



Online News 2019



Dec 4: Remote Work Working Group 10am
 Dec 4: DBE [Digital Marketing](#), 10 – 2, Kalispell
 Dec 4: [Housing Coordinating Team Webinar](#)
 Dec 5: Community Review Working Group 10am
 Dec 5: EDA [Denver Region Disaster Recovery](#)
 Dec 5: Webinar – [Start your Side Hustle](#) 11am
 Dec 5: MEDA Membership Committee Call 3:30pm
 Dec: [Various Dates Free Safety ½ Day Workshops](#)
 Dec 10: MEDA Wind Working Group, 10am



Jan 9: [Quick Cybersecurity Tips](#) – Free Webinar
 Jan 15-16: [MT Council of Cooperatives](#)
 Jan 28 – March 19 [MT Economic Outlook Seminars](#)

[MT Women’s Biz Center](#)
[SBDC Training Calendar](#)
[MNA Training Calendar](#)
[MMEC Training Calendar](#)

Call to Action: MEDA and MONTANA CHAMBER FOUNDATION NEXT GENERATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY TOOLS PROJECT *NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!*

MEDA and the Montana Chamber Foundation are seeking the remaining dollars needed to begin the Next Generation of Economic and Community Tools project. The contract with [TIP Strategies](#) **cannot be signed until all funds are raised.** Please consider sponsoring this project as an individual, agency, or business; time is of the essence. Every dollar counts.



We’re In This Together

Supporters to date:

<u>\$25,000 - \$30,000</u> MEDA Montana Chamber Foundation	<u>\$10,000 - \$15,000</u> City of Bozeman Bozeman Chamber of Commerce Big Sky EDA	<u>\$5,000 - \$10,000</u> NorthWestern Energy Montana West MDU Resources	<u>\$2,500 - \$5,000</u> Bear Paw Development Corp Butte Local Development Corp Prospera Cushing Terrell MBAC Montana Business Assistance Connection
<u>\$1,000 - \$1,500</u> Payne West Eastern Montana Impact Coalition Great West Engineering Sweetgrass Development MT Photonics Industry Alliance MoFi	<u>\$1,000 - \$1,500 (cont.)</u> First Interstate Bank Billings Chamber Anaconda Local Development Corp Beartooth RC&D Downtown Bozeman Partnership MMEC	<u>\$100 to \$500</u> Lake County CDC Stahly Engineering Montana Economic Development Services (MEDS)	<u>In-Kind Partners</u> Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) MACo - to be confirmed

Please contact MEDA for more information and join the “Next Gen Project.” This work will help inform and position Montana for a bright economic future. Thank you for your consideration. Call Brian Obert, Project Chair (bobert@mbac.biz 406.465.0619); Steve Arveschoug, MEDA Board President (stevea@bigskyeda.org 406.839.6707).

YOUR MEDA BOARD AT WORK

The MEDA Board has held multiple phone calls to continue building funding support and making decisions for the Next Generation of Economic and Community Tools project. Brian Obert is Chair of the project committee and joined by Steve Arveschoug, Toni Schneider, Paul Reichert, Sarah Converse, and Russ Fletcher. Thanks for your tireless efforts on behalf of MEDA and its partners.

2020

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HAVE AN EVENT TO SHARE? Easy-peasy!

Have you noticed when clicking on [the “event” link at medamembers.org](https://www.meditors.org) you can view a detailed, up-to-date calendar of events? Thanks to MATR.net for allowing MEDA to embed its calendar in our site, all MEDA members can be kept in the loop on local, statewide and regional events.



If you have an event to add, it is easy to do! Create an account at MATR.net and log in. Adding an event is quick and easy. Thanks to the ever growing following of MATR.net, your event will be viewed by many.

SAVE THE DATE – THINK SPRING

The MEDA 2020 Spring Conference will be held in Kalispell, May 12 – 14th.

MORE SAVE THE DATES

- April 26 – 28 Governor’s Conference on Tourism and Recreation, Billings
- April 28 – 30 MT Healthy Communities Conference, Helena

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group.

- **Wind Projects, Anyone?** - This group will hold a conference call on December 10th at 10am. Check out the notes and the resources [here](#). If you are interested in learning/sharing about wind projects in Montana, plan to join the group.
- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group has a tentative meeting date set for December 17th. If you work with loan funds, plan to join the call. [Notes from the previous call.](#)
- **MEDA Community Review Working Group** - This [working group](#) is all about assisting with MEDA’s Community Review process and resources. Join the group’s meeting on December 5th, at 10am.
- **MEDA Opportunity Zone Working Group** – While this group has not met (a meeting is pending soon), you can learn from the MT Dept. of Commerce [presentation](#) shared at the NADC conference this summer.
- **MEDA Remote Work Working Group** –Anne Boothe has set a meeting for December 4th, at 10:00am to share updates on the remote work topic. Review [the previous minutes here](#) and check out the interesting [Grow Remote](#) website.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Great Falls Development Authority, also becoming known as Grow Great Falls, has added two members to MEDA. Welcome!



Rich Gannon, SBDC Rural Business Advisor, serving Cascade, Fergus, Glacier, Judith Basin, Pondera, Teton and Toole Counties.



Nathan Reiff, Business Development Officer, leading the area's business retention and expansion efforts.

It is almost that time again, to be renewing MEDA membership dues. In draft form: new membership and sponsorship options. Stay tuned!

FOURTH QUARTER ROUND - MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS 2020 Now Open

The fourth quarter winner for MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship is Elizabeth Patten, Miles City Area Economic Development, to attend NDC ED101 training. The First Quarter Round for 2020 is now open with the deadline of February 1st. [Apply today.](#)



MAKE IT COUNT!

The Census has been a cornerstone of our democracy since the first national count in 1790. On the [website](#), you can find not just Montana talking points and flyers, but materials from the U.S. Census Bureau. [Checkout a terrific Census2020 video.](#)

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.

- ⇒ **Housing Coordinating Team Meeting** – join in person or via webinar. The HCT meeting will be conducted live and in person in the Conference Room #228 on the 2nd floor of the Montana Department of Commerce Building, 301 S. Park Avenue, Helena MT. You will have the opportunity to listen to the discussion, as well as to participate. To hear the meeting, you will dial this toll-free number: 1-877-273-4202, and give this access code when prompted: 7233056. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Bruce Brensdaal will open the meeting with a welcome and introductions. We will have a presentation by a guest speaker and then will hear reports from the subcommittees and then input and updates from each team member. [Register Here](#) Topic: Housing is Health Care.

- ⇒ Need a community profile? Need stats and data for your community? Check out **Headwaters Economics Profile System!**
<https://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/economic-profile-system/>

Small Business Webinar Series 2019

Start Your Side Hustle

Thursday, December 5th, 2019
11 AM, MST

This webinar will address turning a hobby or passion into a side business. We'll talk about the lean approach to business planning and innovating to solve your customers' real world problems.

Register at
<https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4179>

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 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



Jason Nitschke

Regional Director
Great Falls Small
Business Development
Center (SBDC)

Great Falls Development
Authority

growgreatfallsmontana.org

[Register Here](#)

Webinar Series Sponsors



U.S. Small Business
Administration



Additional Support



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Please contact commdev@montana.edu. The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EQ/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider.

Kalispell Small Business
Development Center and
Montana DBE Program
Present:



A Digital Marketing Strategies Workshop

DBE [Register Here](#)

DATE: December 4, 2019

TIME: 10am – 2pm

PLACE: FVCC Libby Campus
225 Commerce Way
Libby, MT 59923

COST: \$25 which includes
lunch

CONNECT ONLINE:
<http://sbdc.mt.gov/Kalispell>

Karoline Rose is passionate about helping small business owners define and achieve their individual version of success. This looks different for each person, but for Karoline, success means leading a dedicated team in the pursuit to make life easier on entrepreneurs and small businesses.

Join us for a day with KRose Marketing & Consulting, where we will be talking about design, content creation, digital marketing, and social media management for Facebook, Instagram, e-mail marketing and websites.

To check out more of the services they offer, go to <https://krosemarketing.com>.



To Register:

Online Link = <https://ace.fvcc.edu/CourseStatus.asp?&Course=19AMKT9041A%20&DirectFrom=Schedule>

Contact: ceinfo@fvcc.edu

Rhonda at 406-756-3832

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Montana Department of Commerce and Great Northern Development Corporation. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.

- ⇒ **EDA Denver Region Disaster Recovery Webinar, Thursday December 5, 2019 at 10:00 am MST**
[Register Today](#) If your community was impacted by a federally-declared natural disaster in 2019, then you will want to join us for this webinar. EDA recently announced the availability of funds to support disaster recovery projects. During the webinar we will discuss the funding opportunity, grant application process, eligibility requirements and EDA's funding priorities. The webinar will conclude with Q&A. Counties with disaster declarations (11.27.19) All interested parties are invited to the webinar, including local, state, regional and federal agencies, economic development districts, Indian Tribes, non-profit organizations, trade associations, universities, and other stakeholder groups. We invite you to share this Save-the-Date with others who may benefit from learning about EDA's disaster funding availability.



Program and Business Spotlight

This month's program and business spotlight is on SBDCs. The mission of the SBDC program is to provide tools and guidance to help small businesses succeed. For an individual that is looking to start a new business or expand their existing business, the SBDC network is the best place to start. The SBDC network supports ten regional centers across the state, focusing on free one-on-one counseling and low cost training in areas such as financial analysis, business planning, strategic planning, loan packaging, financial projections and market research to help small businesses achieve their goals of growth, innovation and success. To see the contact information for all ten regional offices, visit <https://sbdc.mt.gov/>.



One of the many success stories on the SBDC website is on Lund Chiropractic and The Body Building. The Great Northern Development Corporation SBDC provided assistance to the Lund Family. The Lunds operate a successful chiropractic business but wanted to combine their practice with a gym. With help from Shandy Hanks, SBDC Regional Director, the Lunds were assisted with loan packaging that included a gap financing option through Great Northern Development Corporation. Thanks to this assistance, The Lunds were able to open The Body Building and provide healthy lifestyle options to their community.

Lund Chiropractic & The Body Building

Wolf Point Regional Success Story



"This is a dream we have always had for this community and without the help of the SBDC we would not have been able to obtain a financing package."
- Patrick Lund

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



- ⇒ Montana has many business assistance tools [here](#). **Want to receive updates from the Department of Commerce? Subscribe to receive [email updates here](#).**
- ⇒ Check out the updated website from **MSU Extension** and their great list of grants! <http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ **The Montana Main Street Program** awards grant funding to member communities on a competitive basis and as funding allows. Applications are evaluated by the Department of Commerce in the order that they are received and grants will be awarded on a continual basis until all funds are allocated. Funding can be used to address long range community planning and revitalization needs as well as more specific prioritized projects. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate the implementation of larger community vision and goals or as they relate to previous or concurrent larger planning efforts (such as a downtown revitalization plan, growth policy, historic preservation plan, etc.). For more information or to apply, click [here](#). If you have questions regarding the application process or guidelines, please contact our office to work with a Montana Main Street team member at 406.841.2770 or by email at DOCCDD@mt.gov
- ⇒ The **next BSTF Job Creation and Planning Grant** deadline is **December 18, 2019**. Planning funds are awarded to eligible applicants to assist with economic development planning efforts that promote long-term, stable economic growth in Montana. Applications which support a critical activity to move an economic development project forward and directly assist a basic sector company are the highest priority for the Department. For more information, click MARKETMT.COM/BSTF.
- ⇒ The Agriculture Innovation Center Program was initially authorized as part of the 2002 Farm Bill. However, it was only run one time in FY 2003. We made 10 awards in the amount of approximately \$10 million. The program did not receive funding after that year until FY 2018 and 2019, but several legal and policy questions delayed the implementation of the program. The available funding level is \$3.5 million, and it is expected that any funds appropriated in FY 2020 will be added to this amount. The maximum award amount is \$1 million. Matching funds are required for at least one-third of total project costs. For more information, click [here](#).
- ⇒ [The Montana History Foundation](#) is offering \$160,000 in grant funding. The History Foundation will provide grants up to \$10,000 for projects that help preserve and protect Montana's history. Previously, the foundation provided grants up to \$5,000. Doubling the available grant funding will help the History Foundation reach its goal of investing \$1,000,000 statewide by 2020. Tax exempt organizations can apply for funds to preserve buildings and cemeteries, conserve and exhibit collections, collect oral histories and more. Funding details and the application link can be found on <https://www.mthistory.org/grants/>. The grant cycle opens November 1st and applications are **due by January 10, 2020**. Contact [Grants Manager Carissa Beckwith](#) with any questions, or to discuss your project before applying. She can be reached at (406) 449-3770.
- ⇒ 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 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](#).

December 2019