

Happy Holidays!

- Dec 4: MEDA Legislative Committee call, 7am
- Dec 4-5 [Outdoor Recreation Summit](#)
- Dec 7: [Opportunity Zone Training - NDC](#)
- Dec 12: [SBIR Innovation Summit](#)
- Dec 13: [MNA Legislative Training #1](#)
- Dec 15: 4th Quarter MEDA [Scholarship Aps](#) Due
- Dec 18: MEDA Legislative Committee call, 7am
- Dec 18: RLF Working Group Call 10am
- Dec 18: [MNA Legislative Training #2](#)
- Dec 19: [BSTF](#) Applications Due

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



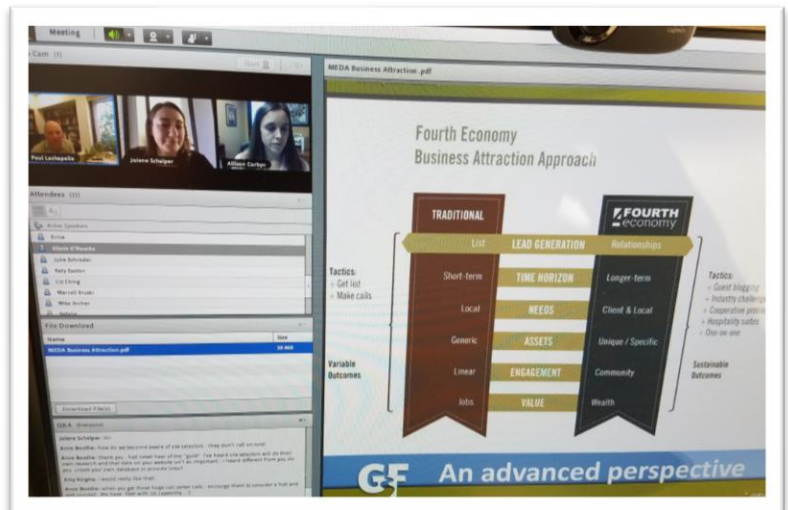
- Jan 7-8: [Business Days at the Capitol](#)
- Jan 8: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
- Jan 8: [W2ASACT Meeting](#)
- Jan 9: [MNA Legislative Training #3](#)
- Jan 15: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
- Jan 22: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
- Jan 23: MEDA Day at the Rotunda
- Jan 27-29: [IEDC Leadership Summit](#)

Save the Date!
MEDA 2019 Spring Conference
May 21 – 23 in Glendive

DID YOU MISS IT?

[HERE IS THE LINK](#)

The first ever MEDA Professional Development Webinar was a great success. As so often is the case, it could not have come together without multiple entities working in partnership: MEDA Professional Development and Scholarship Committee, MSU Extension with Paul Lachapelle, Great Falls Development Authority, and Big Sky Economic Development. Thanks to our fabulous presenters: Jolene Schalper, Great Falls Development Authority and Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development.



2019 MT LEGISLATIVE SESSION ~ ALL KINDS OF INFO FOR YOU

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the MEDA Board, MEDA Legislative Committee, and several state partners are working to prepare data to inform Legislators and officials on the impact Montana's key economic development program have on the state's economy.

About your Legislators:

[2019 Legislative Standing Committees](#) * [2019 Session Home Page](#)

MEDA and Partners – Data and Materials for your use in visiting with Legislators:

- [MEDA Legislative Priorities](#)
- [MDOC Ec Dev Program Guide](#)
- [MEDA Tri-Fold "Don't Let the Sunset" Brochure of 2019 Programs](#)
- [Program Map of Projects](#)
- [MMEC Map of Projects](#)



MEDA's number one priority for the Legislative Session is to remove the 2019 sunset of these vital programs:

Small Business Development Centers • Montana Cooperative Development Center • Certified Regional Development Corporations • Growth Through Agriculture • Export Trade • Small Business Research • Montana Manufacturing Extension Center at MSU • Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology

MNA Training – Get ready to Reach Out to your Legislators. [Register](#)

Webinar Series: Legislative Prep



Everything you need to prepare for the 2019 Legislative Session. MNA has partnered with Alliance for Justice/Bolder Advocacy, Montana Budget and Policy Center, and MNA Lobbyist Aimee Grmoljez of Crowley Fleck to share their expertise with you. From the basics of lobbying to an in-depth look at our state budget and upcoming session, these three webinars will provide you the tools you need to advocate for your mission this legislative session. Register for any single webinar or the entire series below.

<p>"Advocacy and Lobbying for Nonprofits" with Bolder Advocacy + Alliance for Justice</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>December 13th / 11:00am</i> \$10</p>	<p>"Understanding our Governor's Budget and Its Impact on Your Mission" with Montana Budget and Policy Center</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>December 18th / 11:00am</i> \$10</p>	<p>"The In's and Out's of Working the Halls and Following Bills for the 2019 Session" with Aimee Grmoljez</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>January 9th / 11:00am</i> \$10</p>
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SAVE THE DATE! More info coming your way soon.



4th QUARTER ROUND ~ DEADLINE SOON

Fourth Quarter applications for the Rick Jones Memorial Scholarships are due December 15th. [Application](#)

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- Have you “met” the new SBDC Directors? [Contact info here.](#)
- Sarah Converse is serving on the MACo Economic Development Committee.
- Check out Jason Rittal’s video under Tools for You.
- Be sure to send to [MEDA](#) any updated info for your personal membership page.
- New MEDA Members: Molly Herrington, KLJ; Casey Lozar, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis; Bob Pfister, Headwaters RC&D; Dan Villa, MT Board of Investments; Ronda Wakefield, Sanders County Community Development; and Christie Williams, Dakota Business Lending, in Lewistown. Welcome!

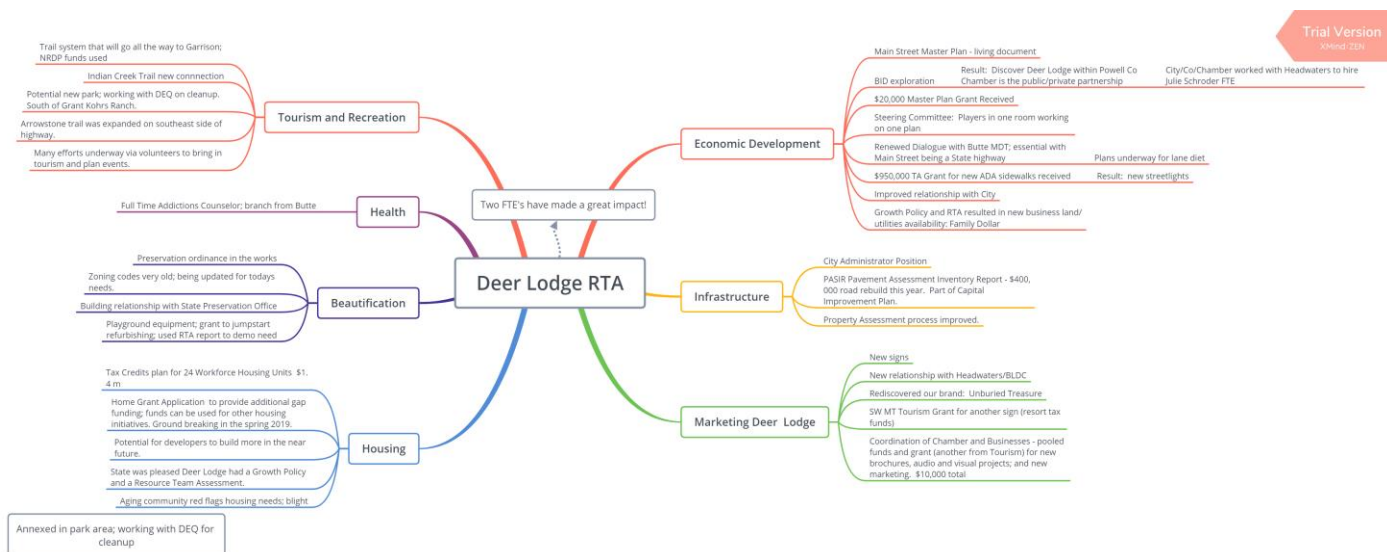
MEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Legislative Committee:** Rick Edwards, Chair. While this committee is hard at work, MEDA members are encouraged to meet with legislators and local officials to share the value of the 2019 programs and the work of economic developers and partners across the state. See the above article for links to materials. This committee meets every Tuesday morning, 7am, beginning December 4th.

- **MEDA Rotunda Day:** Save the date of January 23rd. Thanks to Joe Willauer, Sean Becker, Eric Seidensticker, Sarah Converse, and Rick Edwards for serving on this committee. The committee is coming up with a template letter to be emailed or sent to each EDO's legislator inviting them to attend MEDA Rotunda Day.
- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Chris Cerquone, Chair. This committee met several times in November to work on multiple action items including: Membership drive in 2019, a marketing plan for MEDA, and utilizing the five hours of raw video created by MCDC interviews. Twenty-three people were videoed at the MEDA UNConference; this information will be invaluable in sharing information on the 2019 Programs.
- **Nominating Committee:** Tracy McIntyre, Chair. This committee met on November 1st and is seeking to fill two open MEDA Board seats.
- **Professional Development and Scholarship:** Brett Doney and Anne Boothe, Co-Chairs. MEDA's first professional development webinar was a success! Please see story above.

RIPPLE EFFECTS MAPPING HELD IN DEER LODGE ~ MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW UPDATE

On November 1st, Gus Byrom, Paul Lachapelle, and Gloria O'Rourke revisited the Deer Lodge Resource Team leadership. The group met to go through Ripple Effects Mapping to determine outcomes from the team's visit in 2016. Paul Lachapelle facilitated the session. Deer Lodge leadership came away from the exercise energized and excited to continue making great progress.



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. For more information visit <https://www.communityreview.org/> And <http://www.medamembers.org/resources/community-reviews>

MEDA BOARD UPDATE

The MEDA Board met via conference call on Monday, November 5th, to fine-tune the MEDA Legislative Strategy. See the above article on legislative preparations for more information.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group met recently and is taking on the task of exploring options for a potential statewide contract to provide loan management software. The next meeting will be December 18th, at 10am. [Notes from the call.](#)
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This group met November 8th, at 9am to learn of updates and provide input on the new Montana Community Review process. [More info](#)

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.

⇒ Review the Financial Assistance Programs for Water, Waste Water, and Solid Waste Projects in Montana [Updated Stats on Program Funding from W2ASACT](#)

⇒ *Governor's Conference on Tourism & Recreation*
Registration now Open!

- Join us in Butte, Montana, April 14-16, as we work together to discover creative, innovative and workable solutions to elevate Montana and our individual communities as premiere tourism and recreation destinations. We hope to inspire you with industry leaders and motivational speakers, educate you with Montana success stories and best practices offered by experts, help you engage with the entire tourism industry and give you the tools to leave each session with workable solutions and doable next steps. Take advantage of the special early bird rate of \$189 now through December 31, 2018 by clicking [here](#) to register. Conference information and updates are available [here](#).



⇒ **National Development Council's Free Opportunity Zone Webinar.** The Department of Commerce is happy to share a free Opportunity Zone webinar provided by the National Development Council on **Friday, December 7, at 1:00 pm**. The webinar will highlight components of the proposed regulations, provide specific examples of Qualified Opportunity Funds, and share strategies for communities to showcase their projects for potential investors. [Register](#)

⇒ **Learn of Powering MT: Information is Powering Montana**

Montanans and Montana communities thrive by having the tools and resources they need to pursue entrepreneurship, identify and expand their economic opportunities, and plan for informed investment. Reliable, timely, objective, and authoritative information is critical for economic growth. By providing access to information, connection to local resources and management of statewide data, Montana's librarians and geographic information professionals are powering our communities. Learn more at Powering MT on YouTube and Facebook—and at your library. MEDA past president Jason Rittal is featured in the current Powering MT campaign. <https://youtu.be/KZuwLKApxPQ>



“Information is key to recruiting any kind of business, deciding how to develop infrastructure, recruiting employees and much more. Several of the programs utilized by public libraries and the State library are accessed by community and economic developers every day.”
~Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

- ⇒ Maury's new book is out: [**The Wit and Wisdom of an Economic Developer by Maury Forman**](#)
- ⇒ **Scholarship to attend Tourism Conference:** *First Time Attendee Scholarships Available Now!*
We are now accepting applications for First Time Attendee Scholarships to the Governor's Conference. We have a limited number of scholarships available. Each Scholarship covers the cost of one standard registration, all included conference meals, plus lodging for two nights at the Copper King. Applications are due by 12/15/18 and recipients will be notified by 12/20/18. Click [here](#) to apply.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Check out the updated website from **MSU Extension** and their great list of grants!
<http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password.
- ⇒ **Recreational Trails Program Grants Available!** The Montana Department of Commerce is happy to share a grant opportunity. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is accepting Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications for the FY 2019 application cycle. These grants provide funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities in Montana. The RTP's 2019 grant application period is open in [WebGrants](#) and will end on January 31, 2019 at 11:59 pm. Application information and guidelines can be found [here](#).
- ⇒ [Rural LISC's](#) Community Facilities Fund Accepting Applications. This fund provides capital to help develop and improve essential community facilities in rural areas, including health care centers, hospitals, educational facilities, and other facilities in rural communities with populations under 20,000. Click [here](#) to learn more about the fund and apply.



- ⇒ **Montana Department of Commerce Secures Federal Grant to Increase Montana Exports**
"International sales are a major part of Montana's economy, as exports last year hit a record \$1.6 billion," said Commerce Director Pam Haxby-Cote. "The STEP grant funds programs to help small businesses tap into the incredible potential for growth that exports can provide."