



Online News

AUGUST



July 30-Aug1: [NADC Procurement Conf](#)
Aug 1: Biz Webinar: [Small Biz Insurance](#)
Aug 9: [Deadline for MEDA Award Aps](#)
Aug 10: [MEDA Scholarship Deadline](#)
Aug 19-22: [Northwest Eco Devo Course](#)
Aug 26-29: [EDA Denver Regional Conference](#)
Aug 27: [Business Transition Workshop](#)

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



Sept 11 – [Brownfields Best Practices](#), Lewistown
Sept 12 - 13: [MEDA Fall Conference, Lewistown](#)
Sept 17: RLF Working Group call, 10am
Sept 22 – 26: [MACo Annual Conference](#), Great Falls
Sept 26: [ASQ Intermountain Seminar](#)

Save the date:

Oct 2 – 4: [MT League of Cities & Towns Conference](#)
Oct 14-16: [Innovate MT](#)

[MT Women's Biz Center](#)
[SBDC Training Calendar](#)

YOU HAVE ONE MORE WEEK TO SUBMIT! DEADLINE IS **AUGUST 9th**



Kathie Bailey, Chair of the Awards Committee, is **extending the deadline one more week for Innovation Awards. Submit before August 9th!** The MEDA Awards Committee looks forward to being buried with your [MEDA Innovation Awards](#) nominations. Here is the website that contains all the information: <http://www.medamembers.org/membership/awards>

MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE —3rd Quarter Deadline August 10th

You have until August 10th! Apply for a Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship: [criteria and application.](#)

CHANGING RURAL ECONOMIES – MEDA 2019 FALL CONFERENCE



We all know change is the one thing we can count on. The MEDA Fall Conference will focus on change and trends taking place in Montana rural economies. The goal of the conference is to inform, prepare, and equip our colleagues as we build Montana's economy...now and in the future.

[Registration](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Interested in the Brownfields Workshop on September 11th in Lewistown?](#)

MEDA MEMBERSHIP – What's new?

Steve Arveschoug (pictured left) on Voices of Montana, with Tom: We're In This Together WITT.

[Listen here](#) and learn more about Steve's thoughts on the tools communities and developers are relying on to encourage economic growth and opportunities for Montanans. Tara Rice, Director of Montana Department of Commerce, was also a recent guest. Check out the [podcast here](#).

On the membership front, the MEDA Membership Committee is exploring new membership options to make it easier for individuals as well as corporations to join MEDA.



MEDA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Consider it a pre-conference and/or professional development training, whatever you want to call it. This is for sure: it is going to be great! Register for Gracious Space training and learn how to artfully deal with changing rural economy conversations. They can be tough conversations; but tools are available to help make progress on difficult issues. The agenda is below. [Register here](#)

8:30am – 11:30am	Economy, Community and Adversity. When changes in rural economies and communities stir controversy, economic developers are called upon to create a setting that is comfortable for learning, collaboration, civility and wisdom.
8:30am-8:45am	Introductions & Overview
8:45am-9:45am	Gracious Space& Leadership Development
9:45am-10:00am	Break
10:00am-10:45am	Practitioner Panel – When competition & cooperation converge
10:45am-11:30am	Tools for your toolbox (25 minutes table shares, 20 minutes group discussion)

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

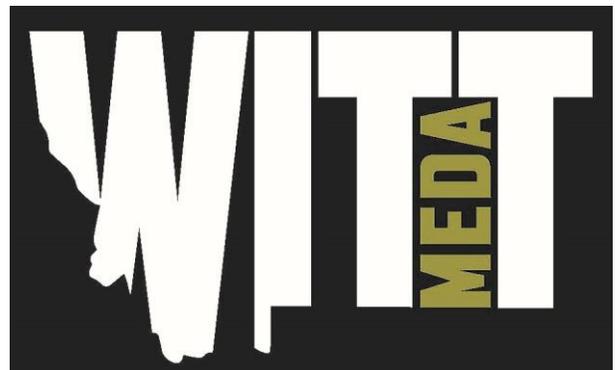
All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group. There have been few meetings as it is summertime in Montana. All will kick in again soon.

- **MEDA i6 Challenge Grant Working Group** – This group met for the first time under the leadership of Ken Fichtler. Visit the [webpage](#) and read the [meeting summary](#).
- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group will meet on September 17th and have a guest speaker regarding DownHome. [Notes from the call](#).
- **MEDA Opportunity Zone Working Group** - If you missed the MEDA Conference, here is the [O-zone presentation](#). A meeting is pending for this working group.
- **MEDA Remote Work Working Group** –The next meeting is pending. Review [the previous minutes here](#) and check out the interesting [Grow Remote](#) website.

YOUR MEDA BOARD AT WORK

The MEDA Board met July 15th and 16th and spent the majority of time on this agenda item: Montana’s Next Generation of Economic Development Tools. Several exciting announcements will be made and information shared at the MEDA Fall Conference regarding this pending study.

To kick off the session, President Steve Arveschoug shared a new acronym for MEDA: We’re In This Together.



2019 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The Montana Legislative Services Division announced that the *2019 Montana Legislative Review* and the *2019 History and Final Status* are available online. The publications can be downloaded as PDFs for free at leg.mt.gov/statute/mca-publications/.

The *Montana Legislative Review* contains a summary of all bills and resolutions passed by the 2019 Legislature and tables including code sections and session laws affected, bills to chapter numbers, effective dates, session law to code, and code sections affected by 2018 ballot issues.



Fort Benton and Whitehall are next up!

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 via a **Montana Community Review**. Not one but two community reviews are pending: one in Fort Benton on October 22nd and one in Whitehall, the week of November 18th. If you are interested in serving on a team, please contact MEDA at 406.563.5259. For more general information on the process visit <https://www.communityreview.org/> and <http://www.medamembers.org/resources/community-reviews>

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 annual **Northwest Economic Development Course** is the premier event offering intensive training in the basic concepts, methods, and strategies of local economic development. A diverse and experienced faculty provides an excellent blend of theory and practice. Course content is oriented toward practical application. Practitioners new to the field as well as those with experience seeking new ideas and tools are encouraged to attend. August 19 – 22. [REGISTER NOW!](#)
- **Best Practices for Managing EPA Brownfields Projects: Plights and Pardons Workshop**
This free workshop, co-hosted by Snowy Mountain Development Corporation, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program at Kansas State University, is for EPA Grantees in Montana, and those who want to be. Topics will be more advanced than an Introductory Brownfields workshop, and will showcase best practices in pursuing and effectively managing EPA Brownfields Grants. It is designed to help prepare EPA brownfields grantees (and those who want to be) for the management of Brownfields projects by providing: (1) access to the experts; (2) guidance on managing challenging projects; (3) best practices for managing environmental consultants; and (4) tips and tricks for success.

REGISTER TODAY! Attendance is free and lunch is provided, but registration is requested by September 6th. [AGENDA](#) (PDF) [INVITATION](#) (PDF)

Small Business Webinar Series 2019

Insurance for Small Business

Thursday, August 1st, 2019
11 AM, MST

As one of the most important ways to protect a business, insurance often goes overlooked. This webinar provides an overview general and professional liability insurance, employer practice liability insurance, worker's compensation requirements, the difference between insurance and bonding, and a variety of other insurance-specific topics.

Register at
<https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4175>

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 to 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



Colin Lee, CIC, CLCS

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[August 1st Link to Join the Webinar](#)

Insurance for Small Business

Webinar Series Sponsors



Additional Support



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

- Recommended: [Watch: Reimagining the Rural West Initiative launch](#) Panelists explored challenges faced by rural areas, and ideas to build vibrant communities. Watch the webinar; you'll be glad you did.
- **NADO: Economic Resilience and Brilliance: [Agenda Updated](#)**
Plan now to attend [Economic Brilliance and Resilience](#), an economic development conference for the EDA Denver region, which will occur August 26 - 29, 2019 in Denver, CO. This conference blends peer learning with roll-up-your sleeves workshops and out-of-the hotel mobile workshops. Participants will have ample opportunities to learn about innovative approaches to economic development, build leadership skills, think about new ways to boost their organization's public face, network with peers, catch up with EDA staff, and much more.
- [New IRS Opportunity Zone Guidelines](#); [Implementation Plan](#); [Agency Partners](#)
- We invite you to join CEDAM & CDAD for our annual [Developing Vibrant Communities](#) conference August 22-23, 2019 in Detroit! The event is designed to inspire and equip practitioners and advocates with the **community economic development** and **financial empowerment strategies** needed to positively transform their communities.



Montana has many business assistance tools [here](#).

Want to receive updates from the Department of Commerce? Subscribe to receive email updates here.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Check out the updated website from **MSU Extension** and their great list of grants! <http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ Tara Rice was recently interviewed on Voices of Montana regarding a grant program for communities and schools negatively impacted by the decline of Montana's natural resource industries. If you missed the interview you can catch it here: [grant program](#).
- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password.

⇒ ***USDA Seeks Applications for Rural Economic Development Grants***



The grants can be used for business startup costs; business expansion; business incubators; technical assistance feasibility studies; advanced telecommunications services and computer networks for medical, educational, and job training services; and community facilities projects for economic development. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

Application deadlines are First Quarter, Sept. 30, 2019; Second Quarter, Dec. 31, 2019; Third Quarter, March 31, 2020; and Fourth Quarter, June 30, 2020. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. local time at the Rural Development state office where the project will be located. For a list of offices, visit the [state office website](#).