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It is MEDA's privilege to submit this report for the current contract to Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Department of Labor and Industry and Montana BEAR Team participants regarding Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program activity in the state. The following is a summary of MEDA BEAR activities as provided for in the Scope of Work under Amended Contract MT-MEDA-ED-17-01 for the month of November 2016.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2016

MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

NEW OUTREACH VISITS IN NOVEMBER

Nine BEAR visits were entered in the BEAR database in November: Gallatin County – 6, Park County – 1, Lake County – 1, Carbon County – 1.

Outreach specialists included: Warren Vaughan, Katie Weaver, Marissa Hauge, Sue Taylor, Lynn Lagerquist, Kristopher Schock, Carol Cunningham, and John Winegart. Thank you for your hard work!

BEAR TRAINING UPDATE

- The Hamilton JSEC met on November 15th and learned about the mechanics of BEAR. The importance of business expansion and retention outreach was discussed as well as the various BEAR models around the state.
- Bozeman Job Service has requested a BEAR training which is set for Friday, December 2nd. On the agenda: the BEAR process, all of its varieties across the state, and the importance of business expansion and retention.

IWT UPDATE

Chris Wilhelm shared that between 07/01/2016 and 11/10/2016: (Remember funding is a moving target between cancelled modified and paid applications releasing funding)

- \$306,496 has been allocated for the 1st two quarters
- \$420,560 has been requested
- \$301,140 has been awarded
- \$ 5,356 is available
- \$ 23,216 worth of applications on the wait list – next application is requesting \$14,000

INFORMATION FOR YOUR BEAR CLIENTS

In case you haven't seen it, check out this toolkit for Apprenticeships.

The toolkit provides helpful steps and resources to start and register an apprenticeship program, from exploring the apprenticeship model as a workforce strategy to launching a new program.

https://www.doleta.gov/oa/employers/apprenticeship_toolkit.pdf

HAVE A BEAR BUSINESS TO RECOMMEND?

SBA Now Accepting 2017 National Small Business Week Awards Nominations

Nominations are now open for the SBA 2017 Small Business Awards! These small business awards recognize businesses and business owners across the state for their successes and contributions to their communities.

This year the Montana SBA will recognize honorees in the following categories at an award event next spring:

- Small Business Person of the Year * Small Business Exporter of the Year
- Woman-Owned Business of the Year * Veteran-Owned Business of the Year
- Millennial Entrepreneur – under 35 * Small Business Champion

Winners in the Small Business Person and Small Business Exporter categories will represent Montana and go onto regional and national competition.

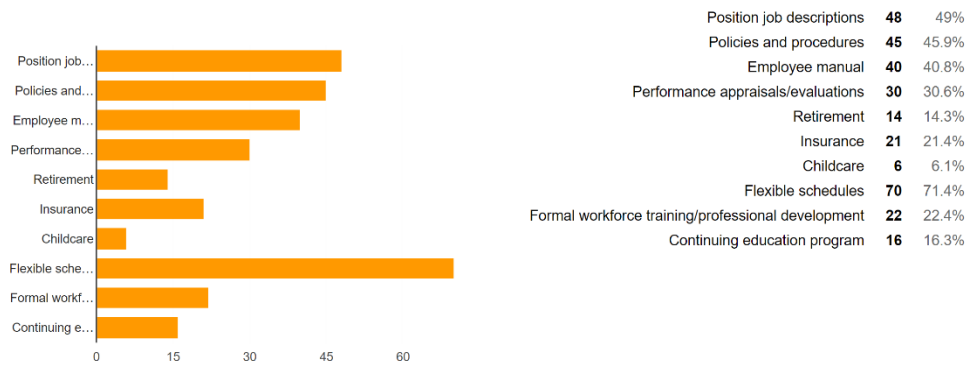
The deadline for submitting nominations is Monday, January 5th, 2017. Email Sharon Franjevic at sharon.franjevic@sba.gov with any questions.

- [Small Business Award Guidelines](#)
- [Montana-Only Awards](#)
- [SBA Form 3300](#)
- [SBA Form 3301](#)
- [SBA Form 3302](#)

AND THE SURVEY SAID...

Here are some graphs that demonstrate the data gathered todate from our BEAR Teams.

Do you have the following available for your business and employees:



What are your top business challenges?

