



Online News



Feb 4: MEDA Professional Dev Committee, 11am
Feb 6: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Feb 7: [Finding Customers on Facebook](#) - free
Feb 12 – 13: [Food Biz Consultant Training](#)
Feb 12-14: [MDT Small Business Summit](#)
Feb 13: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Feb 15-16: [Manufacturing/Technology Expo](#)
Feb 20: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Feb 27: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Feb 28 – Mar 2: [MT Aviation Conference](#)

MEDA 2019 Spring Conference
May 20 – 22 in Glendive



Mar 6: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
March 12-13: [Food Biz Consultant Training](#)
Mar 13: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Mar 15-16: Made in MT Tradeshow
Mar 18: [Manufacturing/Int'l Trade Day](#)
Mar 19: RLF Working Group Call, 10am
Mar 20: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Mar 27: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am

[MNA Training Calendar](#)
[MMEC Training Calendar](#)
[MT Womens Biz Center](#)
[SBDC Training Calendar](#)

YOUR CONNECTIONS ARE NEEDED!

DON'T LET THE SUN SET ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MONTANA

HAVE YOU WATCHED AND SHARED THE VIDEO WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS?

- ★ [Share this link with your legislators and colleagues](#)
- ★ Key Legislative [Priorities Explained](#)
- ★ “Like” MEDA’s [facebook page](#) and share posts to spread the word
- ★ Follow [HB52](#) and take action!



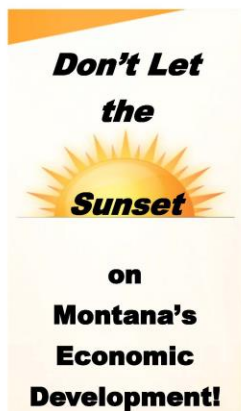
MEDA Testimonials: Support the 2019 Economic Development Programs

LEGISLATIVE LINKS AND TOOLS



MEDA Day in the Rotunda January 23, 2019 * [Slide Show](#)

[2019 Legislative Standing Committees](#) * [2019 Session Home Page](#)



- [MEDA Legislative Priorities](#)
- [MDOC Ec Dev Program Guide](#)
- [MEDA Tri-Fold "Don't Let the Sun Set" Brochure of 2019 Programs](#)
- [Program Map of Projects](#)
- [MMEC Map of Projects](#)

MEDA's number one priority for the Legislative Session is to remove the 2019 sunset of these vital programs:

Small Business Development Centers • Montana Cooperative Development Center • Certified Regional Development Corporations • Growth Through Agriculture • Export Trade • Small Business Research • Montana Manufacturing Extension Center at MSU • Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology

COLLABORATION, COOPERATION, AND CAVIAR

May 20 – 22, 2019 MEDA Spring Conference; Agenda and Registration available soon. The folks are Banding Together in the Badlands and preparing an exceptional conference! Agenda items thus far include a field trip, downtown

business tour, legislative review, keynote speakers, and lots of networking. On the committee: Beth Epley, Jason Stuart, Amy Deines, Scott Mickelsen, Leslie Messer, Jim Atchison, Sean Becker, and Tori Matejovsky.

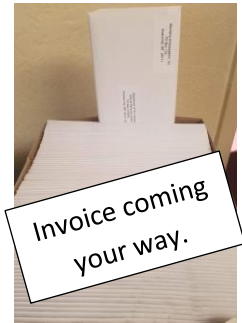


MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE – Deadlines changed

The MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship 1st Quarter Round deadline is February 1st. The MEDA Scholarship Committee adjusted all of the quarterly deadlines to be more accommodating for applicants. Check out the [criteria and application](#).

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Guess what is coming your way? A letter from President Steve Arveschoug and a dues invoice. Thank you for your support of this tremendous organization and our strong network.
- Becky Bey is back! Becky is back with KLJ and once again a Member of MEDA.
- Dorothy Meyer has joined MEDA. She is the Marketing and Membership Manager for Montana West Economic Development. Welcome, Dorothy.



MEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Chris Cerquone, Chair. Thanks to the 23 people who allowed themselves to be interviewed and videoed by Guy Gregory, MCDC, MEDA now has a testimonial video to share with legislators regarding the 2019 Programs. [Share it!](#)
- **Professional Development and Scholarship:** Brett Doney and Anne Boothe, Co-Chairs. Rest assured, Professional Development will be offered as a pre-conference event in Glendive, the morning of May 21st. The topic: Introduction to Economic Development in Montana. More info soon.

MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW?



**Western
Community
Assessment
Network**

If you have a community that is on the edge of making progress - but needs a little organization, encouragement, and resources boost - MEDA would love to work with you to make that happen. For more information visit <https://www.communityreview.org/> And <http://www.medamembers.org/resources/community-reviews>

MEDA BOARD UPDATE

Welcome to two new MEDA Board Members: Paddy Fleming and Craig Erickson. Thank you for your leadership and willingness to serve. Also, the MEDA Board voted to expand MEDA's Executive Committee by adding two board members to that Committee: Tori Matejovsky and Joe Willauer agreed to serve.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group met January 15th and will meet again on March 19th for a special presentation from Compliance One. Join the call at 10:00am [Notes from the pervious call](#).

TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Check out the information below to learn of new tools and opportunities for you as you work in the field of Economic Development.

- ⇒ An Afternoon with the CEDS Registration is now open for the NADO Research Foundation's "[An Afternoon with the CEDS](#)," a freehalf-day, interactive training workshop on **March 20, 2019 in Arlington, VA** immediately following [NADO and DDAA's Washington Conference](#).

⇒ Review the Financial Assistance Programs for Water, Waste Water, and Solid Waste Projects in Montana [Updated Stats on Program Funding from W2ASACT](#)

⇒ The Small Business Webinar Series: **Finding Customers on Facebook, 2/7/2019**
Time: 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MST)
Point of Contact: Jason Nitschke (406) 750-0314
Center: Great Falls SBDC
This webinar provides an overview of using Facebook to market to potential customers. Presenter: Speaking Socially - John Harris. This training event will be presented [online](#).

⇒ **Economic Outlook Seminars**
UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) will be holding 10 seminars and one live webcast to present and highlight the latest economic trends for local economies and the state of Montana. Seminars will run from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM in each location. To register or learn more, click [here](#).

- **February 1**—Missoula (Hilton Garden Inn)
- **February 5**—Billings (Doubletree)
- **February 6**—Bozeman (The Commons or live webcast available)
- **February 7**—Butte (NorthWestern Energy General Office)
- **February 12**—Kalispell (Hilton Garden Inn)
- **March 12**—Sidney (USD ARS, Northern Plains Ag Research Lab)
- **March 13**—Miles City (Sleep Inn & Suites)
- **March 14**—Big Sky (Warren Miller Performing Arts Center)

⇒ **IEDC Resources:** Make sure to check out our full catalog of [training courses](#) and get a leg up on this year's CECD exams. Also, check out our monthly [webinars](#), sure to set your EDO on the path for success in 2019.

Small Business Webinar Series 2019

Finding Customers on Facebook

Thursday, February 7, 2019
11 AM, MST

This webinar will provide an overview of using Facebook to market to potential customers.

Register at <https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4170>

Hear experts provide an overview of small business development topics and phone in or type or chat questions or comments. We will follow-up with requests for additional information. All webinars are free and open the public at 11 AM (for 30 min) and will be recorded and archived.

- Join the webinar live or access the recorded webinar and see additional resources at <http://www.mtsucommunitydevelopment.org/smallbusiness.html>
- For questions, email commjey@montana.edu

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Webinar Series Sponsors

AMERICA'S SBDC MONTANA
POWERED BY SBA
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Small Business Administration
MEDA
GROW Great Falls MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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Save the Date!

Northwest Economic Development Course

August 19-22, 2019
Ellensburg, Washington

Plan to join us in August for a unique opportunity to learn new techniques, discover relevant strategies, and take home up-to-date resources to assist in your economic development efforts. Whether you are new in the profession or looking for some updated skills, this is an event you won't want to miss.

Registration information will be emailed in early June and available at www.commerce.wa.gov/nwedcourse.

Course Sponsors

Department of Commerce business oregon

If you no longer want to be on the course mailing list, please reply to this email with Remove in the subject. Thank you.

⇒ Low-interest Solar, Alternative Energy Loans Available

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality offers \$0-down, fixed-interest loans of up to \$40,000 for eligible small businesses, units of local government, nonprofit organizations, units of the university system, and individuals to install alternative energy systems.

Financing is available through the Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Program (AERLP) for installation of qualifying alternative energy systems, including solar photovoltaics (PV), solar thermal heating systems, ground source heat pumps, and EPA-certified pellet stoves and wood stoves. For the purposes of the program, small businesses are defined as businesses that are independently owned and operated, not dominant in their field of operation, and employ 100 or fewer individuals.

Energy conservation measures, such as insulation and high-efficiency windows, also may be funded through the program when installed in conjunction with an alternative energy system.

Effective January 1, DEQ adopted new terms for the loan program. The following changes were made to the program after an annual review of rates, as required by state regulations:

- The interest rate has been lowered for 2019 from 3.50 percent to 3.25 percent.
- The application fee has been eliminated for all applicants.

[Updated application forms, application checklists, and full program terms are available at the AERLP website.](#)

Copies of the 2019 AERLP brochure are available for distribution to interested economic development agencies or businesses. For copies of the brochure, or for more information, please contact the AERLP manager at DEQ, Ben Brouwer 406-444-6586, bbrouwer@mt.gov.



Image 1: 50 kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) array on a tire shop, Billings



Image 2: Geothermal heat pump loop-field under construction at a landscaping business, Polson

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Check out the updated website from **MSU Extension** and their great list of grants!
<http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password.



Check out many business assistance tools [here](#).

DOC Community Development Grant Program

The Department of Commerce's Community Development Division will begin accepting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community and Public Facilities and Affordable Housing Development grant applications February 15-March 15, 2019. The CDBG Community and Public Facilities Application Guidelines, Affordable Housing Development Application Guidelines, and CDBG Grant Administration Manual can be accessed on our [website](#).