers, entertainment, fun and of course, lots of time for networking. Lodging deadline is September 4th – so register and get your room today!

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