Aug 2-4: Second Annual Last Best Conference  
Aug 8: Montana STEAM Summit  
Aug 14 -15: MEDA Board Strategic Planning Session  
Aug 17: NADC Monthly Webinar  
Aug 18: India for Small/Medium Businesses  
Aug 30-31: CRDC Meeting, Lewistown  
Aug 31: Third Quarter MEDA Scholarship Deadline  

SBDC Training Calendar  
MNA Training Calendar  

Sept 7: Max Baucus Lecture  
Sept 13: TecNet Billings  
Sept 14: RTA Working Group Call 9am  
Sept 17-20: IEDC Annual Conference  
Sept 19: RLF Working Group Call 10am  
Sept 21-22: Leadership MT Conference  
Sept 26-28: MNA Conference  
Sept 27: MDOC/MEDA Opportunity Call 10:30am  

Save the Date: MEDA Fall Conference  
October 5th and 6th  
in Red Lodge!  

MEDA SPONSORED INNOVATE MONTANA SYMPOSIUM  
From panelists to Solution Lounge mentors, MEDA Members played a part in the super-successful Innovate Montana Symposium.  

MEDA organized a workshop titled "Navigating the Truths and Myths of Business Financing. You can review the presentation here.
OPPORTUNITY CALL – Next one is September 27th

Due to summer schedules, it is thought our next Opportunity Call will be held September 27th. These monthly calls with Montana Dept. of Commerce partners are a great way to share where opportunities are developing, what the demand for services is looking like and how together we can continue to successfully grow Montana’s economy.

FEATURED MDOC PROGRAM AND PARTNERS

PROGRAM: Big Sky Trust Fund - Planning
PROJECT: Anaconda Electric Light Building
BUSINESS: Video Smelter City Brewing Facebook
LOCAL PARTNERS: Headwaters RC&D; Anaconda Local Development Corp.

Something new in our monthly MEDA Newsletters: a featured MDOC Program and an example of that program at work. Everyone working in the field of Economic Development knows that it takes programs and partnerships to bring a project to a successful outcome. Each month, there will be a focus on a program and the partners that assisted to bring about success.

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program – Planning
Annmarie Robinson ARobinson3@mt.gov MarketMT.com

BSTF - Planning Program

The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program (BSTF) Planning Program accepts applications for grants to assist with planning activities that expand the economy or create jobs. The program assists by allowing businesses or entities to hire professionals help them with studies or assessments that would help move businesses to the next steps. Eligible activities under this program include:

- Support for business improvement districts and central business district re-development,
- Industrial development,
- Feasibility studies,
- Creation and maintenance of baseline community profiles,
- Matching funds for federal funds, and
- Preproduction costs for film or media

The following changes were made to the 2018-2019 Biennium application guidelines for planning projects:

- Local Governments are considered eligible applicants for planning grants;
- The certification page now requires the assisted entity to acknowledge that funding for the project was provided by the BSTF Program and that all documents prepared with public funds is subject to public’s right to know.

Project Focus - Anaconda Electric Light Building

In October of 2014, the BSTF Program awarded funding to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist the Electric Light Building LLC in Anaconda with completion of a building survey and historic property assessment. The company
proposed to develop the property for a brew pub and retail space on the first floor, and office space with possible residential use on the second floor. The building located at 103 Main Street was constructed in 1895 and had not been maintained for the last twenty to thirty years. Anaconda Local Development Corporation assisted Headwaters with obtaining the Preliminary Architectural Report prepared by CTA which provided the roadmap for redevelopment of the property. Anaconda Tax Increment Finance District was tapped as well as USDA for a Rural Business Development Grant. The result: Smelter City Brewing is up and operational!

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**—The next RLF meeting is set for September 19th. If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs. [Notes]

- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** — The next meeting will be September 14th at 9am. An update will be provided on the three state grant that is reviewing and improving Resource Team Assessments. [Notes from the call] Learn more about MEDA’s assessments [here].

MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Update
Third Quarter applications are now being accepted. Deadline: August 31st. For more information visit: [Criteria and Application]

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Tracy Timmons, Red Lodge Community Foundation, and Brenda Schilling, Glacier County Port Authority joined MEDA in July. Welcome!

In case you missed it, three of MEDA’s members were recognized by the Montana Ambassadors:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Melanie Schwarz – MTA of the Year</th>
<th>Paul Gladen – Educator of the Year</th>
<th>John Rogers – Plenipotentiary</th>
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ASK NOT WHAT MEDA CAN DO FOR YOU….ask what you can do for MEDA!
Take all of seven minutes per video, and quickly educate yourself on quick tips to utilize Facebook and Twitter – fast, efficient, and easy. Follow along as Chris Burke, [Morning Glory Coffee](#), shares his simple tips and tricks for
promoting and expanding your online presence. What does this have to do with MEDA? As a MEDA Member, please apply what you learned and help spread the word on the work of MEDA.

Twitter Tutorial    Facebook Tutorial

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.

- Nonprofit Administration Online Program
- Second Annual Last Best Conference, 8/2-4, Missoula, MT  8:00 AM  
http://www.lastbestconference.com/
- Join CDFA in Minneapolis for our next offering of the Intro Brownfields Finance Course on August 8-9, 2017 and will feature live tour of the most interesting Brownfields redevelopment sites that Minneapolis has to offer.
- Skill Builder Series – applying for State and Federal Grants  Great Falls or Billings
- Deadline to apply for Community Builders: August 25th

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
➤ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants!  
http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html
➤ The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announced this week that USDA is accepting applications for the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program for FY 2017. Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2017 under this window.
➤ USDA Community Development Grants
➤ Six funding programs started a new round of funds on July 1st with MT Dept. of Commerce
➤ Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant.
- USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for grants to help socially disadvantaged agricultural producers and rural business owners. The program is used to help small businesses retain and create jobs in rural areas. Eligible grant recipients include cooperatives, groups of cooperatives and cooperative development centers that serve socially disadvantaged groups.
➤ Ag Development Council extends GTA program deadline
- The Agriculture Development Council met last week and voted to extend the deadline for the popular Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program, from September 15, 2017 to November 15, 2017. The deadline was extended to allow more time for producers to apply for funding.
➤ MEDA is a member of GrantStation. Email gloria if you would like the username and password.