



# MEDA

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

## Online News 2020



Dec 3: [MT Israel Trade Forum](#)  
Dec 8: MT Main Street Program [Grants Open](#)  
Dec 8: [MT Access Project 11am](#)  
Dec 9: NextGen Workforce Committee 9am  
Dec 10: End Childhood Hunger Summit  
Dec 14: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm  
Dec 15: MT Access Project 11am  
Dec 16: BSTF [Job/Planning Grant Deadline](#)  
Dec 17: MEDA RLF Working Group 10am  
Dec 28: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm  
Dec 30: Deadline MT Eviction Intervention Project  
Dec 31: [Workforce Recovery Grant Deadline](#)

# 2021

Jan 4: [Montana Legislative Session Opens](#)  
Jan 11: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm  
Jan 14 – 15: [IEDC Tech Led Economic Development](#)  
Jan 25: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm

Feb 1: Deadline [FWP Recreation Grant Program](#)  
Feb 1 – 2: [Virtual Economic Outlook Seminar](#)  
Feb 2: MEDA Day in the Rotunda  
Feb 17: [Mansfield Lecture with Dr. Fauci](#)

Missed MEDA Happy Hour and  
Featured Stories? [Catch the  
recording.](#)



### MT ACCESS PROJECT FEATURES MEDA AND CHOTEAU – Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

Diane Conradi started Montana Access Project so communities, nonprofits, and public and private land managers don't have to start at "Square One" when dreaming, creating, and growing the quality outdoor recreation access they seek. The Path Ahead Webinar Series provides training to showcase how communities have found success and balance with improved outdoor recreation access. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the MEDA Community Review process will be highlighted as it led to the outdoor recreation activities being enhanced in Choteau. The second part of the webinar will be how Choteau used the tools provided from the review to implement outdoor recreation strategies. Don't miss it! When registration is open you will find the link [here](#) as well as recordings of previous trainings.



### BE WATCHING! MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS OPENING SOON

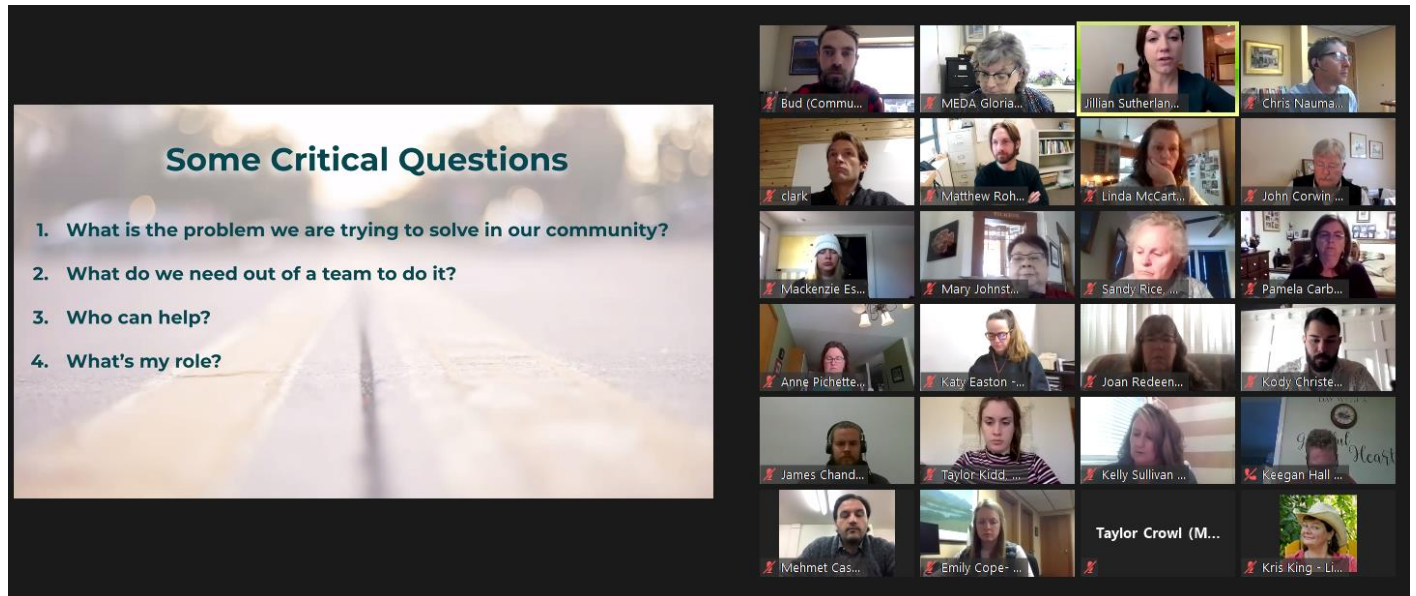
Thanks to the MT CARES Act and several partnerships, MEDA will be offering two unique scholarship opportunities. The MEDA Scholarship and Professional Development Committee is working out the details, but one option will involve NDC training and the other additional "Tell Us Something" training. As funds need to be expended by December 31<sup>st</sup>, this will be a fast paced application process. More info coming your way soon.

## MEDA MEMBER NEWS

**Ken Fichtler**, Chief Business Development Officer, Governor's Office of Economic Development, is leaving his post. It should be of no surprise to any of us that he is launching a very innovative business and beginning another adventure. The business is called [Gaize](#). The purpose of Gaize is to build the fastest, safest, and most affordable roadside Cannabis DUI detection device. Thank you for your service to Montana, Ken, and all the best to you in your new adventure.

**Brian Obert** caught everyone's attention on a recent zoom call as he introduced a new acronym. Most have heard of NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) or CAVE (Citizens Against Virtually Everything). The latest is BANANA which stands for Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anyone.

Pictured below: Over a dozen MEDA Members participated in the Roadmap to Recovery webinar held in November.



As of today, MEDA has 255 members. Thanks for your support!

## HAS YOUR COMMUNITY HELD A MEDA RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT OR COMMUNITY REVIEW?

Western Community Assessment Network (WeCAN), has created a new opportunity for community leaders and volunteers to learn from each other to get things done. The first Peer-2-Peer Learning Network call will be held December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm. Contact [Gloria](#) if you would like an invite. The agenda is simple: share community challenges and share solutions. The first call will engage participants from Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. <http://www.communityreview.org>

## MEDA WORKING GROUPS and COMMITTEES

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

- **MEDA Value Added Ag Working Group** – This Working Group does not have a meet scheduled but continues to make progress. Resource Media Group is conducting interviews and compiling success stories involving value added ag. Follow this group's progress on the [webpage](#).

- **MEDA Community Review Working Group** - This [working group](#) is all about assisting with MEDA's Community Review process and switching to a virtual format. As the next three year grant was awarded, there will be much to accomplish in the near future.
- **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. During its November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, an exciting presentation was given by Paul Hill regarding Utah's [Rural Online Initiative](#). [Notes](#)
- **The MEDA CRDC Working Group** is meeting regularly and networking to share innovative ideas to sustain their organizations and businesses across the state. The next meeting will be held December 4<sup>th</sup> with Tyler Delaney as guest.
- **MEDA Broadband Committee** was formed as a result of the NextGen report. Strategies are in the works to improve Montana's broadband access; meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, at 2pm. [Webpage](#) Tracy McIntyre is serving as Chair. Extra meetings are currently being held to prepare for the Legislative Session.
- **MEDA Workforce Committee** was formed as a result of the NextGen report. The first meeting will be held December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am.
- **Legislative Committee** –This committee is working on Policy Statements and Legislative Priorities. If you would like to join in the conversations, contact [Gloria](#). MEDA is gearing up for the 2021 Legislative Session.
- **MEDA RLF Working Group** – This group met on November 17<sup>th</sup>, and will meet again on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Tyler Delaney will be a special guest to share about insurance needs for those working with Revolving Loan Funds. [Notes](#)
- **MEDA Scholarship Committee** –as mentioned in the story above, be watching for new MEDA Scholarship opportunities.

## YOUR MEDA BOARD AT WORK – always striving to grow MEDA



## 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.

### ⇒ **Creative Placemaking: Creating Communities We Love Through Arts & Culture, Diverse Partners and Community Spaces**

**FEB. 23-MAR. 9, 2021. THREE 2-HOUR VIDEO CONFERENCE SESSIONS + MAR. 16 Q&A WITH CREATIVE PLACEMAKING PRACTITIONERS + OPTIONAL ONE-ON-ONE COACHING**



**Save \$100 with the early registration discount through December 18. Learn more and register [here](#).**

### ⇒ **Download latest data in fully redesigned Economic Profile System**

## Independent Nonpartisan Research

Explore socioeconomic data and easily download free, customized reports for any U.S. community, county, or state. Get data on trends in demographics, employment, income, land use, and more. Information is based on more than a dozen federal data sources and is continuously updated. [Read more.](#)



⇒ The [HOPE Initiative](#) provides an interactive data tool designed to help states and the country move beyond measuring disparities to spurring action toward health equity. HOPE tracks social determinants of health and health outcomes by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. Indicators are organized into five domains—one for health outcomes and four domains that influence longevity and well-being. Our unique analyses use an

opportunity framework to set aspirational but achievable goals to improve life outcomes—especially populations of color most affected by systemic racism and conscious and unconscious bias.

⇒ [IEDC Training Courses List](#)

## 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>
- ⇒ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will begin accepting grant applications for four recreation grant programs via the online system at [funding.mt.gov](#).

Applications for the following grant programs are due by Monday, February 1, 2021:

- **New! Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program**
- **New! Summer Motorized Trail Pass Grant Program**
- **Recreational Trails Program**
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program**

FWP is offering virtual training sessions for prospective applicants from October through January. These sessions are free and highly recommended for new and returning applicants to any of the four grant programs. During the training, FWP staff will provide tips on writing a competitive application, using the grant management software to submit an application, and understanding differences and similarities between programs. Online trainings via Zoom will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, December 8, 2020: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 7, 2021: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For more information on attending a grant application training session or applying to one of these opportunities, visit [STATEPARKS.MT.GOV/RECREATION](#). For full press release, click [here](#).



### A great partner: IWT in the Spotlight

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry shared some exciting news about Incumbent Worker Training (IWT).

IWT is a grant resource available to Montana’s non-profit and for-profit organizations/businesses, who employ less than 50 people statewide to help offset the costs of skills based training for incumbent (i.e. existing) employees. Eligibility guidelines are spelled out on this page and reiterated in the videos recently uploaded to this site, [www.iwt.mt.gov](http://www.iwt.mt.gov)

The Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) program now offers Instructional Videos to help provide 24/7 access & support to prospective and recurring applicants seeking grant funding for skills-based training.

Please visit, [www.iwt.mt.gov](http://www.iwt.mt.gov) and look for the new accordion drop down box entitled “**Instructional Videos: How-to register, apply and submit**” under the main header “**How Grant Funding Works & Instructional Videos to Help You Apply.**”

Please be aware, once an applicant starts the videos, which are uploaded on YouTube, the videos do not automatically roll into the next tutorial in the series. It is important applicants return to the list we have on the IWT website to see the order of instruction.

The videos are in order on the website for the first time applicant and by module for the more experienced user--- who may only require assistance for sections like the budget.

If you require additional information, please reach out to the IWT Program Manager, Michelle Robinson - [michelle.robinson@mt.gov](mailto:michelle.robinson@mt.gov)

## THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

Gold	Silver	Bronze
	 	    

December 2020