July 1: 11:59pm is the deadline for MEDA COVID Relief Professional Development Scholarships
July 9: Free Business Webinar: Tackling Unemployment Insurance 11-11:30am
July 10: Changes to the Women Owned Small Businesses Certification Process – PTAC 9am
July 22: MEDA Legislative Committee Call 10:30am
July 28-29: NADO Nat’l Regional Transportation Conference
July 31: MEDA AWARDS DEADLINE! Full information to apply.

UPDATED MONTANA COVID-19 RESOURCES

The resources and information flow regarding COVID-19 are ever changing. Listed below are several key sites that are helpful to those working in the field of Economic and Community Development.

⇒ Montana COVID-19 Relief
  o Innovation Grants deadline July 1st.
  o Social Services grants have re-opened.
  o Re-Opening Resources - MNA

⇒ Montana COVID-19 Website
⇒ View Awarded Grants
⇒ Emergency Housing Assistance
⇒ Restore Your Economy
⇒ USDA COVID-19 Resource Guide

Getting Closer to a Report: MONTANA’S NEXT GENERATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Drumroll, please: the final NextGen Report is due any day! Feedback has been obtained from the Steering Committee and the larger Stakeholder Group; TIP Strategies is working hard to produce the final
document. Next steps: create strategies for implementation plans. Stay tuned for your invitation to get involved.

HONORING LINDA TWITCHELL

It was with great sadness the MEDA members learned of the passing of Linda; she was our dear colleague, mentor, and friend. Through her leadership of Great Northern Development Corporation, Linda worked with many members of MEDA, she was happy to share any information and expertise to allow others to find success. Read about her other contributions to friends and family here.

HELP! MONTANA IS BEHIND IN THE COUNT!

What can you do to turn this around? Encourage your colleagues to not wait for a mailed invitation but self-respond.
Share: my2020census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020
2020 MEDA AWARDS - DEADLINE JULY 31ST

Let's get our minds focused on the positive work being accomplished all across Montana - in spite of these challenging times. Review the new Award Criteria for both Impact Awards and the Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development Award. The deadline is July 31st with a celebration to take place this fall. Everyone involved in economic and community development is encouraged to submit multiple applications so that your success can indeed be celebrated!

Impact Awards Rules and Criteria
Application for 2020 Impact Awards
Application for AJP Champion Award

MEDA LEADERSHIP STEPS UP JULY 1st
Thanks to the following MEDA Board Members for stepping up!
Brian Obert – President
Steve Arveschoug – Past President
Joe Willauer – Vice President
Rick Edwards – Treasurer
Gloria O’Rourke – Secretary
Tori Matejovsky – Executive Committee
Sarah Converse – Executive Committee

See the Updated List of MEDA Board Members

SCHOLARSHIPS! Special COVID Relief Funds for Professional Development

- Thanks to the Montana CARES Act, MEDA has received special funding for Professional Development needs. Apply by July 1st, 11:59pm. Apply today.
- MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2020 – Q3 Deadline is August 1st Apply today.

MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW - Troy
The City of Troy continues to make progress in preparation for Phase 1 of its MEDA Community Review. A first draft of the Survey Analysis is under review and a draft agenda for Troy Virtual Listening Sessions is underway. Listening Sessions will take place in Troy September 8 – 9. Are you interested in serving on the team? Let Gloria know. For more information on Community Reviews, visit WeCAN.

MEDA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE GEARING UP
MEDA Legislative Committee Chair, Rick Edwards, held an organizational meeting in June to prepare for the 2021 Legislative Session. The committee reviewed the HB52 Report which is available here. All are welcome to join this committee. The next meeting will be held July 22nd. On the agenda: preparing strategies to utilize the NextGen report recommendations.
MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE
All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group.

- **MEDA Community Review Working Group** - This working group is all about assisting with MEDA’s Community Review process and resources. During the call on June 19th, expertise was shared with best practices in holding virtual town meetings. Next meeting: pending in August. [Notes from the call.](#)

- **MEDA Remote Work Working Group** – Meeting June 4th, 11:15pm – 12:15pm. This working group is collaborating to develop marketing and information to encourage these workers to consider Montana and build a support network for teleworkers. [Notes](#)

- **The MEDA CRDC Working Group** is meeting regularly and networking to share innovative ideas to sustain their organizations and businesses across the state.

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.

This webinar will discuss understanding traditional unemployment insurance, pandemic unemployment assistance and the role employers play when employees are collecting unemployment insurance.

Register Here

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[Small Business Webinar Series 2020](#)

**Tackling Unemployment Insurance**

**Thursday, July 9, 2020**

11 AM, MST

In this webinar will discuss understanding traditional unemployment insurance, pandemic unemployment assistance and the role employers play when employees are collecting unemployment insurance.

Register at [https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4453](https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4453)

Hear experts provide an overview of small business development topics and answer your questions. We will follow-up with monks to provide additional information. All webinars are free and open to the public at 11 AM (for 60 min) and will be recorded and archived.

- Join the webinar live or access the recorded webinar and see additional resources at [www.missouleconomicdevelopment.org/index.shtml](http://www.missouleconomicdevelopment.org/index.shtml)
- For questions, email [omd@mt.edu](mailto:omd@mt.edu)

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**Register Here**
Montana has many business assistance tools [here](#). Want to receive updates from the Department of Commerce? Subscribe to receive [email updates here](#).

**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

- MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email gloria if you would like the username and password.
- **MSU Extension** has a great list of grants! [http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html](http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html)

Grant applications for 3 Community Development Block Grant programs are now being accepted:

- CDBG Affordable Housing Development and Rehabilitation Applications are being accepted through **September 15, 2020**: [https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/ApplicationForms](https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/ApplicationForms)
- CDBG Community and Public Facilities Applications are being accepted through **September 15, 2020**: [https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Facilities/ApplicationForms](https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Facilities/ApplicationForms)
- CDBG Housing Stabilization Program Application are accepted on an **ongoing** basis: [https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/ApplicationForms](https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/ApplicationForms)

Application materials should be transmitted via the state’s free and secure File Transfer System at [transfer.mt.gov](#) by close of business on the due date.

**HB52 Report in the Spotlight**

Have you reviewed [this terrific report?](#) Here is part of the intro:

The suite of eight economic development programs reauthorized by the 2019 Montana Legislature through House Bill 52 provide tools that form part of the backbone of a comprehensive economic development strategy in Montana.

These programs strategically enable the small businesses and entrepreneurs who power Montana’s economy. First developed in 2000, reauthorized in 2009 and again in 2019, this proven set of business development programs is designed with intention to support each phase of growth. The state carefully tracks metrics of success. The state’s investment remains $3.365 million each year, which in turn provides an exponential return in each of our communities.

A big part of why the state’s investment is so impactful is because it allows Montana to bring in matching dollars from federal and other partners. From 2012- 2019, these programs supported 15,000 businesses and made available 12,000 jobs for Montanans!
THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

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July 2020