



Did You Register?

MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2012

And don't forget to obtain lodging before February 10th!

- **MEDA Forum and Conference – Did you register?**
- **Belgrade Resource Team**
- **MTIP News – Proposal Opportunity**
- **Opportunities For You**
- **CEIC – New Tool on Census Site**
- **Montana BEAR Report**
- **MEDA Membership Update**
- **MEDA Working Groups**
- **My Turn: MEDA Legislative Survey Results**

MEDA GUBERNATORIAL FORUM AND ANNUAL MEETING

Get ready for a very special MEDA Annual Meeting, February 27 – 28, in Helena. Ten Gubernatorial Candidates have agreed to present to the MEDA audience answers to three questions relating to economic development in Montana. The questions involve key issues and programs of relevance to MEDA:

1. What would you do as Governor to strengthen and expand Montana's investment in key economic development tools?
2. Tell us how you would ensure the continued availability of these funds and what else would you do over the next four years to strengthen and expand our workforce training efforts?
3. What will you do as Governor to support and encourage the continued growth and development of the energy industry across the state of Montana?

Each candidate will also have time to take questions from the audience. Other featured agenda items include: social media training, speed networking, exhibits and more. Agenda Committee: Terry Myhre (Chair), Evan Barrett, Jim Davison, Tracy McIntyre, Karyl Tobel, Larry Mires and Rick Edwards.

[View the agenda and register today!](#)

BELGRADE RESOURCE TEAM

The leadership of Gallatin County and the City of Belgrade has requested a Resource Team Assessment to assist with gathering information for a CEDS and to learn of resources to assist with visioning based on the comments from the community of Belgrade. Expertise of the team needs to include: Utilities, CEDS/Community Development, Transportation, Finance, Retail/Service and the bedroom community issue. The date for the Resource Team is set for March 7th and 8th. To read more about Resource Teams and the process used by MEDA, visit <http://www.medamembers.org/resourceteams.html>

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [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.
- The 2012 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) has been announced in the Federal Register. Applications are now being accepted for the Renewable Energy Systems, Energy Efficiency Program, Feasibility Study and Energy Audit programs. Please note the different application deadlines. The MT allocations are less than last year and are as follows:
Small Grants (<\$20,000) - \$71,000

Large grants (>\$20,000) - \$72,000

REAP Guarantees - \$469,644

Additional funds are available from the National Office reserve on a first come first served basis for the loan guarantee funds and on a competitive basis for the grant funds. Application information can be obtained from any Rural Development Area Office or by visiting our website at

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/MT_reap.html



Montana SBIR/STTR Update

Innovative companies needed to address the high-tech opportunities within the Department of Education!

This solicitation is open to proposal submission from December 13 through February 13, 2012. There are five topic priorities. They are:

(1) Increased independence of individuals with disabilities in the workplace, recreational settings, or educational settings through the development of technology to support access and promote integration of individuals with disabilities. **(2)** Enhanced sensory or motor function of individuals with disabilities through the development of technology to support improved functional capacity. **(3)** Enhanced workforce participation through the development of technology to support access to employment, promote sustained employment, and promote employment advancement for individuals with disabilities. **(4)** Enhanced community participation and living for individuals with disabilities through the development of accessible information technology including Web access technology, software, and other systems and devices that promote access to information in educational, employment, and community settings, and voting technology that improves access for individuals with disabilities. **(5)** Improved interventions and increased use of health-care resources through the development of technology to support independent access to healthcare services in the community for individuals with disabilities.

This call for proposals is one of many that are released each year from each agency of the federal government under the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The Montana Technology Innovation Partnership's (MTIP) primary focus is to offer technical assistance to tech-based companies who are interested in submitting proposals through SBIR in order to research and development funding. Interested in finding out more? Contact Christine Bell, MTIP Program Manager at [\(406\) 841-2749](tel:4068412749) or cbell@mt.gov for more MTIP information.

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.

1. Free SBA Workshops: 1st - March 21st in Helena at the Gateway Center - Construction Management
2nd- March 22nd in Helena at the Gateway Center – Marketing your Small Business to the Government
These are both excellent classes and shouldn't be missed. They are both FREE and you can register at <http://sbaworkshops.stoverteam.com> or contact Kelly Dixon for more information 441-1081.
2. Attend the Montana Ambassador Annual Meeting, "Imagine the Possible" and enjoy a keynote from Harold Hamm, Continental Resources, and developer of the Bakken region. March 22 – 23, in Billings. [Agenda and Registration](#)
3. If you're ready to get registered for the 2012 Montana tourism conference, the on-line registration system is ready for you. The "early bird" registration rate of \$140 is available through March 12. It will be \$160 for those registering between March 13-April 1, and \$180 from April 2 on. This year's conference is scheduled for April 11-13 at Great Falls' Best Western Plus Heritage Inn. If you want to check out the agenda, Great Falls lodging and visitor services, Sponsor & Exhibitor Opportunities or other details go to the conference website: <http://travelmontana.mt.gov/conference/>. If you have any conference questions, give us a call or email: 406-841-2795, vbjornberg@mt.gov.

New Tool on the Census Site- County Business Patterns & Demographics

<http://www.census.gov/cbdmap/cbptext.php>

The Census Bureau has added a new interactive tools to help users explore data visually from the County Business Patterns. Shown below is a sample report for Montana from the Interactive Text tool. You can also view data for individual counties (see button for *Areas Within*) or in a map format

County Business Patterns & Demographics

You are here: [Census.gov](#) / [County Business Patterns & Demographics](#) / [Interactive Text](#)

[Interactive Map](#) | [Interactive Text](#)

Select State 

Montana

[Display](#) [Areas Within](#)

Link To This Page

<http://www.census.gov/cbdmap/>

Action

"MT - Montana" added to display.

Related Sites

- [CBP Map](#)
- [American FactFinder](#)
- [Business and Industry](#)
- [Economic Census](#)
- [Economic Indicators](#)
- [Nonemployer Statistics](#)
- [North American Industry Classification System](#)
- [Statistics of U.S. Businesses \(firms by size\)](#)
- [Are you in a survey?](#)

County Business Patterns & Demographics : Interactive Text

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This map includes data from the County Business Patterns program and the 2010 Census. County Business Patterns data for 2009 were released in June, 2011.

MT - Montana

Business Patterns	
Total Number of Establishments	36,326
Total Annual Payroll (\$1,000)	10,854,179
Total Mid-March Employees	341,357

Industry: Establishments	
Accommodation and food services	3,362
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	1,689
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	369
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1,151
Construction	5,421
Educational services	336
Finance and insurance	2,039
Health care and social assistance	3,356
Industries not classified	38
Information	587
Management of companies and enterprises	123
Manufacturing	1,227
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	314
Other services (except public administration)	3,032
Professional, scientific, and technical services	3,545
Real estate and rental and leasing	1,765
Retail trade	5,026
Transportation and warehousing	1,307
Utilities	191
Wholesale trade	1,448

Population	
Total Population	989,415

Population by Sex/Age	
Male	496,677
Female	492,748
Under 18	223,563
18 & over	765,852
20 - 24	67,138
25 - 34	122,844
35 - 49	183,996
50 - 64	217,669
65 & over	146,742

Population by Ethnicity	
Hispanic or Latino	23,565
Non Hispanic or Latino	960,850

Population by Race	
White	884,961
African American	4,027
Asian	6,253
American Indian and Alaska Native	62,555
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	668
Other	5,975
Identified by two or more	24,976

Housing status (in housing units unless noted)	
Total	482,625
Occupied	409,607
Owner-occupied	278,418
Population in owner-occupied (number of households)	674,535
Renter-occupied	131,189
Population in renter-occupied (number of households)	286,031
Vacant	73,218
Vacant: for rent	10,082
Vacant: for sale	5,964
Vacant: for seasonal/recreational/occasional use	38,510

(see *Interactive Map* tab).

The site includes information on: the total number of establishments, annual payroll, and total employees for a county, along with the number and percent of total businesses across 20 industry sectors such as, manufacturing, retail trade and health care and social assistance. Additionally, the map displays several top 10 lists, including the top 10 counties with the most full-service restaurants and the top 10 states with the most hotels.

For more information, contact CEIC staff at ceic@mt.gov or (406) 841-2740.



View the January 2012 [report](#) and catch up on the latest BEAR Team news.

January Highlights:

- The Havre BEAR Team is re-igniting. A training is set for February 23rd.
- The new draft BEAR Brochure is close to completion. The Governor’s Office of Economic Development is providing the funds for the project.
- Forty business visits were held in January in the following counties: Flathead, Lincoln, Missoula, Ravalli, Cascade, Fergus, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Deer Lodge, Gallatin and Silver Bow.
- The BEAR 2012 Roundup agenda is set and registration is now open. [Click here to Register](#)

MEDA WORKING GROUPS

- **RLF Working Group:** This group met on January 17th and discussed loan software. The next call is set for February 14th at 3:00pm. View previous minutes [here](#).
- **Tourism and Recreation Working Group:** Mike Strang, Chair, is coordinating efforts to gather support for tourism during the 2013 legislative session. The next Tourism Working Group call will be held February 9th. [Minutes](#) are available here.

MY TURN: MEDA LEGISLATIVE SURVEY RESULTS

Attend the MEDA conference and share with Gubernatorial Candidates why these issues are of importance to you!

Indicate which topics you feel will be of utmost importance in the 2013 Legislative Session.

