



Online News



- Feb 1: Free – [Food Webinar MMEC](#)
- Feb 1: Outlook series – [Butte](#)
- Feb 6: Outlook series - [Kalispell](#)
- Feb 6-8: [MT Small Business Summit](#)
- Feb 8: MEDA Membership Committee Call 10:30am
- Feb 8 – 9: CRDC/EDD Working Group
- Feb 12-15: [MACo MidWinter Conference](#)
- Feb 15: [PTAC Matchmaking](#) event

Sneak Peek Ahead:

- Gov's Conference on Tourism [April 15-17](#)
- MEDA Spring Conference [April 26-27](#)



- Mar 8: Resource Team Working Group Call 9am
- Mar 7 – 8: [MT Cooperative Summit](#)
- Mar 13: Outlook series - [Lewistown](#)
- Mar 14: Outlook series - [Havre](#)
- March 19 – 20: Choteau Community Review
- Mar 20: RLF Working Group Call 10am
- Mar 22: [Working in Indian Country](#) Workshop
- Mar: 23 – 24: Made in MT [Tradeshow](#)

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

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! The agenda is rolling and we are set to start **Rockin' it Rural: Thriving in Small Town Montana!** Two major sponsors have stepped up and are supporting: Northwestern Energy Kickoff Lunch and the Town Pump Hotel Group Social.



[Sponsor](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Registration](#)



MEDA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING!

One of the main missions of MEDA is to increase the professional skills of those working in the field of Economic Development. The Professional Development and Scholarship Committee is offering “**Economic Development 101**” as the topic for the pre-conference training, April 26th, in Dillon. The agenda is unique in that following an overview of major components of Economic Development, participants will take part in “hands on” project problem solving.

MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS 2018

The Rick Jones Memorial MEDA Scholarship Awards are now set for each quarter of 2018. Check out the criteria and easy two page application at <http://www.medamembers.org/meda/membership/scholarships>. The first quarter deadline is March 15th. Award winners for 2017 included: Kim Morisaki, Maureen Porter, Kelly Solberg, Jenni Graff, Nicole Rush, Cooper Fisher, and Brianna Ewert.

MDOC PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS



Yes, the state budget is tight but there are still funds available for certain projects. The Montana Technology Innovation Partnership (MTIP) can assist with proposal development and can provide a full proposal review at no cost. Submissions are due March 1, 2018, 5:00pm at the Helena office. Funding decisions are anticipated for June 2018. The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT

[website](#). Contact for proposal assistance: Montana Technology Innovation Partnership, Office of Tourism and Business Development, Department of Commerce, docmtip@mt.gov | (406) 841-2757 | mtip.mt.gov

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A great benefit to being a MEDA member is keeping track of who is where, doing what. Liz Ching and Andy Shirliff have new positions and new contact information:

Liz Ching, MT Dept. of Labor and Industry, Phone 406-696-4371; email liz.ching@mt.gov

Andy Shirliff, MT Dept. of Commerce, Phone 406-841-2897, email andy.shirliff@mt.gov

And congratulations to Montana’s newest Certified Economic Developer: Jolene Schalper, Great Falls Development Authority.



Jolene Schalper, CECD

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **CRDC/EDD Working Group** – This working group will meet in Ft. Benton, February 8th and 9th.
- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs. The next quarterly RLF meeting is set for March 20th, 10am.
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – The next meeting will be March 8th at 9am. An update and discussion will be held on the three state grant that is reviewing and improving Resource Team Assessments. [Notes from the call](#). Learn more about MEDA’s assessments [here](#).

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.

- ⇒ Montana Cooperative Summit – Building together what would be impossible to build alone. [Agenda and Registration](#)
- ⇒ **Upcoming Webinar to Highlight How Community Branding Can Support Economic Development**

The [National Association of Counties](#) and the [NADO Research Foundation](#) are hosting a free [webinar](#) on **February 7 from 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. ET** to take a deep dive into the value of place and community branding as a powerful tool in stimulating both economic development and community pride and identity. The webinar will explore this topic through the lens of coal country, as many traditionally coal-reliant communities are seeking to build stronger economies and revitalize communities. Attendees will hear from community branding subject-matter experts, in addition to local and regional implementation examples of place branding and digital storytelling, including social media and community videos. Click [here](#) to register.

⇒ [“Working in Indian Country: Building Successful Business Relationships with American Indian Tribes”](#) is a one-of-a-kind workshop that will change your understanding and enhance your experience in working with those in Montana’s Indian Country.

⇒ An Afternoon with the CEDS: The workshop will be held at the [Marriott Crystal Gateway](#) (the same location as the Washington Policy Conference) from noon to 5 pm. Registration for the workshop will open in January. A limited number of travel stipends will be available on a first-come-first-served basis to go towards an additional hotel night. More information and a draft agenda will be available once registration opens. This workshop is part of NADO RF’s [Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions](#) program, supported through a grant from the [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#).



⇒ The next NADO Legislative Update is **February 6 at 2:00 p.m. ET**. The webinar will include the latest activities on current and upcoming appropriations, infrastructure plan update, and a recap of the State of the Union address. A preview the NADO-DDAA Washington Conference will be featured as well. Click [here](#) to register.



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⇒ [Register here!](#)



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants! <http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>

⇒ [Broadband for Montana Schools Program](#), which got a big boost by the state Legislature when it approved a \$2 million school broadband fund virtually unanimously. This is a terrific opportunity to get your school students connected to high-speed broadband, but \$1 million of the funding is only available until June 2018. If your school wants to take advantage of this funding opportunity we encourage you to act today and enhance broadband access for your school. You may learn more by reaching out to the Montana Department of Commerce at docbroadband@mt.gov or [406-841-2770](tel:406-841-2770) or our partners at EducationSuperHighway by emailing Elle Patterson elle@educationsuperhighway.org or calling [415-967-7454](tel:415-967-7454).

- ⇒ The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization and Technology (MBRCT) is now accepting proposals for funding. **Proposals are due March 1, 2018.** The Montana Technology Innovation Partnership (MTIP) can assist you with your proposal development and can provide a full proposal review at no cost! . The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT [website](#). Contact MTIP mtip.mt.gov
- ⇒ [USDA Community Development Grants](#)
- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email gloria if you would like the username and password.

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