



Online News



Jan 7-8: [Business Days at the Capitol](#)
Jan 8: [W2ASACT Meeting](#)
Jan 9: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Jan 9: [MNA Legislative Training #3](#)
Jan 10: Free Small Business [Marketing Webinar](#)
Jan 11: [Ignite Great Falls](#)
Jan 15: RLF Working Group Call, 10am
Jan 16: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Jan 17, 24, 31: [Grant Writing Workshop](#)
Jan 23: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Jan 23: MEDA Day at the Rotunda
Jan 27-29: [IEDC Leadership Summit](#)



Feb 6: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Feb 12-14: [MDT Small Business Summit](#)
Feb 13: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Feb 15-16: [Manufacturing/Technology Expo](#)
Feb 20: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am
Feb 27: MEDA Legislative Committee Call, 7am

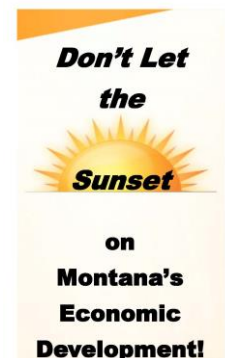
[SBDC Training Calendar](#)
[MNA Training Calendar](#)
[MMEC Training Calendar](#)

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

MT 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – WHAT CAN YOU DO?

DON'T LET THE SUN SET ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MONTANA

- ★ [Share this link with your legislators and colleagues](#)
- ★ Join the 7am calls each Wednesday for pending hearings of importance to MT's economic development
- ★ "Like" MEDA's [facebook page](#) and share posts to spread the word
- ★ Invite your legislators to join MEDA for lunch on Rotunda Day January 23rd
- ★ Sponsor the Rotunda Day Lunch for \$75 and join us on January 23rd
- ★ Follow [HB52](#) and take action!



LEGISLATIVE LINKS AND TOOLS

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 Sun Set" 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

THINK SPRING! May 21 – 23, 2019 MEDA Spring Conference

The MEDA Spring Agenda Committee had its first meeting. The theme for the MEDA Spring Conference is: **Collaboration, Cooperation, and Caviar.** One agenda item will be a field trip with the title, "Banding together in the Badlands." In addition, a downtown business tour is planned so that attendees can learn of success stories first hand. The conference will also include Professional Development, a Legislative Review, the MEDA Annual Meeting....and much more.

On the committee: Beth Epley, Jason Stuart, Amy Deines, Scott Mickelsen, Leslie Messer, Jim Atchison, Sean Becker, and Tori Matejovsky.



MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS – 1st Quarter Round Now Open

The MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship 1st Quarter Round is now open. Applications are due March 15th. Check out the [criteria and application](#). 4th Quarter winners: Steve Clairmont, Jolene Schalper, and Kim Morisaki.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

- He's back! Tod Kasten recently became the Community Development Specialist for Great Northern Development Corporation. Welcome back to MEDA, Tod.
- Be sure to send to [MEDA](#) any updated info for your personal membership page.
- Sue Taylor is now consulting with her own company called Nation Building MT. She can be reached at nationbuildingmt@gmail.com.
- As you no doubt know, Pam Haxby-Cote has moved from MDOC to serving as the Montana State Director for Senator Tester. Her contact information will be shared once it is established.
- And....2019 means another year which means your inbox will be receiving an invoice from MEDA. Thank you for your support and membership which allows us to have a strong network.
- Check out [MATR.NET's](#) new website! Thanks, Russ Fletcher, for all that you do for Montana.

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. This committee meets every Wednesday morning, 7am. From your desk, **share posts such as this pictured below**, from MEDA's facebook page. Thanks!



MEDA Montana Economic Developers Association
Published by SocialPilot [?] · December 28, 2018 at 11:16 AM · 🌐

The Montana Legislature has an important decision before them – whether to continue investing in economic development or not. Don't let the sun set on #EconomicDevelopment in Montana!
<https://goo.gl/WZkeEr> ✓. For more #MEDANews, click here.
<https://goo.gl/HNeeeh> ✓ #MTSUCCESS

607 People Reached 95 Engagements Boost Post

👤 Alistair W George Stewart, Mary Alice McLeod Craige and 7 others 10 Shares

- **MEDA Rotunda Day January 23rd:** Thanks to Joe Willauer, Sean Becker, Eric Seidensticker, Sarah Converse, and Rick Edwards for serving on this committee. The committee has compiled a template letter to be emailed or sent to each EDO's legislator inviting them to attend MEDA Rotunda Day. A slideshow is in the works as well as a circle of display tables highlighting Montana's economic development success.
- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Chris Cerquone, Chair. This committee is busy! Under the leadership of Chris action items include: 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 has met several times and is making recommendations to the board to fill two board seats and strengthen the Executive Committee bench.

- **Professional Development and Scholarship:** Brett Doney and Anne Boothe, Co-Chairs. Rest assured, Professional Development will be offered as a pre-conference event in Glendive, May 21-23rd. More info soon.

MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW?

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 will start the year right with a conference call on January 3rd to fill two board seats and strengthen the Executive Committee.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group will meet January 15th. They are working on the task of exploring options for a potential statewide contract to provide loan management software. [Notes from the pervious call.](#)

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.

- ⇒ Opportunity Zones Webinar: Join the conversation on January 17th at Noon (MST) to learn more about what you can do as an economic development or housing development leader to be Opportunity Zone investment ready. [Register](#)
- ⇒ Review the Financial Assistance Programs for Water, Waste Water, and Solid Waste Projects in Montana [Updated Stats on Program Funding from W2ASACT](#)
- ⇒ The West Regional Creative Placemaking Leadership Summit will be in Albuquerque, from February 7 to 9, 2019. We are expecting hundreds of civic and cultural leaders to



participate. <https://www.cpcommunities.org/summits> Creative Placemaking Leadership Summits attract hundreds of civic and cultural leaders to learn, share ideas and build connections. We attract economic development professionals, who are seeking more effective ways to engage arts and local cultural activities as vehicles for economic growth. More than 1,100 people participated in five Leadership Summits around the United States in 2018. MEDA members can get a 20% discount on the Summit. Please use the promotion code Partner20 when registering.

- ⇒ IEDC Webinar: [Data Driven Success in the New Year](#) **Thursday, January 17, 2:30 to 4:00 pm ET** Start your year off on the right foot! Identify key data points and performance metrics to track your performance progress throughout 2019. How should you assess your community's economic health in order to plan for the future? How can you determine what metrics are appropriate for your program's development and evaluation? Examine examples of how data-driven decisions and planning has yielded success. Discuss how best to connect data with strategic goals, including how to track them and how to share them with your stakeholders.

- ⇒ Small Business Webinar Series: Marketing [Register](#) “**Marketing Essentials: Getting Found Online**” **Jenna Jones**, Owner, Jenna Jones Design. *Webinar description:* This webinar will provide an overview of digital marketing best practices, types, and strategies.

Small Business Webinar Series 2019

Marketing Essentials: Getting Found Online

**Thursday, January 10, 2019
11 AM, MST**

This webinar will provide an overview of digital marketing best practices, types, and strategies.

Register at
<https://mtsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/4168>

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



Jenna Jones
Owner
Jenna Jones Design
Billings, Montana

Jenna Jones Design provides website development and online marketing expertise for small businesses, non-profits, and entrepreneurs.
www.jennajonesdesign.com

Webinar Series Sponsors









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 or (406) 994-1750.

The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

- ⇒ **IEDC Resources:** Make sure to check out our full catalog of [training courses](#) and get a leg up on this year's CEcd exams. Also, check out our monthly [webinars](#), sure to set your EDO on the path for success in 2019.

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.
- ⇒ **DNRC Planning Grant** cycle announcement and the DNRC RRGL Engineer Vacancy announcement. The deadline to apply is January 14. Click on <https://mtstatejobs.taleo.net/careersection/200/jobdetail.ftl?job=18142973&tz=GMT-07%3A00> for the full announcement and to apply.
- ⇒ **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.

- ⇒ Applications are now open for the February round of the **National Trust Preservation Fund** Grants. Grants from the National Trust Preservation Funds encourage preservation at the local level by providing seed money for planning and education projects. Grants range **up to \$5,000** and require a dollar-for-dollar match. Full eligibility requirements and grant guidelines, along with a link to our application, can be found at Forum.SavingPlaces.org/funding.



Check out many business assistance tools [here](#).