Aug 3 - 13: CDFA Virtual Training
Aug 4, 6: Virtual Economic Update Series
Aug 6: Small Biz Series: PPP Forgiveness
Aug 10 – 14: SBIR Week in the Rockies
Aug 10: MEDA Broadband Committee Call 2pm
Aug 12, 26: PTAC Webinar – Free
Aug 13, 20: MT Healthy Communities and Economy
Aug 14: MEDA AWARDS DEADLINE! apply
Aug 18: MEDA Community Review Call 9am

Sept 9, 23: PTAC Webinar – Free
Sept 10 – 17: MT Healthy Communities and Economy
Sept 21 – 25: MNA Resolve Virtual Conference
Sept 24: Radically Rural Online Summit
Sept 27 – Oct 1: MACo Annual Conference

Save the Date:
Oct 7 – 9: MT League of Cities and Towns Virtual Conf
October 20: Rise and Restore Small Business Summit – Sidney
October 22: Rise and Restore Small Business Summit - Butte

READ ALL ABOUT IT: MEDA MEMBER NEWS

Thanks to our news membership sponsor: Montana Youth Apprenticeship Partnership. Welcome to Kelly Cresswell, Jason Butcher, and Tricia McGurran as new members.

Eric Seidensticker has changed positions. He is now the Project Officer for Jefferson Local Development Corporation.

Another new member is Ray Brown. Ray is the Executive Director for Sanders County Community Development Corporation and is excited to make a difference.

A longtime friend of MEDA, Tara Mastel, has rejoined with her new position: Associate Specialist Leadership Development, Community Development Program Leader, MSU Extension Local Government Center.

MEDA’s membership continues to grow; thanks for spreading the word about our vital network.

MEDA FALL CONFERENCE

It is hard to think about fall on a beautiful Montana summer day, but if you are willing to join the MEDA Fall Conference Committee and work to create a meaningful, dynamic, and worthwhile fall conference, please contact Gloria at gloria@medamembers.org.
2020 MEDA AWARDS - DEADLINE IS NOW AUGUST 14TH
What has your organization accomplished over the past year? What impact has been made? Review the new Award Criteria for both Impact Awards and the Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development Award. The deadline is August 14th with a celebration to take place this fall. Everyone involved in economic and community development is encouraged to submit multiple applications so that your success can indeed be celebrated!

Impact Awards Rules and Criteria
Application for 2020 Impact Awards
Application for AJP Champion Award

UPDATED MONTANA COVID-19 RESOURCES
The resources and information flow regarding COVID-19 are ever changing. Listed below are several key sites that are helpful to those working in the field of Economic and Community Development.

⇒ Montana COVID-19 Relief
  o Innovation Grants deadline July 1st.
  o Social Services grants have re-opened.
  o Re-Opening Resources - MNA
⇒ Montana COVID-19 Website

MONTANA’S NEXT GENERATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TOOLS Report
While there hasn’t yet been a huge press release on the NextGen Report, a copy is available here for your review. The “almost final” report was reviewed by MEDA Members and partners with feedback gathered. Next steps: incorporate feedback and create strategies for implementation plans. Stay tuned for your invitation to get involved.

SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED – SCHOLARSHIPS PENDING
Thanks to the Montana CARES Act, MEDA has received special funding for Professional Development needs. Marie Hirsch, Scholarship Committee Chair, announced the following winners: Debbie Schreiber, Snowy Mountain Development Corp., CDFA Training $1,200; Katharine King, City of Kalispell, Project Manager Training, $739; Teresa Schreiner, Great Falls Development Authority, UNC Basic Economic Development, $680; and Tracy McIntyre, Montana Cooperative Development Center, Building Blocks course, $1200.
The MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Q3 Deadline was August 1st. The committee will make announcements before August 10th. In the meantime, Q4 is now open! [Apply today](#).

**HELP! MONTANA IS STILL BEHIND IN THE COUNT**
What can you do to turn this around? Encourage your colleagues to not wait for a mailed invitation but self-respond. Share: [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or call 1-844-330-2020

![Census Data](image)

**UPDATE: MEDA WORKING GROUPS and COMMITTEES**
All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group.

- **MEDA Community Review Working Group** - This [working group](#) is all about assisting with MEDA’s Community Review process and switching to a virtual format. Next meeting: August 18th. [Notes from the call](#).

- **MEDA Remote Work Working Group** – This working group is collaborating to develop marketing and information to encourage remote workers to consider Montana and build a support network for teleworkers. [Notes](#)

- **The MEDA CRDC Working Group** is meeting regularly and networking to share innovative ideas to sustain their organizations and businesses across the state.

- **MEDA Broadband Committee** was formed as a result of the NextGen report. This group may blend with the MEDA Remote Work Group. Strategies are in the works to improve Montana’s broadband access.

- **Legislative Committee** – Chairman Rick Edwards held two meetings in July. The committee is following several interim studies and gearing up for the 2021 Legislative Session.

**MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW - Troy**
The survey results are in and an [analysis](#) is in place as a result of Troy responses. Troy continues to make progress in preparation for Phase 1 of its MEDA Community Review. Listening Sessions will take place in Troy September 8 – 10 with a virtual town hall meeting held the night of the 10th. Are you interested in serving on the team? Let [Gloria](#) know. For more information on Community Reviews, visit [WeCAN](#).
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.

**Montana Healthy Communities: A Virtual Journey—Bridging the Gap between Economic Vitality and Health.** You will find the schedule, descriptions, Zoom links, and other information here:

https://registrations.publichealthpractice.org/Montana-Healthy-Communities-Virtual-Journey

The US Small business administration (SBA) SBIR Week in the Rockies will be held August 10-14. This virtual event will connect entrepreneurs working on advanced technology to the country’s largest source of early-stage funding – the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Also known as America’s Seed Fund, the SBIR/STTR programs focus on next-generation research & development (R&D) and is led by the SBA with 11 participating federal agencies. The SBIR/STTR programs annually provided over $3.7 billion in non-dilutive early-stage technology funding.


**IEDC Training Courses List**
Montana Nonprofit Association Annual Conference

Registration is opening soon:
https://www.mtnonprofit.org/conference/

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS
We believe that we learn better together. While professional development opportunities geared towards individuals abound, real magic happens when teams share experiences of learning and growing together.

But, sending your entire team to a conference in another city isn’t always realistic. Which is why we are so excited about the opportunity to offer a virtual experience. It removes barriers and opens the door to team learning.

FALL 2020
DOES THE STATE OF MONTANA BUY WHAT YOU SELL?
FREE Webinar Series

Webinar Details
Contracting with the State of MT
- Who buys what?
- Goods & Services vs. Construction Contracts
- Disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) program
- Where to find useful sources eMACS:
  - How to register as a vendor in eMACS
  - How to respond to solicitations/events
  - Where to find bids & proposals
  - Where to find useful resources Q&A

Virtual Tour Dates
9:10:30 am
AUGUST 12
AUGUST 26 - 10:10:30 AM
SEPTEMBER 9
SEPTEMBER 23
OCTOBER 7
OCTOBER 21

Register for any date that works for your schedule. All will be online.

REGISTER HERE:
www.montanaptac.org/event

CONTACT US:
406-869-8413

https://www.montanaptac.org/events/
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ MEDA is a member of GrantStation. Email gloria if you would like the username and password.

⇒ MSU Extension has a great list of grants!  
http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html

⇒ USDA Value Added Producer Grants  Cooperatives may receive priority when they apply for the Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG). The VAPG program helps agricultural producers to fund new processing facilities with the goal of creating new products and expanding on marketing opportunities. The maximum grant amount is $250,000.

- CDBG Affordable Housing Development and Rehabilitation Applications are being accepted through September 15, 2020: https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/ApplicationForms
- CDBG Community and Public Facilities Applications are being accepted through September 15, 2020: https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Facilities/ApplicationForms
- CDBG Housing Stabilization Program Application are accepted on an ongoing basis: https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/ApplicationForms
- The Community Development Division and the Montana Main Street Program of the Montana Department of Commerce are happy to pass along information on the following national funding opportunity. The National Main Street Center, in partnership with The Hartford, have created a grant program to support brick-and-mortar businesses in commercial districts as they enter the next phases of reopening across the country. The HartBeat of Main Street Grant Program (administered nationally) will fund solutions that help small business owners respond and adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, and also help to revitalize and strengthen older and historic downtown commercial districts. Grants of $5,000 to $15,000 will be awarded by the National Main Street Center on a competitive and first-come, first-served basis.

Eligible grant expenses include but are not limited to:

- Physical improvements to business space to meet relevant reopening requirements implemented because of COVID-19
- Equipment to comply with public health and safety guidelines (i.e., touchless payment methods, automatic door open sensors, or disposable menus)
- Fees associated with expanding the business to e-commerce sales
- Other professional services, such as business plan modifications
- Rent, payroll, and other operating expenses

To view more information, including eligibility, terms and conditions, and application, visit the National Main Street Center's program website: The HartBeat of Main Street Grant Program
Montana Tourism Industry Unites for ‘Montana Aware’ Campaign

The Montana Department of Commerce’s Office of Tourism and Business Development has launched the “Montana Aware” campaign to promote safe and responsible behavior among those who are traveling in the state. The public health initiative aims to educate residents and visitors on best practices to slow the spread of COVID-19.

“Our top priority is to keep those who live, work and travel in Montana safe,” said Commerce Director Tara Rice. “It’s important that we put safety first and adventure second because we all have a shared responsibility to slow the spread of COVID-19.”

The “Montana Aware” initiative is a formalized effort encouraging Montana’s tourism partners and local businesses to use flyers, posters, social media messages, customer emails and business websites to help inform guests about public health guidelines and best practices. The Montana Department of Commerce’s Office of Tourism and Business Development first began promoting a safety message on June 1 and worked with tourism partners to do the same. Through the formal “Montana Aware” campaign, 17 of Montana’s Convention and Visitors Bureaus and six tourism regions share $5 million to promote the initiative.

CVBs
Gardiner CVB, Belgrade CVB, Miles City CVB, Livingston CVB, Red Lodge CVB, Glendive CVB, Havre CVB, Billings CVB, Big Sky CVB, Bozeman CVB, Missoula CVB, West Yellowstone CVB, Great Falls CVB, Kalispell CVB, Whitefish CVB, Butte CVB, Helena CVB

Regions
Southeast Montana, Southwest Montana, Central Montana, Missouri River Country, Glacier Country, Yellowstone Country

Safe Travel Guidelines Before travelers hit the road, they should, “Know before you go.”

- Know the local public health guidelines before arriving to their destination
- Understand some services and destinations may be limited
- Stay home if they’re sick

When travelers are on the road, they should:

- Wear a mask – face coverings are required in certain indoor spaces and for certain organized outdoor activities in counties currently experiencing four or more active case of COVID-19
• Maintain social distance (at least 6 feet apart)
• Wash their hands and use hand sanitizer
• Avoid touching their face
• Cover coughs and sneezes

The “Montana Aware” initiative is funded with federal dollars through Montana’s Coronavirus Relief Fund. For more information about the Montana Aware program go to VISITMT.COM.

Montana Aware Toolkit
You can find the downloadable toolkit and other resources at MARKETMT.COM.

THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS