



## Online News



July 11-12: Pre-Symposium Workshops  
 July 11: MTA Awards Dinner – involves MEDA Members  
 July 11: [TSEP Grant Ap Workshop](#)  
 July 12 – 13: [Register for Innovate MT Symposium](#)  
 July 26: MDOC/MEDA Opportunity Call 10:30am  
 July 27 – 29: [MT Young Professional's Summit](#)

Hurry! [Register for Innovate MT Symposium](#)



Aug 2-4: [Second Annual Last Best Conference](#)  
 Aug 8: Montana [STEAM Summit](#)  
 Aug 14 -15: MEDA Board Strategic Planning Session  
 Aug 30: MDOC/MEDA Opportunity Call 10:30am  
 Aug 30-31: CRDC Meeting, Lewistown  
 Aug 31: Third Quarter MEDA Scholarship Deadline

[SBDC Training Calendar](#)  
[MNA Training Calendar](#)

## IT IS ALMOST HERE! INNOVATE MONTANA SYMPOSIUM



If you haven't already made plans to attend, do it today!  
[Register for Innovate MT Symposium](#)

Two pre-conference workshops are designed by MEDA members the morning of July 12<sup>th</sup>. And have you heard about the [pop-up receptions](#)? Plus....[food trucks](#) are back!

More on the July 12<sup>th</sup> pre-conference MEDA workshops:

- Navigating the Truths and Myths to find Funding for your Business, 9am to 12pm**  
 Presenters include Jeff Batton, HomeStake Venture Partners; Kathie Bailey, Snowy Mountain Development Corp.; Stephanie Juneau, SBDC FVCC; Kim Morisaki, Montana West Economic Development; with Moderator/Presenter Tracy McIntyre, Rural Economic Designs.
- Making the Connection - Adding Value, Sharing Resources, Supporting Your Business Community**  
 Locally, Regionally and Statewide, 9am to 12pm, Northern Hotel, Babcock West Room. Presenters include Tracy Worley, Selkirk Coaching and Training Group, on the topic of "Influencing a Community of Connection", Cooper Fisher, Butte Local Development Corp, on the topic of using social media with the success of "Butte. Elevated." as a case study. Joe Willauer, Headwaters RC&D, using Facilitative Leadership will help you learn techniques to successfully facilitate meetings, gather consensus and add value to your organization by eliminating time wasters. The session is moderated by Marissa Hauge, Stillwater County Economic Development.

## OPPORTUNITY CALL – Next one is set for July 26th; 10:30am



These monthly calls with our Montana Dept of Commerce partners are a great way to share where opportunities are developing, what the demand for services is looking like and how together we can continue to successfully grow Montana's economy. [Meeting notes.](#)

## MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– This working group held its quarterly call on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is set for September 19<sup>th</sup>. If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs. [Notes](#)
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group met on June 8<sup>th</sup> and learned more about the [Community Builders](#) program from John Lavey. Community Builders could provide technical support and research assistance in partnership with MEDA for Resource Team Assessments as well as the three state grant project to study Resource Teams. update on the three state grant that will assess and improve the Resource Team Assessment process. The next call will be September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am. [Notes from the call.](#) Learn more about MEDA's assessments [here.](#)

## MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Update

Third Quarter applications are now being accepted. Deadline: August 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information visit: [Criteria and Application](#) Second Quarter scholarship winners: Jenni Graff, Missoula Economic Partnership; Kelly Solberg, Sweetgrass Development, and Maureen Porter, Headwaters RC&D.

## MEDA RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

The first in person three-state grant award meeting will be held August 2 – 4, in Boise. The Montana Team includes Paul Lachapelle, Sue Taylor, Gus Byrom, Anne Cossit and Gloria O'Rourke. The grant covers a three year time frame and will result in best practices for assessments, along with a database to store report information. The MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group is serving as a soundboard for the Montana team.

The community of Poplar has confirmed that they would like a MEDA Resource Team Assessment visit in the spring of 2018. If you are interested in serving this unique community, please let [MEDA](#) know.

## MEDA COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **MEDA Scholarship and Professional Development Committee**  
This is a busy MEDA Committee as Second Quarter scholarships are being reviewed/announced as well as moving forward with plans for MEDA's first webinar training. Stay Tuned!
- **MEDA Membership Committee**  
Chris Cerquone is organizing a meeting of this committee the first week in July. If you are interested in assisting please let [MEDA](#) know. The committee is coming up with more ideas on making MEDA's membership meaningful, practical and most worthwhile.



Wrap Up ~ and Thank You

As you know, because of budget cuts at the state level, as of July 1, 2017, the statewide Montana BEAR Program will no longer be funded. The MEDA office will serve as a referral point when a business applying for an IWT grant requests assistance beyond Incumbent Worker Training. All records will be retained in case BEAR Team participants need access to the information previously shared.

Over 150 volunteers participated in the program since 2006, assisting hundreds of businesses to find the resources they needed to remain in business and to grow. It has been said that *volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart*. Thanks to everyone who volunteered with the BEAR Program and to those who continue to have the heart to assist Montana's businesses.

## 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.

- The Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) will be holding a [grant administration workshop](#) on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 301 South Park, 2nd Floor, Rooms 226-228, Helena, for projects awarded in House Bill 11 through the 2017 legislative process and signed into law by Governor Bullock on May 8, 2017.
- National Speakers Urge You To Bring Your Crowd To [RuralX17](#) - 7/18-19 - Aberdeen, SD "There have been too many years of no love for rural America. You'll find all kinds of love for rural at RuralX."
- **Second Annual Last Best Conference**, 8/2-4, Missoula, MT 8:00 AM  
<http://www.lastbestconference.com/>
- Join CDFA in Minneapolis for our next offering of the **Intro Brownfields Finance Course** on August 8-9, 2017 and will feature live tour of the most interesting Brownfields redevelopment sites that Minneapolis has to offer.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants!  
<http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ [Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant](#).  
USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for grants to help socially disadvantaged agricultural producers and rural business owners. The program is used to help small businesses retain and create jobs in rural areas. Eligible grant recipients include cooperatives, groups of cooperatives and cooperative development centers that serve socially disadvantaged groups.
- ⇒ The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) is accepting applications for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018 and 2019 for the County and Tribal Matching Grant program. <http://dphhs.mt.gov/amdd>. The deadline for submission of County and Tribal Matching Grant applications is August 4, 2017. Applications may be mailed via hardcopy to: Helen Higgins, 100 N. Park Avenue, Suite 300, Helena, MT 59601 and be postmarked by midnight; or submitted electronically using the AMDD secure email address at [HHSAMDDMHSPwaiver@mt.gov](mailto:HHSAMDDMHSPwaiver@mt.gov). Contracts will be awarded around August 31, 2017. Please contact Helen Higgins at [hhiggins@mt.gov](mailto:hhiggins@mt.gov) or [406-444-3055](tel:406-444-3055) with questions.
- ⇒ Ag Development Council extends GTA program deadline  
The Agriculture Development Council met last week and voted to extend the deadline for the popular [Growth Through Agriculture](#) (GTA) program, from September 15, 2017 to November 15, 2017. The deadline was extended to allow more time for producers to apply for funding.
- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](mailto:gloria) if you would like the username and password.