



MEDA

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

Online News 2020

July 

- 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](#)
 - Innovation Grants deadline July 1st.
 - Social Services grants have re-opened.
 - [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](#).



Linda (pictured front row far right) and the CRDC Directors, August, 2011

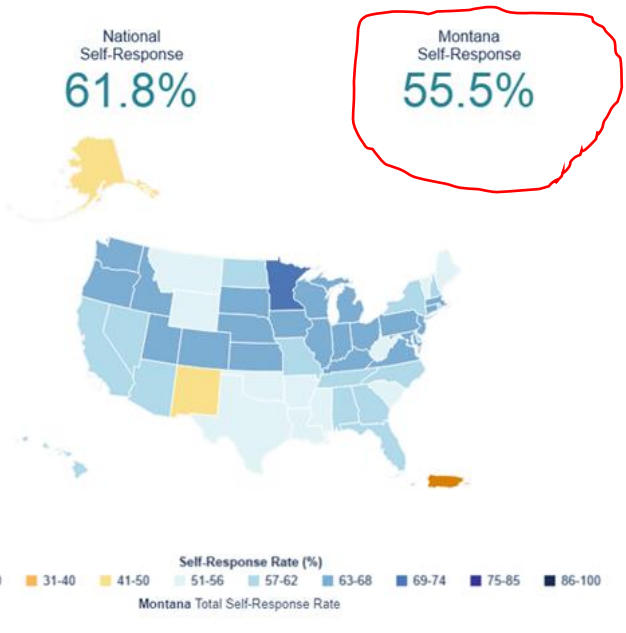
HELP! MONTANA IS BEHIND IN THE COUNT!

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 Census Self-Response by State

This map features self-response rates from households that responded to the 2020 Census online, by mail, or by phone. Rates can be viewed in [rankings here](#).



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.

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>

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 www.msucommunitydevelopment.org/smallbusiness.html
- For questions, email commdev@montana.edu



Jordan Stordahl
University of Montana
SBDC Business Advisor

Missoula Small Business
Development Center

<https://sbdc.mt.gov/Missoula>

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) 994-3620.
The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

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

[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>



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>
- CDBG Community and Public Facilities Applications are being accepted through **September 15, 2020**: <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>

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 develop 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!

House Bill 52 Report



THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

Gold	Silver	Bronze
 <p>NorthWestern Energy <i>Delivering a Bright Future</i></p>	 <p>NewFields Perspective. Vision. Solutions.</p>	 <p>MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Small Business Enterprise Program</p> <p>KLJ ENGINEERING, REIMAGINED</p> <p>Lake County Community Development Corporation LCCDC <i>Preserving Communities, Growing Businesses</i></p> <p>Cushing Terrell.</p>

July 2020