



118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A \* Anaconda, MT \* 59711  
406.563.5259 [info@medamembers.org](mailto:info@medamembers.org)  
<http://www.medamembers.org>

*It is MEDA's privilege to submit this report for the current contract to the Governor's Office of Economic Development, 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-12-01 for the month of April 2014.*

## ACTIVITY REPORT FOR APRIL 2014

### MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **IWT:** IWT funds are almost gone for this Fiscal Year. Chris Wilhelm just sent the following information:  
These numbers do not include applications that have come to Chris as of yesterday via ePass.

Funding Not Granted	\$74,934.27
Pipeline Applications	-\$48,152.38
AVAILABLE FUNDING	\$26,781.89

As IWT will run out of funding before the end of the year the Queue will be used. The Queue will be maintained centrally, so all applications submitted after funding is gone must be forwarded to Chris. Chris will be compiling accrual lists beginning next week. To be accrued, a contract must be in place and training must begin by June 30th. Grant payments that cannot be made by June 15th will need to be accrued and Central Office will handle the reimbursement. Contact Chris at 406-444-3351 or [ChrisWilhelm@mt.gov](mailto:ChrisWilhelm@mt.gov)

- **ExecutivePulse Webinar:** A webinar was held April 15<sup>th</sup> to build BEAR Team skills in the use of ExecutivePulse. In the last two and a half months, ExecutivePulse released over 20 new features and functions for the BEAR database. During the webinar, Laith Wardi reviewed basic navigation and then showed participants the many new features and functions of the system.
- **Helena Visits Bozeman BEAR:** A meeting was held with members of the Helena BEAR Team to learn first hand of the great work being done by the Bozeman Team. Thanks, Bozeman, for sharing your expertise.
- **ExecutivePulse Data Highlights**
  - There were 25 Retention Visits held in April.

- Action Items Created: 37 with Gallatin County leading the way with 31 Action Items created and 30 closed. Wow! Flathead County had four action items with Deer Lodge County with two.
- Break down of Action Items: Domestic/global marketing and sales – 5, Entrepreneurship/management – 12, Financing/capital – 1, Law enforcement – 1, Local government services – 18, Product development - 1
- Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 7, Gallatin – 9, Missoula – 4, Butte/Silver-Bow – 1, Sweet Grass County – 1, and Yellowstone County – 2.

- **April Outreach Specialist Visits**

Bill Silverman - 1	Jim Smitham - 1	<b>Mike Jackson - 7</b>
Brigitta Miranda-Freer - 1	Jodie Rasmussen - 1	Mike Williams - 2
Chad Moore - 2	Joel Bertolino - 1	Mora McCarthy - 2
Deborah Derrick Gass - 1	JR Strand - 2	Rick Edwards - 1
Dena Johnson - 2	Kiki Huls - 1	<b>Warren Vaughan - 9</b>
Denise Rabe-Kimerly - 1	Marissa Hauge - 1	

**SEE YOU IN HAVRE!: 2014 BEAR ROUNDUP** [Online Registration](#) closes Friday. The 2014 BEAR Roundup will take place in Havre, on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm– 2:00pm. A luncheon will be held toward the end of the MEDA conference with Montana BEAR Teams to hold a roundtable with MT Dept. of Commerce program officials. Time will also be set aside for training on Montana Dept. of Labor programs that are a fit with economic development projects.

Important: BEAR Team Outreach Specialists are still strongly encouraged add information in ExecutivePulse: 1. Click Add; 2.: Metrics Survey; 3. Last business contacted, and input their time spent, jobs retained or created, private and/or public funding, etc. Entering this data will further demonstrate the value of the program. **Thank you for taking the time to input this data!**