



Online News

June

June 4: [OZ webinar from Smart Growth Network](#)

June 6: [How to Lock Down your Sales Funnel](#)

June 11: [Marketing and Branding on a Budget](#)

June 12-14: [MT Young Professionals Summit](#)

June 17-19: [MT Housing Conference](#)

[MNA Training Calendar](#)

[MMEC Training Calendar](#)

[MT Women's Biz Center](#)

[SBDC Training Calendar](#)



July 16: MEDA RLF Working Group 10am

July 19-21: [RecCon Montana](#)

July 21-25: [PNWER Annual Summit](#)

July 30-Aug1: [NADC Procurement Conf](#)

Save the dates:

Aug 2: Deadline for MEDA Award Aps

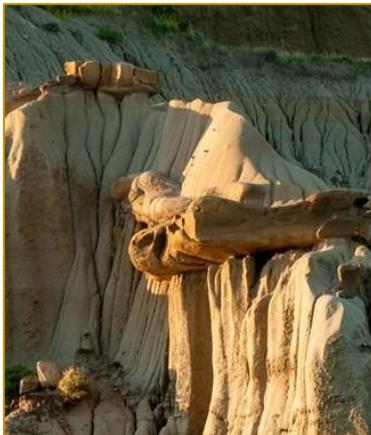
Aug 10: MEDA Scholarship Deadline

Aug 26-29: [EDA Denver Regional Conference](#)

Sept 11 – 13: MEDA Fall Conference, Lewistown

ENJOY THE [MEDA CONFERENCE SUMMARY](#) – PHOTOS, VIDEOS, PRESENTATIONS

The evaluations are in: MEDA hosts and sponsors held a Five Star conference!



**COLLABORATION, COOPERATION,
AND CAVIAR ~**

Perfecting Public and Private Partnerships

Glendive

May 20 – 22, 2019

Glendive, MT

MEDA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING – in Glendive

It was down to standing room only but a terrific Professional Development Training took place in Glendive.

Presentation slides: [Things you should know about Economic Development](#). Thanks to Kim Morisaki, Jim Atchison, Julie Emmons, and Sue Taylor for leading the training.



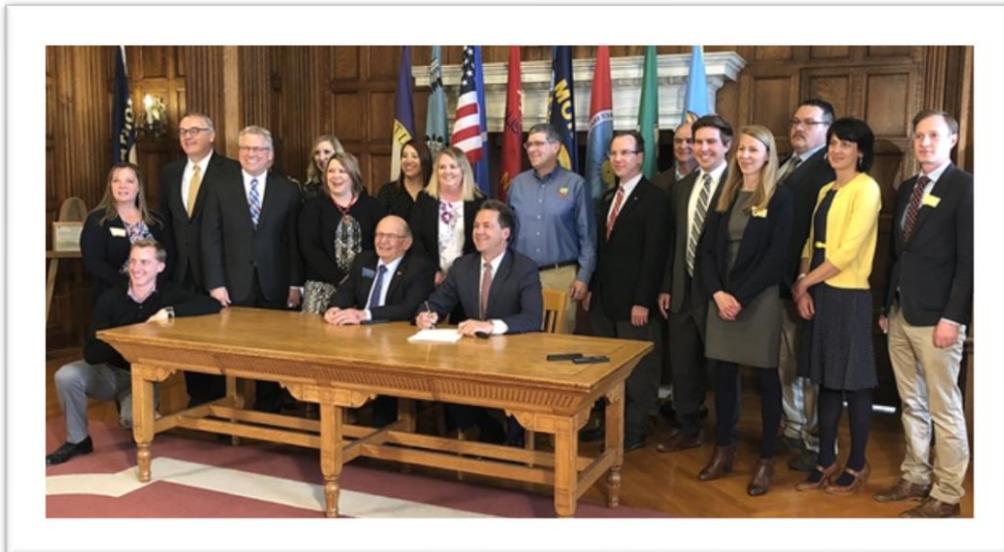
AWARDS! DEADLINE IS AUGUST 2ND.... SEND IN YOUR SUBMISSIONS



It is time to shine, MEDA! The MEDA Awards Committee looks forward to being buried with your [MEDA Innovation Awards](#) nominations. Kathie Bailey, Awards Chair, hopes to get at least one innovative project nomination from each economic development organization in Montana. In addition, it is time to honor one of our own with the [Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development Award](#).

Here is the website that contains all the information: <http://www.medamembers.org/membership/awards>

HB52 – SIGNING CELEBRATION



In case you missed it: “It’s only appropriate that a bill to continue successful investments in small business growth and good-paying jobs across the state will be signed into law during Economic Development Week,” said Rep. Jim Keane (D-Butte), sponsor of HB 52. “This will allow us

to utilize coal revenue for the next 8 years to ensure that Montana's economic development continues long into the future.”

MEDA ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD UPDATE

MEDA's Annual Meeting was held during the Glendive Spring Conference. The membership voted to elect board members and officers for 2019. See the full list [here](#). MEDA President Steve Arveschoug thanked the outgoing board members for their tremendous service: Jim Davison (26 years!), Sue Taylor, and Stephanie Ray.

The MEDA Board met while attending the conference in Glendive and addressed a host of agenda items including MEDA membership, exploring NDC training, interim legislative studies, and preparations for a study to develop the next generation of economic development tools for Montana.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP – Who is new?

As incredible as it sounds, there were 35 people in attendance in Glendive who had never, ever attended a MEDA conference before. The Membership Committee will meet to, among other things, determine outreach to new conference attendees. New to MEDA: Pam Smith, PhillCo Economic Growth Council, Malta. Welcome!

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group will meet July 16th and have a guest speaker regarding DownHome. [Notes from the call](#).
- **MEDA Opportunity Zone Working Group** – this group was all set to meet (twice actually) and due to IRS changes, it was been postponed. If you missed the MEDA Conference, here is the [OZ presentation](#). A meeting is pending for this working group.
- **MEDA Remote Work Working Group** – A fascinating conference call was held on May 29th which included a guest presenter from Ireland. Review [the minutes here](#) and check out the interesting [Grow Remote](#) website.

MONTANA DESIGN TEAM – Meeting with three state partners

May 13 – 15 found the Community Review Montana Design Team meeting with their partners from Idaho and Wyoming, in Idaho Falls. There were several intense days of living, eating, and breathing nothing but how to improve, fund, source and expand WeCAN.



Western
Community
Assessment
Network

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 SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE –3rd Quarter Deadline August 10th

Plan ahead and apply for a Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship: [criteria and application](#).

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.

- Check it out: [Unlocking Opportunity Zones for Equitable Outcomes – 6/4 – Online](#)
- **Taste Our Place** Look for us on the road! We'll be traveling throughout Montana this summer highlighting specific communities and restaurants that make a commitment to using local ingredients. If you are interested in developing Taste our Place in your town or region, please contact Made in Montana at 406.841.2757 or madeinmontana@mt.gov.
- **NADO: Webinar Recording Available for Recent Water Infrastructure Webinar Featuring NADO Members**

The webinar recording is now available for the [webinar](#) "Connecting the Dots: Regional Development Organizations and Water Systems," co-sponsored by the NADO Research Foundation and the [Environmental Finance Center Network](#) as part of the [Smart Management for Small Water Systems](#) program funded the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#). During this webinar, staff from NADO member organizations Bluegrass Area Development District in Kentucky and the South Plains Association of Governments in Texas discussed how they collaborate with local municipalities to write and administer grant programs, conduct water planning efforts, coordinate with state and federal partners, and more. The recording is available [here](#).

Small Business Webinar Series 2019

How to Lock Down Your Sales Funnel

Thursday, June 6th, 2019
11 AM, MST

Building a website, creating a Facebook page, Instagram account, and Google listing are all important, but what happens after? Learn how to capture potential customers at every stage of the buying process – lock down your sales funnel with these easy-to-follow steps!

Register at
<https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4173>

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 commddev@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.
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Webinar Series Sponsors



Additional Support



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

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It is new! It is BIG! We are bringing together Montana's, outdoor retailers, manufacturers, overlanding enthusiasts, guide services, mountain bikers, fly shops, outfitters, summer and winter sports enthusiasts, non-profits, government agencies and public land owners from around the state and country to showcase the wide range of things you can do in the Great State of Montana.

At RecCon Montana, guests will have the opportunity to participate in workshops facilitated by world class outdoor recreation professionals on a wide range of topics, intended to build skills and confidence as people head out to explore the front ranges and backcountry of Montana.

[Learn More](#)

- [New IRS Opportunity Zone Guidelines](#); [Implementation Plan](#); [Agency Partners](#)



Montana has many business assistance tools [here](#).

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.
- ⇒ **HUD posted the FY19 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants NOFA to www.grants.gov** With this publication, HUD is making available up to \$5,000,000 for Planning Grants, including Planning and Action Grants.
 1. Planning Grants are two-year grants that assist communities with severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plan and building the support necessary for that plan to be successfully implemented.
 2. Planning and Action Grants are three and a half year planning grants that pair planning with action. Under these grants, the planning process activities would take place during the first 24 months of the grant period. Action Activities must build upon the planning for the target housing and neighborhood. **Applications are due on Monday, June 10, 2019.** For more information about the Choice Neighborhoods program, please visit www.hud.gov/cn.
- ⇒ **Rural Community Facilities TA and Training Grants.** USDA RD has announced that grants are available for intermediary organizations to provide *technical assistance* and training for rural organizations and agencies to identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in their area, and once those needs have been identified, locating public and private resources to finance those identified needs. Program page with more information available here:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-technical-assistance-and-training-grant>.

Application Deadline: June 10, 2019.

⇒ **USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program** – [new funding available!](#)

⇒ **USDA Launches Broadband e-Connectivity Resource Guide**

The USDA has announced the launch of a [new toolkit](#) to help support the development of high-speed broadband e-Connectivity in rural communities. The resource is a guide that helps customers identify their type of e-Connectivity project and identify resources offered to fund, plan and equip the projects.

The toolkit is free and available to all online. More information is available [here](#).