



AUGUST

Aug 4: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Aug 5: MEDA Capital Committee 10am
 Aug 5: [Early Stage Western MT Showcase](#)
 Aug 8 – 10: [MT Ambassadors Mtg and Awards](#)
 Aug 11: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Aug 11: NextGen Workforce Committee 1pm
 Aug 12: ETSWDA Commissoin Meeting
 Aug 12: MEDA Capital Committee 10am
 Aug 12: [Early Stage Eastern MT Showcase](#)
 Aug 13: CRDC Call, Noon
 Aug 14: [MT Clean Energy Fair](#)
 Aug 15 – 19: [PNWER Meeting at Big Sky](#)
 Aug 17 – 19: [2021 Economic Update Series](#)
 Aug 18: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Aug 19: MEDA Capital Committee 10am
 Aug 25: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Aug 25: NextGen Workforce Committee 1pm
 Aug 26: MEDA Capital Committee 10am
 Aug 27: MEDA Peer Learning Network 9:30am
 Aug 27: CRDC Call, Noon
 Aug 31: MEDA Office Hour, Noon
[EDA ARPA Webinar Trainings](#)



SEPTEMBER

Sept 1: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Sept 2: MEDA Capital Committee 10am
 Sept 8: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Sept 8: MEDA Workforce Committee Call 1pm
 Sept 9: MEDA Remote Worker Group, 9am
 Sept 9: MEDA Capital Committee 10am
 Sept 10: CRDC Call, Noon
 Sept 10 -11: [Made in MT Tradeshow](#)
 Sept 15: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Sept 16: MEDA Capital Committee 10am
 Sept 21: MEDA Office Hour, Noon
 Sept 22: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Sept 22: MEDA Workforce Committee Call 1pm
 Sept 23: MEDA Capital Committee 10am
 Sept 24: Peer Learning Network 9:30am
 Sept 24: CRDC Call, Noon
 Sept 27 – Oct 1: [MNA Traction Annual Conf](#)
 Sept 29: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 7am
 Sept 30: MEDA Capital Committee 10am

[September 13: MEDA Awards Deadline!](#)

CHECK OUT THE MEDA CONFERENCE SUMMARY!

Much was covered during the MEDA conference. In addition to an [overall summary](#), you can view:

[OVERALL SUMMARY](#) * [PRE-CONFERENCE SURVEY RESULTS](#) * [POLL DURING THE CONFERENCE - CONSENSUS AND PREPAREDNESS](#) * [WORKSHEET RESPONSES FIRST BREAKOUT SESSION](#) * [PRESENTATION DAY 1](#) * [PRESENTATION DAY 2](#) * [WORKSHEET RESPONSES SECOND BREAKOUT SESSION](#) * [CONFERENCE RECORDING DAY 1](#) * [CONFERENCE RECORDING DAY 2](#) * [ZOOM BREAKOUT RECORDING](#)



MEDA MEMBER NEWS

Tracy Baker, SBDC Regional Director/Workforce Development and Community Outreach Coordinator, Miles Community College, shared a [resource guide](#) that is helpful to folks in Eastern Montana, as well as across the state. The Resource Guide was developed by the Southeastern Montana Community Teams and is maintained by Job Service Miles City.



Tracy Baker

New MEDA member: Ben Damman. Ben resides in Missoula and is the CEO for Aliens from the Future, Inc. Ben brings international experience to the MEDA table with the focus of “sharing superior technology and practices to advance human societies.” Welcome, Ben!

New for MEDA MEMBERS – MEDA OFFICE HOUR

One outcome from the MEDA Summer Conference was the realization that with so many new MEDA members, and those new to economic development, a ‘MEDA Office Hour’ would be held to continue the great opportunities to network within MEDA. Attendees can discuss, ask question, and learn from each other in the field. The format is open and includes learning how our organizations work together to move the economy of Montana forward. The kickoff meeting was facilitated by Joe Willauer and Allison Corbyn. The next MEDA Office Hours will be held August 31st.



[Recording of July MEDA Office Hours](#)

MEDA SCHOLARSHIP, ANYONE?

The third quarter deadline for the Rick Jones Memorial MEDA Scholarship application is September 1st. As of August 1st, no one has submitted an application. \$600 scholarships are available for MEDA members to engage in the excellent NDC courses. Additional details are on our website at: <https://www.medamembers.org/membership/scholarships>

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATIONS TODAY! 2021 MEDA IMPACT AWARDS

Brett Doney, Awards Chair, would like to see “dozens” of Impact Award applications. Each year, MEDA recognizes member organizations that demonstrate valuable and effective approaches to regional economic and community development through our awards program. The Impact Awards have recognized many MEDA member projects for their creative efforts in advancing regional economic development and improved quality of life.



2021 IMPACT AWARD BACKGROUND CRITERIA 2021 IMPACT AWARD APPLICATION

The Anthony J. Preite award recognizes a Montana Economic Developer Association member in honor of Anthony J. Preite, a native Montanan who devoted 50 years to local, state and federal development agencies in leadership roles, and is credited with significantly impacting Montana communities and her citizens.



ANTHONY PREITE CHAMPION AWARD CRITERIA AND FORM

MEDA WORKING GROUPS, COMMITTEES AND UPDATES

All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group or Committee. Working together, we are making a difference!

- **MEDA Legislative Committee:**
The MEDA Legislative Committee continues to meet at 7am each Wednesday. It has been following the [ARPA website](#) to provide recommendations for allocating federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The commissions are focusing on infrastructure, communications, economic stabilization/workforce, and health care. Here is [a link](#) to spot which group is meeting when.

[The Economic Transformation and Stabilization and Workforce Development Advisory Commission listed its Categories of Fund Allocation.](#)

[Montana ARPA Meeting site](#)


August 11: Communications Advisory Commission

August 12: Economic Transformation and Workforce Development Advisory Commission

August 26: Infrastructure Advisory Commission

- **MEDA Broadband Committee** was formed as a result of the NextGen report. This committee was very active and dedicated throughout the Legislative session and made a difference! [Webpage](#)
The committee is now following the Communications Commission to learn of broadband funding and opportunities. Tracy McIntyre is serving as Chair. [Broadband Priorities](#)
- **MEDA Community Review Working Group and Peer Learning Network** - The Peer Learning Networking is part of the MEDA Community Review program. It is strengthening community leadership across Montana. Each meeting there is a short presentation followed by Q & A from community leaders. Next meeting: August 27th, 9:30am, with the topic of dealing with perceived less-than-desirable businesses coming to town. [Newsletter site.](#)

The image is a collage of three main elements. On the left is a video call screenshot showing three participants: a woman at the top, a woman at the bottom left, and a man at the bottom right. In the center is a white text box with the following text: "MINI GRANTS UPDATE", "10 TOTAL MINI GRANTS THIS LAST ROUND", "4 IDAHO COMMUNITIES", "6 MONTANA COMMUNITIES", and "A TOTAL OF \$34,365 IN GRANT MONEY!". On the right is a list of community projects under the heading "MONTANA COMMUNITY PROJECTS". The projects listed are: Lockwood: Park improvement – benches for park users and the addition of trees, shrubbery and flowers to delineate park user areas; Malta: Marketing & promotional video production to promote tourism & business prospects, i.e. recreation opportunities and county wide information; Victor: Street tree irrigation fixes and upgrade; Troy: Community Center start-up: vision and strategy sessions with new partners; Choteau: Library- kids computers & couches, Visitor Center WiFi, digital marketing efforts; Fort Benton: Solar LED light installation on highway billboards.

- **MEDA Workforce Committee** was formed as a result of the NextGen report. Mary Craige and Nicole Rush are Co-Chairs. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm. The group is in the process of drafting priorities for Montana's workforce needs. Check out the latest notes and join the conversation. Notes and [Webpage](#)
 - **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. Please help promote Montana's Master Remote Work Certification course. Thanks to this committee for helping to get this done. There will be no meeting in August. [More information](#)
- 
- The banner for the Remote Work Certificate Program features the title "Remote Work Certificate Program" at the top. Below the title, it states "16-month remote course designed equip workers with the tools and skills needed to work from home as a remote worker, freelancer, or entrepreneur." It also lists "Courses start at the beginning of each month" and "Course fee \$199". Logos for "MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" and "MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY" are visible at the bottom.
- **MEDA Value Added Ag Working Group** – Follow progress on their [webpage](#). Paddy Fleming serves as Chair.
 - **The MEDA CRDC Working Group** is meeting every-other-week and networking to share innovative ideas to sustain their organizations and businesses across the state. In June, the group met with Frederick Van Den Abbeel, Montana's Business Attraction Specialist.
 - **MEDA Capital Committee:** This committee is meeting with the goal of obtaining additional RLF funds for the state. Review meeting notes and RLF Success Stories [here](#).

YOUR MEDA BOARD AT WORK

The MEDA Board is planning a retreat this summer that will solely focus on the organization of MEDA and follow up on all that was learned from the Summer Conference.



MEDA Board Meeting, Helena, MT

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.



EDA Announces Release of \$3 Billion American Rescue Plan NOFOs

On Thursday July 22, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) [announced](#) the release of the [Notice of Funding Opportunities](#) (NOFOs) that will guide the administration of the \$3 billion in supplemental funding that EDA received through the American Rescue Plan. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced a collection of programs – collectively called *Investing in America's Communities* – through which EDA will invest the \$3 billion to assist communities across the country. This EDA investment is the largest economic development initiative from the Department of Commerce in decades and is intended to help communities across the country to ‘build back better.’ *Investing in America's Communities* includes:

- \$1 billion for the [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#)
- \$500 million for the [Good Jobs Challenge](#)
- \$500 million for [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#)
- \$100 million for [Indigenous Communities](#)
- \$750 million for [Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation](#)
- \$90 million for [Statewide Planning, Research, and Networks](#)

As part of the collection of programs, EDA is also making a [Coal Communities Commitment](#) and is allocating \$300 million to ensure support for these communities as they recover from the pandemic and other economic shifts.

To learn more about EDA and the American Rescue Plan funding opportunities, [register here](#) for an upcoming EDA overview webinar on **August 4 at 2:00 pm ET**. [Additional EDA webinars](#) are also scheduled in the coming days that will focus on specific program NOFOs. These program specific webinars include:

- [Build Back Better Regional Challenge Webinar](#); **Monday, August 2, 2 p.m. ET**
- [Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Webinar](#); **Tuesday, August 3, 2 p.m. ET**
- [Coal Communities Commitment Webinar](#); **Thursday, August 5, 2 p.m. ET**
- [Research & Networks Webinar](#); **Friday, August 6, 2 p.m. ET**
- [Economic Adjustment Assistance Webinar](#); **Monday, August 9, 2 p.m. ET**
- [Indigenous Communities Webinar](#); **Tuesday, August 10, 2 p.m. ET**
- [Good Jobs Challenge Webinar](#); **Thursday, August 12, 2 p.m. ET**

More information can be found on [EDA's website](#), and the NOFOs can be found [here](#).



This program is designed to help you as an entrepreneur or startup business get help on part of your business you may not have had the time for. Our professional team at AMRII facilitates the recruiting, and matching talented University of Montana students with your real world projects that match their skills, training or interests. Over the course of a

semester the students work with you and with the AMRII team to further or maybe complete a project that will help you advance your startup. [Fill out this business registration form and get your business listed.](#)



THE OPPORTUNITY EXCHANGE

Join [our platform](#) for collaborative, place-based community and economic development. To promote business, land or commercial real-estate investment opportunities in Montana, the Montana Department of Commerce has developed an investment project portal where investors can easily view and connect to projects in the state.

The purpose of the investment project portal is to provide a single, user-friendly project portal where:

- Developers and business owners can post information about their projects and investment opportunities, and;
- Investors can easily review projects that are seeking investment partners

The website portal was developed in cooperation with The Opportunity Exchange, who has developed and hosts similar sites for other cities, regions and states. They also have over 1,800 investors and funds registered as users of their network of sites.

For more information contact: KRISTIAN RICHARDSON Industry Development Officer Research & Information Services Division Montana Department of Commerce T: 406.841.2032 | M: 406.595.6218 COMMERCE.MT.GOV

⇒ **Community Development Extension Library**

The Community Development Extension Library serves as a national repository of programs, curricula, tools, and fact sheets shared and used among Extension professionals who are part of Community Development Extension programs from across the United States. The CD Extension Library is a collaboration between the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) and the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals (NACDEP). The Library is a resource for sharing programs and best practices throughout the Cooperative Extension System and a forum through which peers can exchange information on practices, program delivery, and impact. [Visit the CD Extension Library.](#)



reIMAGINING RURAL

⇒ **Inspiration for your local leaders brought to your town.** Fresh ideas about rural vitality are broadcast across the state to small (or large!) groups in participating communities. Local groups meet in-person to hear the speakers and talk about the ideas with the help of a trained facilitator immediately after the speakers are done. Sessions will be held from 6-8 p.m. on September 13, 27 and October 4, 2021. **Application Due Date.** Communities must apply to

participate. Space is limited. Applications will be emailed and available [here](#). Applications are due August 9th. Learn more at [MSU Extension Community Development webpage](#)

⇒ **Big Sky, Montana for the 30th Annual Summit from August 15-19!**
[Registration](#)

PNWER Annual Summit is the leading forum where people in the policy world and the business world come together to figure out solutions to regional challenges. Join hundreds of regional legislators, business leaders, and key decision makers in coming together in a hybrid in-person/virtual event in Big Sky, Montana on August 15 - 19, 2021, to explore shared challenges in the region, discuss best practices, strengthen regional relationships, and develop action plans for addressing these challenges in the future.



⇒ **The Harbinger Consultancy** is offering new online courses. harbingerconsult.com

⇒ **Receive training to be a Montana Master Remote Worker!** [Register](#)

⇒ **2021 ECONOMIC UPDATE SERIES**
AUGUST 17,18,19 | MULTI-CITY EVENT

The [Montana Chamber Foundation](#) is excited to bring the [2021 Economic Update Series](#). Join us in **Billings**, **Bozeman**, or **Helena!** [Register Here](#)



you

⇒ **American Trails Presents Advancing Trails Webinar Series**

American Trails brings agencies, trailbuilders, advocates, and volunteers the latest in state-of-the-art information on all aspects of trails and greenways. Our webinars focus on a variety of trail topics, usually applicable to all trail types, with expert presenters. Webinar topics are chosen from current cutting-edge trail topics selected from attendee/presenter suggestions as well as recent popular conference sessions. For more information, visit AmericanTrails.org/training/webinars or click on individual webinar links below.

Upcoming webinars:

- **August 26:** [Introduction to Trail Management \(Part 3 of 3\)](#)
- **September 2:** [The Value of Trail Assessments](#)
- **September 28:** [Rails-With-Trails: Best Practices and Lessons Learned](#)
- **October 28:** [Trail Ambassador Programs: Tips, Tricks, and Best Practices](#)

If you missed a previous webinar, they are available for FREE and immediate download [here](#).

GRANT RESOURCES

MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password.

⇒ Check out this [grant source](#) from the University of Montana.

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



- [Community Facilities Direct Loans & Grants](#): Year-Round Applications
- [Community Facilities Loan Guarantees](#): Year-Round Applications
- [Community Facilities Relending Program](#): Year-Round Applications
- [Economic Impact Initiative Grants](#): Year-Round Applications
- [Tribal College Initiative Grants](#): Year-Round Applications
- **USDA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program** Deadline: September 1, 2021 [Details](#).



The Montana Department of
**Natural Resources
& Conservation**

Taking applications through January 1, 2023

Projects must be a necessary investment in water and sewer infrastructure as defined in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, [PUB. L. NO 117-2](#), and Montana [HOUSE BILL 632](#).

Go to [FAQ](#) or <https://arpa-mtdnrc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/commerce> or call 1-844-406-2772 with your application questions.



Team building infrastructure at MEDA.



FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Notice of Funding Opportunity

Through the Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation program, EDA is focused on accelerating the recovery of communities that rely on the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. \$750 million of EDA's American Rescue Plan funds are allocated to support the following efforts:

- **State Tourism Grants:** \$510 million in non-competitive awards to help states quickly invest in marketing, infrastructure, workforce and other projects to rejuvenate safe leisure, business and international travel. Eligible applicants for EDA's Statewide Planning Grants include Governors, the Mayor of DC, and other applicable Territory leaders or their designees. EDA will send these applicants a formal invitation to apply.
- **Competitive Grants:** \$240 million to help communities that have been hardest hit by challenges facing the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors to invest in infrastructure, workforce or other projects to support the recovery of the industry and economic resilience of the community in the future. Eligible applicants for EDA's Competitive Tourism Grants program include a(n):
 - District Organization of an EDA-designated Economic Development District
 - Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes
 - State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
 - Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education
 - Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State
 - Individuals or for-profit entities are not eligible

Email your questions about the American Rescue Plan Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation program to TravelandTourism@eda.gov. Visit EDA.GOV/Contact to find contact information for your Economic Development Representative. For more information click [here](#).



MDOC Spotlight: Tourism Grant Program

Commerce Announces Tourism Grant Program Application Cycle Opens August 1 *\$750,000 available for tourism, recreation projects*

MONTANA – The Montana Department of Commerce announced the 2022 Tourism Grant cycle opens August 1. Applications for the Tourism Grant Program can be submitted from August 1 through September 15.

The [Tourism Grant Program](#) funds projects that strengthen Montana’s economy through the development and enhancement of Montana’s tourism and recreation industry. A total of \$750,000 is available for projects that develop and enhance tourism and recreation products that have the potential to increase non-resident visitation.

“With these grants, the Department of Commerce continues to support the development of tourism and recreation projects, increasing visitors to our state and prompting economic growth and resiliency for many Montana communities,” said Commerce Director Scott Osterman. **“As the state’s tourism economy continues to recover from the pandemic, these grants will help Montana remain a major tourism destination for travelers from all over the world.”**

Applications for the grant funding will be open to non-profit 501(c) organizations, tribal governments, city governments and county governments based in Montana. Eligible projects to be considered for these grants include:

- Digital product developments for online assets that create or contain destination brand for the tourism and/or recreation industry.
- Heritage Preservation projects preserve, protect, or restore Montana’s arts, culture and/or heritage treasures.
- Infrastructure upgrades or enhancement projects of tourism facilities that will enhance the non-resident visitor experience and increase expenditures.
- Niche Product Development are projects within the three brand pillars that are of interest to non-resident visitors as identified in Montana Destination Brand Research Study.
- Wayfinding for a community or outdoor recreation opportunity through signage or mapping or destination development.
- Destination event-only projects or activities are not eligible for consideration in the annual application cycle. A destination event-based grant cycle will be offered through the Tourism Grant Program later this year.

The 2022 annual application cycle closes promptly at midnight MST on September 15. Learn more and apply for a Tourism Grant at MARKETMT.COM or contact Michele Cushman via email at TourismGrants@mt.gov or call 406.841.2796.

The Tourism Grant Program is funded by the [4% Lodging Facility Use Tax](#), commonly known as the “Bed Tax”. Enacted by the 1987 Legislature, the Bed Tax is collected from guests of hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, guest ranches, resorts, short-term vacation rentals and campgrounds.

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS for 2021

Gold	Silver	Bronze	
 <p>NorthWestern Energy Delivering a Bright Future</p>	 <p>MYAP Montana Youth Apprenticeship Partnership</p>  <p>NewFields Perspective. Vision. Solutions.</p>	 <p>MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Small Business Enterprise Program</p>  <p>MONTANA Cooperative DEVELOPMENT CENTER</p>  <p>Accelerating Montana Rural Innovation and AMRII</p>	 <p>KLJ ENGINEERING. REIMAGINED.</p>  <p>Cushing Terrell.</p>  <p>MW MISSION WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</p>