

PLUG INTO MONTANA'S TALENT

MEDA 2016 SPRING CONFERENCE
 Hosted by: Butte Local Development Corp.
 April 20 – 22, 2016

Montana Economic Developers Association ~ April News



Agenda and Registration

Sponsor Opportunity

Check out the updated [agenda!](#) Rooms in Butte are going fast – be sure to obtain your lodging for MEDA’s Spring Conference before April 6th. The conference will begin the evening of April 20th with a pub crawl to showcase Butte’s breweries, followed by a full day of presentations and activities on the 21st. Some highlights include: Fostering a Talented Workforce; Partners in Progress; and Is Your Community Tapped In. The conference will close around 10:30am following breakfast on Friday, April 22nd

MEDA RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENTS

Do you work with a community that could benefit from a MEDA Resource Team Assessment? Would you like to experience serving on a Resource Team? Read the [summary](#) of what they are all about and give MEDA a call at 406-563-5259.

⇒ **Deer Lodge Resource Team** – great turnout by the community!



Julie Schroeder (second from left) happens to work for Anaconda Job Service and happens to be passionate about her home town of Deer Lodge. Julie was the community organizer who prepared the community for the team’s visit. She did her work so well the team enjoyed a great dialogue with the citizens of Deer Lodge and is now writing up their recommendations according to what they heard. Team members L to R: Heather Handeland, Julie, Sue Taylor, Eric Seidensticker, Abbie Phillip, and Gus Byrom.

2-3	Governor's Equal Pay Summit
10 - 12	Governor's Tourism & Rec Conference
14	Community Engagement For Sustainability Kalispell
14 - 15	MTIP: Innovator Training Tour Pablo, Browning, Great Falls
19	Revolving Loan Fund Working Group Call 10:00am
19	Pub Crawl MEDA Preconference Networking Event
20 - 21	Plug in to Montana's Talent MEDA Spring Conference
27	MDOC Opportunity Call 10:30am
27 - 28	Jobs For Montana's Graduates (JMG) - Ignite Montana Spring Conference,
May 2	Manufacturing And International Trade Day Missoula
May 2-3	Cultivating Place In Main Street Communities Helena

⇒ Ronan, Montana – Assessment set for May 9th – 10th

The next MEDA Resource Team Assessment will be coordinated by Gypsy Ray, Lake County Community Development. Thus far the team includes John Donovan (SBA), Eric Seidensticker (MBAC), Tracy McIntyre (Rural Economic Designs), Sarah Converse (Sweetgrass Development) and representatives from MDOC and USDA. There is still room for YOU.

OPPORTUNITY CALLS – April 27th at 10:30am

Thanks to our partners at Montana Dept. of Commerce, MEDA Members have a great opportunity to learn of program updates and dig deeper into two featured programs during each call. In March, participants learned of important preparations going on now for the 2020 Census. They also learned exciting news regarding the ever growing Made in Montana Trade Show and plans to link the Governor's Conference on Tourism with next year's Made in Montana event.



MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With the new calendar year along came new MEDA Members. Welcome to: Christie Bell, Christie Bell Enterprises, Belgrade; Sarah Culver, Sweetgrass Development, Great Falls; Lindsey Hagmaier, MDOC/MTIP, Helena; Justin Pearson, BNSF, Bismarck, ND; Eric Seidensticker, MBAC, Helena; Micky Zurcher, Jefferson Local Development, Whitehall; and Greg Reid, WWC Engineering, Billings. Check out their [membership profiles](#) and add them to your network.

Please wish [Linda Kindrick](#), Montana Community Finance Corporation, and MEDA Board Member all the best as she begins retirement the end of April.



Linda Kindrick

In case you missed it, the following MEDA Members were honored by Governor Bullock and Montana Ambassadors with awards: Rick Edwards 2015 Plenipotentiary, Russ Fletcher 2015 Outreach Montana Ambassador of the Year, and Brent Campbell 2015 Montana Ambassador of the Year.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– This working group plans to meet via conference call on April 19th at 10:00am. Learn best tips and best practices from peers who manage RLF's.
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This working group met on March 17th and discussed how the Deer Lodge Team could best incorporate its report into the Deer Lodge Growth Plan. One idea that came out of the discussion is to offer a modified Resource Team Assessment and call it something like “Kick Start your Growth Plan” in which MEDA would play a role in helping a community establish priorities and working groups with its growth plan. Next call: May 18th at 9:00am. [Minutes of the meeting.](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- The **MEDA Nominating Committee** met twice in March to prepare a slate of Officers and Directors in preparation for the MEDA Membership Meeting in Butte, during the Spring Conference. There were two board openings; two people submitted a paragraph and resume as to why they would like to serve on the MEDA Board.
- The **MEDA Marketing Committee** met on March 2nd to continue progress on spreading the word about MEDA. This committee would love to have your marketing expertise; please contact [Gloria](#) if you would like to join the group.

MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The First Quarter round is now behind us; an announcement of scholarship awards will be available soon. The Second Quarter round is now open with the deadline of May 6th. [Criteria and Application](#)

MEDA BOARD ACTIVITY

The MEDA Board will meet on Friday, April 22nd, following the MEDA Spring Conference. All MEDA Members are invited to attend.



Highlights for March
or read the [Full Report](#)

BEAR CLIENT RESOURCE

Take a few moments and read Mike Jackson's recent article titled: [PROFITS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT ~ TO RAISE YOUR PRICES --- or NOT](#). Mike says, "To raise or not raise prices is almost scientific today and not to be taken lightly." Enjoy the article.

IWT STATS – Third Quarter

Chris Wilhelm reported on March 7th that 236 IWT applications have been submitted for this Fiscal Year. BEAR Teams submitted 179 of the applications with SBDC submitting 53. Thus far, 163 grants have been awarded in the amount of \$447,109.

BEAR TEAM OUTREACH FOR MARCH

- Michelle Twist, Hamilton Job Service, submitted one BEAR visit via the online form.
- Pam Haxby-Cote, BLDC, submitted three BEAR visits for Butte/Silver Bow County which included five referrals.
- Julie Jaksha, Headwaters RC&D/SBDC, assisted Pam Haxby-Cote with one BEAR visit.
- Warren Vaughan, Gallatin County BEAR visited 16 businesses (2 new, 14 existing clients) and completed 29 action items utilizing 16 resource providers (all private sector, volunteer team members) were involved in these 29 action items.

OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS 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.



- **Census 2020 – Suggestions now being accepted for blocks.** As part of the responsibilities under the State Redistricting Program (P.L. 94-171), the Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC), located in the Research Information Services (RIS) Bureau at the Department of Commerce is working to provide suggestions to the U.S. Census Bureau on boundaries to use for the 2020 Decennial Census.

Phase 1 of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program is the Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP), which allows states to play a more active role in the formation of Census blocks. CEIC is working with local governments and stakeholders across the state to help incorporating suggested changes into BBSP. **The deadline to submit BBSP change suggestions to CEIC is April 15.**

We are also pleased to announce that James Whitehorne, the Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office Chief and Associate Director for the Decennial Census, will be coming to Montana. Please mark your calendars now so you can **join us in Helena April 19th to meet with Chief Whitehorne from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** This meeting will provide Montanans an opportunity to express their

community's needs and concerns directly to the U.S. Census Bureau in regards to useful census redistricting data as required by Public Law (P.L.) 94-171 and provide comments on the other U.S. Census geographic programs and initiatives. Please note that less than 100 seats are available this event and reservations are required. Please register [here](#).

TOOLS AND TRAINING

- [CEIC project board](#) – Details the background and phases of the redistricting project, provides information on how to get involved, detailed maps of the 2020 prototype Census Blocks, timeline and additional links.
- [CEIC website document](#) – BBSP project information, links to maps, timeline and other training and tools.
- [Additional maps and training materials](#)

Need more information? Contact Leslie Zolman, GISP, GIS Coordinator, CEIC, MT Office of Tourism Business Development, MDOC; P: [\(406\) 841-2742](tel:4068412742) | F: [\(406\) 841-2728](tel:4068412728) | TDD: [\(406\) 841-2702](tel:4068412702)
lzolman@mt.gov

GRANTS AND FUNDING

- [Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink](#). Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
- **GRANTSTATION:** [Click here to read the entire newsletter](#) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email [MEDA](#) for the username and password.
- **Aetna Foundation 2016 Cultivating Healthy Communities grant program . Due date:** April 15, 2016 at 3 PM ET. The Aetna Foundation 2016 Cultivating Healthy Communities grant program seeks to support communities' efforts to become healthier places to live, work, learn, play and pray. The program will support projects that benefit underserved, low-income, and minority communities. This year's program aims to have broader impact and reach more spaces in the community. For more information and application instructions, read the Request for Proposal (RFP), <http://bit.ly/1ZGzf15>
- The **DOE Small Business Voucher Program** has an open solicitation for technical support to help bring products to market. A 20% cost-share is required; the application period is open until April 10th. More information here: <https://www.sbv.org/>
- The **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** of the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) are announcing the availability of additional program funds for grants under the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative, which is an integrated, multi-agency effort to align and invest federal economic and workforce development resources in communities and regions negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy. For more information contact Kirk Keysor, EDA. Phone 406.599.9795