



Online News



April 3: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
 April 4: Webinar Reach Customers with Google
 April 10: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
 April 14 – 16: [Gov's Conference on Tourism](#)
 April 14 – 16: [IEDC FED Forum](#)
 April 16: RLF Working Group Call, 10am
 April 17: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
 April 24: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am

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



May 1: MEDA Scholarship Deadline
 May 1: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am

MEDA 2019 Spring Conference

May 20 - 22

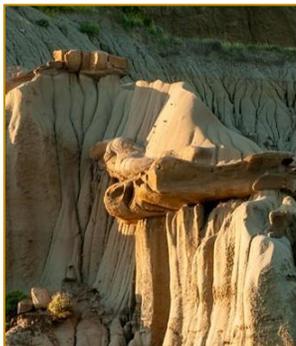
[Agenda](#) [Registration](#)

Save the Date: June 17 – 19 MT Housing Conference
[MT Womens Biz Center](#)
[SBDC Training Calendar](#)

Call to Action: [HB52](#)

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

Brief Update: HB52 was amended with a two year sunset and passed out of the House and into the Senate. It is thought the bill will be heard by the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. Read the bill as amended and watch your email inbox for more information. Thank you!



**COLLABORATION, COOPERATION,
 AND CAVIAR ~**

Perfecting Public and Private Partnerships



May 20 – 22, 2019

Glendive, MT

Room Blocks close soon!

MEDA Spring Conference

Hosts are working to put the finishing touches on a unique event in a unique location: Glendive, Montana.

Eastern Montana has many success stories that will help attendees add tools to their economic development tool box. This conference theme is **“Collaboration, Cooperation, and Caviar ~ Perfecting Public and Private Partnerships”** and will be held May 20 – 22, on the campus of Dawson Community College, in Glendive. We are expecting over 100+ influencers in the field of economic development from across the state.

Highlights of the conference:

- Professional Development Training
- Opportunity Zones
- Glendive Learning Rural Business Tour
- Banding Together in the Badlands Field Trip
- Networking, Networking, Networking
- Leveraging Tourism Assets

AGENDA

REGISTRATION

MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE – 2nd Quarter Deadline May 1st

You still have time to submit for a MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship: [criteria and application.](#)

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Bear Paw Development Corporation leads the way with adding three new members to MEDA. Welcome to Michael Peter, Nanette Gabriel, and Lisa Moisey. And Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary, Bear Paw.
- Tracy Baker is now working for Miles Community College wearing dual hats: SBDC and Workforce Development.

MEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS -

- **Before April 12th! TAKE THE SURVEY - Professional Development and Scholarship:** The MEDA Professional Development and Scholarship Committee needs feedback from you to set training topics in 2019-2020. Your thoughts are essential to make sure the training and information is on target for your needs. Or..perhaps you have information you desire to share with the MEDA membership and are willing to serve as a presenter via webinar or at a Professional Development Training. Please take the survey and share your ideas. [Survey link](#)
- **MEDA Legislative Committee:** This committee has been working tirelessly, especially at 7am each Wednesday morning, to follow and take action on bills of importance to MEDA. **Special thanks to Rick Edwards, Committee Chair, for his leadership throughout the session.** Anyone is welcome to join the calls.

MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW?



Western
Community
Assessment
Network

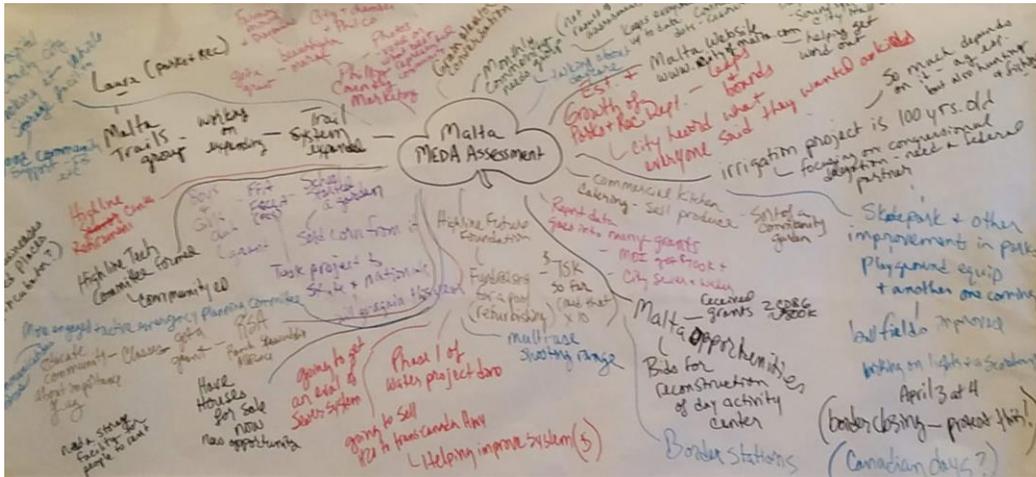
If you have a community that is on the edge of making progress - but needs a little organization, encouragement, and resources boost - MEDA would love to work with you to make that happen. For more information visit <https://www.communityreview.org/>
And <http://www.medamembers.org/resources/community-reviews>

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group will meet again on April 16th and hear a presentation from EDA. Join the call at 10:00am [Notes from the pervious call.](#)
- **MEDA Opportunity Zone Working Group** – this group is making progress! A doodle will be sent soon to those signed up to schedule the first meeting. [Sign Up](#)
- **MEDA Remove Work Working Group** – thanks to efforts by Anne Boothe, this working group is forming fast. [Sign Up](#)

MEDA RIPPLE EFFECTS MAPPING – MALTA AND FORT BENTON

Thanks to WECAN (see above), the three state grant that is helping Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana to fine-tune its community assessment process, Ripple Effects Mapping (REM) is being used to determine outcomes from previous assessments. Malta's second MEDA Resource Team Assessment was held in 2014; Fort Benton's assessment was held in 2016. Each REM community is eligible for up to a \$1,000 grant. [More Info](#) Next up: Darby, Victor and Stevensville.



MALTA Ripple Effects



Fort Benton Ripple Effects

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 **Local Preservation School** is an open learning environment where preservation advocates and volunteers share with people how to save and sustain historic places in their communities. Though its not currently being updated, there is a lot of great information on the site: <http://localpreservation.github.io/#>
- **Montana Housing Conference** June 17 – 19 <https://housing.mt.gov/Conference>

- **EPA Free Webinar: How to Start Your Needed Infrastructure Project**, Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 12:00pm-1:00pm MST [Register Online](#)

Small Business Webinar Series 2019

Reach Customers Online with Google

**Thursday, April 4, 2019
11 AM, MST**

Learn how customers find your business online and how to promote your online presence using search engine optimization (SEO) and online advertising. We'll also introduce tools that will help you run your business online, including Google Analytics and Trends.

Register at
<https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4169>

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.msucommunitydevelopment.org/smallbusiness.html>
- For questions, email commdev@montana.edu



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The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

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.
- ⇒ The **North Face Explore Fund** Announces Grant Program for Outdoor Adventure (Deadline: April 5, 2019) The North Face Explore Fund supports nonprofit organizations in the U.S. that are looking to increase participation in the outdoors and work in innovative ways to protect our environment. Programs with strong outdoor engagement in activities such as skiing, kayaking, backpacking, etc. are preferred. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. For more information, visit the website <https://www.thenorthface.com>
- ⇒ **The Montana Registered Apprenticeship Program** is an excellent training model that assists employers in building a highly customizable and skilled workforce to meet their business needs. In turn, apprentices immediately start working and earn a paycheck while completing the required training and instruction. The Montana Registered Apprenticeship Program recognizes apprenticeships in over 100 occupations. While trades continue to make up most apprentices, the program has developed curriculum for occupations in healthcare, manufacturing, finance, and information technology. Since 2016, 26

occupations have been added including master brewer, medical coding, medical assistant, and accounting technician. Grant applications can be found at <http://apprenticeship.mt.gov/2019sponsorgrantapplication> and are available immediately.

⇒ **USDA Rural Broadband Resources**

USDA Seeks Applications for the Community Connect Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announced that it is accepting FY 2019 applications for the [Community Connect Grant Program](#). The Community Connect program helps rural communities extend access where broadband service is least likely to be commercially available, but where it can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for people and businesses. The projects funded by these grants help rural residents tap into the enormous potential of the internet for jobs, education, healthcare, public safety and community development. As announced on the [USDA webpage](#) and in a [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#), applications will be accepted through April 15, 2019. Applicants are also advised to use the [Application Guide](#).

USDA Extends Deadline for ReConnect Rural Broadband Program

Telecommunications companies, rural electric cooperatives and utilities, internet service providers and municipalities may apply for funding through USDA's new ReConnect Program to connect rural areas that currently have insufficient broadband service. To give potential applicants adequate time to access technical assistance from USDA staff and its partners, the first application deadline will be pushed back to May 3, 2019, or later. New specific deadlines for ReConnect Program grants, loans and grant-loan combination applications will be posted in the Federal Register in late February. More information is available [here](#).

USDA Launches Broadband e-Connectivity Resource Guide

The USDA has announced the launch of a [new toolkit](#) to help support the development of high-speed broadband e-Connectivity in rural communities. The resource is a guide that helps customers identify their type of e-Connectivity project and identify resources offered to fund, plan and equip the projects. The toolkit is free and available to all online. More information is available [here](#).



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

- ⇒ DOE recognizes the important role that small businesses play in driving innovation and creating jobs in the U.S. economy. The SBIR and STTR programs were created by Congress to leverage small businesses to advance innovation at federal agencies. Additional information on the DOE SBIR and STTR programs can be found on the program's website [HERE](#).