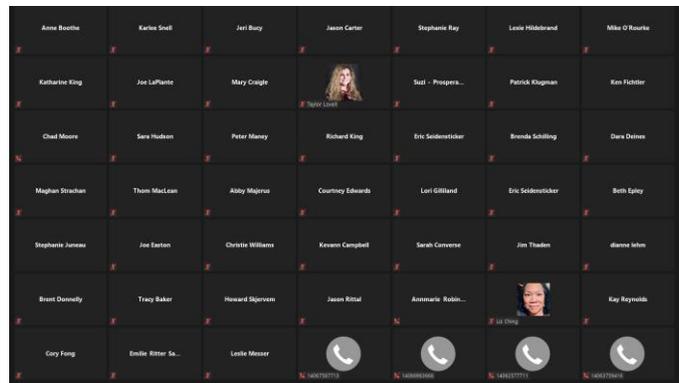
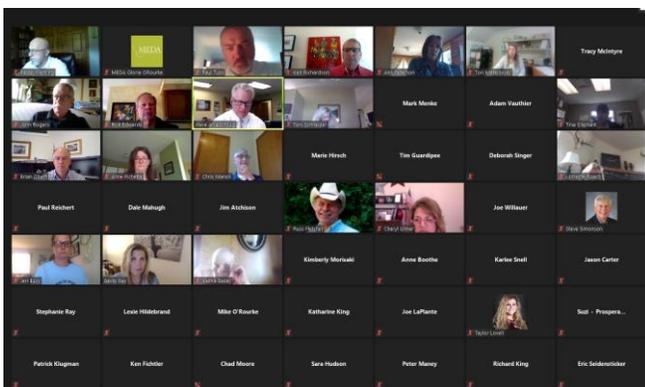




- June 2: Remote Work Security [Webinar](#)
- June 3: USDA [Webinar](#) Grants for Urban Ag
- June 4: MEDA [Remote Worker Working Group](#), 11:15 – 12:15
- June 4: Small Business [Webinar](#) – Opening Safely
- June 4: USDA [Webinar](#) Cooperative Agreements for Compost and Food Waste Reduction
- June 8-9: National Assoc. of Regional Councils Virtual Conference [Register](#)
- June 11: [MCDC Housing Cooperatives Webinar](#) 2:00pm – 3:30pm
- June 11: MT Innovation Partnership: IP Concerns for early stage tech entrepreneurs; [Register](#)
- June 12: TSEP [Application Deadline](#)
- June 16: [Montana Housing Virtual Conference](#) - Affordable Housing in the Age of COVID-19
- June 16: [MMEC Food Safety Training](#)
- June 18: MEDA Community Review Working Group 9:00am
- June 26: Watch for the MT Next Generation of Economic and Community Development Tools Study

WE DID IT! MEDA VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

At one time, 86 MEDA members and partners gathered for MEDA's first ever virtual Annual Meeting. Visit this [link for the presentation files and extra information](#); or keep reading this newsletter for highlights such as election of officers. We are in this together!



UPDATED 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](#)
 - New! June 1st: MT DNRC Business Adaptation Program
- ⇒ [Montana COVID-19 Website](#)
- ⇒ [Nonprofit COVID Resources from MNA](#)
- ⇒ [Emergency Housing Assistance](#)
- ⇒ [Restore Your Economy](#)
- ⇒ [USDA COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)



We're In This Together

MONTANA'S NEXT GENERATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TOOLS: Update

Progress! Various drafts of the NextGen report have been reviewed by the Steering Committee and the larger Stakeholder Group. Once feedback is obtained from the Stakeholders, one more draft of the report will be reviewed by the Steering Committee. Plans are in the works for involving MEDA members and partners in a strategic rollout near the end of June.



THEME

BUILDING A COMPETITIVE MONTANA

- Create a forward-looking approach to economic development.
- Respond to technology innovations and changing market conditions.
- Build capacity across urban, rural, and native economies to enhance the impact of state efforts.
- Identify tools and strategies to better position the state.

YOU AND YOUR NETWORK ARE NEEDED

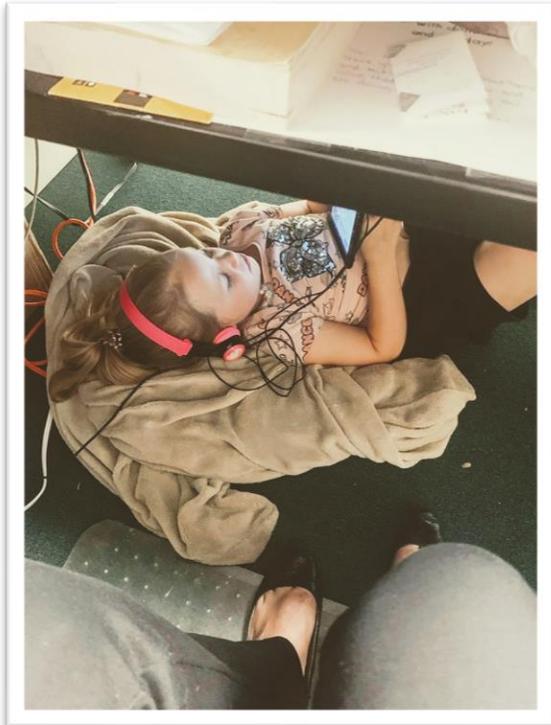
Push the Census across your network – again and again

Montana, with its rural challenges, ranks 8th from the bottom in response rate. 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



MEDA MEMBERSHIP CHECK IN

MEDA's membership count is at 237. Our four new members include: Michael Veselik, Economic Development Specialist, City of Bozeman; Alex Huffield, Structural Engineer, KLJ; Luke LaLiberty, Project Delivery Leader, KLJ, and Dara Deines, Eastern Plains Economic Development. Welcome!



Look closely at this picture. It is a child being quiet under Mom's desk.

It is an example of the new reality for so many: professional Mom, working from home, babysitter cancels, homeschooling children, and giving a MEDA Committee Report during the Annual Meeting.

Thanks to Tori Matejovsky for allowing this picture to be shared - and to all of the families working together to keep Montana (and MEDA) working.

MEDA OFFICERS TO TAKE POSITIONS JULY 1ST

During the MEDA Annual Meeting, the following officers were elected and will begin their work on July 1st:

- 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*

Special thanks to Paul Tuss for serving on the MEDA Executive Committee for years and years and years



[See the Updated List of MEDA Board Members](#)

MEDA RICK JONES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2020 – Q3 Deadline is August 1st [Apply today.](#)

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 COMMUNITY REVIEW - Troy- Survey Time

The community of Troy is knocking its survey participation survey out of the park with over 36% response rate. It is hoped that Phase 2 and 3 can take place on the ground, in Troy, this fall. If it is not possible, a virtual Community Review will take place. For more information on Community Reviews, visit [WeCAN](#).

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. Next meeting: June 18th 9am. [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.
- **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.

- [Twelve Road Tested Remote Team Building Activities](#)
- [Crisis Marketing – Powerpoint](#)

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

Small Business Webinar Series 2020

What it Means to be Open and Safe During Recovery

Thursday, June 4, 2020
11 AM, MST

In this webinar, we'll discuss addressing the challenges, barriers, team-building, resources, and mindset it will take for entrepreneurs to navigate reopening a business during Covid-19. Presenters Dena Johnson and Kevin Scharfe will discuss how the right state of mind and pivoting your business model can help build consumer confidence and employee buy-in during this challenging time.

Register at
<https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4452>

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 to 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.mtcommunitydevelopment.org/smallbusiness.html>
- For questions, email comdev@montana.edu



Dena Johnson
MBA, ASBC, EDPF
Regional Director
SBDC, Entrepreneurial
Development
Big Sky Economic Development
bigskyeconomicdevelopment.org



Kevin Scharfe
ASBC
Rock 31 Program
Manager, SBDC &
Senior Business Advisor
Big Sky Economic Development
bigskyeconomicdevelopment.org

Webinar Series Sponsors











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 comdev@montana.edu or (406) 994-3020.
The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EQ/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

Small Business Webinar – Opening Safely
Topic: In this brief 30-minute webinar, we will provide some of the basics business owners will need to take into account as they reopen their business during the COVID-19 crisis.
[Register](#)

➤ [**MCDC Housing Cooperative Webinar**](#)

Join the Montana Cooperative Development Center on June 11th at 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm to discuss how cooperatives and other structures can be used to provide housing.

Presenters will be Katie Biggs, Marketing & Resource Development Manager for NeighborWorks Montana, and Julie Foster, Executive Director for Ravalli County Economic Development Authority. MCDC Program Specialist, Eric Bergman, will moderate the discussion. These presentations will be followed by a discussion on how the cooperative business model can be a solution for community housing needs. Questions and webinar attendee participation is encouraged. [Website](#)

➤ [**MT Economic Recovery and Impacts of CV-19**](#)

Check out this recorded webinar by Northwestern Energy and Montana Chamber BBER [Study/Presentation](#)

- Intellectual Property for SBIR/STTR candidates and awardees



June 11, 2020 at 3:30 PM MDT

Join us for a virtual meetup with Joel Henry of Worden Thane P.C. to discuss intellectual property (IP) concerns for early-stage tech entrepreneurs and SBIR/STTR candidates. We'll have the opportunity to learn and ask questions around IP protection, how to handle it when talking with potential partners or non-employee members of your SBIR team, in your proposals, and the differences between patents and data rights offered by SBIR/STTR. [Register](#)

- *USDA's COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide Lists Federal Programs That Can Help Rural Communities, Organizations and Residents Impacted by COVID-19*



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on Monday unveiled a one-stop-shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) is a first-of-its-kind resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address this pandemic. The USDA has taken many immediate actions to assist farmers, ranchers, producers, rural communities, and rural-based businesses and organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, click [here](#).

- **The 2020 Montana Housing Partnership Conference**

Is just around the corner, have you registered yet? We are excited to spend the day together in this interactive way to share and collaborate!

The day together will include thought-provoking panels, timely information, raffles, awards, and more! Feel free to participate in all sessions or just a portion of the day. We recognize that this is a busy time and not all subjects will be priorities for everyone.

[HOUSING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION](#)



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>
- ⇒ **COVID-19 Related Funding**
<https://grantstation.com/GrantStation-Insider/05-28-2020data.org>
Inclusive Growth and Recovery Challenge
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Emergency Response for the Healthcare System Innovation Challenge
Alabama Business Charitable Trust Fund: Coronavirus Relief

National Funding Opportunities

<https://grantstation.com/GrantStation-Insider/05-28-2020#national>

Support for Efforts to Transition to Clean Energy
Social Justice Litigation Projects Funded
Grants Benefit HIV/AIDS Care, Education, and Research Programs
Youth-Led Environmental Solutions Supported

⇒ **Regional Funding Opportunities**

<https://grantstation.com/GrantStation-Insider/05-28-2020#regional>

Fellowships for City Leaders in Targeted Cities
Funds for Public Safety Initiatives in Company Communities
Grants Address Environmental and Urban Farming Issues in the Northeast and Southeast Regions; Support for Development, Housing, and Education Efforts in Bank Communities

⇒ **Federal Funding**

<https://grantstation.com/GrantStation-Insider/05-28-2020#federal>

Program Helps Preserve Native Languages
Urban Agriculture Efforts Supported

Webinars on USDA Opportunities for Urban Agriculture Grants and Cooperative Agreements

USDA is hosting webinars to explain the purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for applying for recent opportunities from the USDA Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

June 3, 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time- [Register and view the webinar for Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.](#) \$3 million is available for competitive grants to support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **July 6, 2020** through Grants.gov.

June 4, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time- [Register and view the webinar for Cooperative Agreements for Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction.](#) \$900,000 is available for local governments to host a Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CCFWR) pilot project for fiscal year (FY) 2020. The cooperative agreements will support projects that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on **June 26, 2020** through Grants.gov. Recordings of the webinars will be posted at farmers.gov/urban. More information, including frequently asked questions, can be found at www.farmers.gov/urban. Questions about grant and cooperative agreement opportunities can be sent to UrbanAgriculture@usda.gov.



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>

In an effort to support social distancing resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, electronic submission of application materials is strongly recommended, hard copy will be accepted, but not required. Please consolidate application materials into as few single documents as possible – this enables staff to streamline internal processes.

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.



Program and Business Spotlight

MT Dept. of Commerce, MMEC, and the businesses they serve have stepped up in typical innovative and strategic fashion during the COVID-19 crisis. The following press release is provided by Emilie Ritter Saunders esaunders@mt.gov

Responding to Crisis: Commerce-Supported Companies Step Up During COVID-19

As the novel Coronavirus spread closer to home during the early spring of 2020, Department of Commerce-

supported businesses quickly shifted their product manufacturing lines to support the needs of the global pandemic.

Distilleries in nearly every corner of Montana started making hand sanitizer and shipping it to hospitals and health care centers by the truckload. "We are just trying to get it out to the people who need it the most," Gulch Distillers co-owner Steffen Rasile told the Helena Independent Record. "We felt like it was our duty to help out where we can. We are in a unique position, so we decided to step up."

Gulch Distillers, Bozeman Spirits and Headframe Spirits are among a handful of other spirits-turned-sanitizer companies that have accessed Commerce's State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) grant dollars to expand their reach. The Montana Manufacturing Extension Center also assisted the distillers quickly shift their operations by hosting weekly conference calls where they collaborated on many issues, including finding bottles. It was MMEC that secured bottle and cap donations for the Montana businesses from Berry Global in Indiana.

Montana's well-known pet accessory maker West Paw also shifted their manufacturing of indestructible dog toys and pet beds to make face masks for healthcare workers.

According to its website, West Paw worked to retool their Bozeman, Montana production facility, leveraging the skills of their employees who normally might be making dog toys, beds, collars, and leashes. "As a purpose-driven certified B Corp, we live our values of community and employee support by unleashing the capability and skills of our staff to make an impact," says Spencer Williams, President and CEO of West Paw. 

West Paw was MMEC's first client in 1996 when Williams bought the company, and their relationship with Commerce started in 2006 when it first worked with the ExportMontana team. Since, it has grown to a large international exporter with assistance from the State Trade Expansion Program and Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Planning Grant program.

Several plastic injection molders in Montana; including Spark R&D, PDM, Diversified Plastics, Blackhawk, and Creative Sales; collaborated to produce nearly 20,000 facemasks for Bozeman Health and Billings Clinic. These masks were invented by Billings Doctor Dusty Richardson and made national news. Montana Silversmiths, Salient Technologies, and Thompson Precision also collaborated to produce these "Montana Facemasks" using their 3D printers.

These companies stepped up to make in-demand products and were able to adapt quickly through the support of the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center at Montana State University. MMEC partners with and is funded through Commerce.

"Seeing Montana's manufacturers collaborate to meet the demands of the crisis in Montana is truly inspiring," said Paddy Fleming, Director of MMEC. "Former competitors are now talking about how they can better work together in the future and there are even a few of them talking about forming joint ventures!"

Going from making pedicabs to protective face shields like Bonner-based Coaster Cycles, or from making world-class Gortex flyfishing waders to sewn surgical gowns like Bozeman-based Simms Fishing – these Montana-made companies have stepped up in a big way to respond to the crisis.

THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

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 <p>NorthWestern Energy <i>Delivering a Bright Future</i></p>	 <p>NewFields Perspective. Vision. Solutions.</p>	    

June 2020