Impact Awards Background

Each year, MEDA recognizes member organizations that demonstrate valuable and effective approaches to regional economic and community development through our awards program. The Impact Awards have recognized many MEDA member projects for their creative efforts in advancing regional economic development and improved quality of life. The breadth and scope of the winning projects is impressive and far-reaching and illustrates the important role MEDA members have in supporting regional development. Previous award-winning projects have showcased efforts in a variety of program areas including business and economic development, community health initiatives, emergency planning, brownfields, sustainability, technology, transportation, workforce development, and many others.

Awards winners have successfully leveraged their awards to bring additional resources to their regions and have also used the awards to better explain to their various audiences the important work they do. MEDA uses the award-winning projects to share your collective work on the state level, as well as to provide peer-to-peer training and information sharing among the membership.

Benefits for Impact Award Winners

Positive local and state-wide attention:

- Award-winning projects gain national recognition via https://www.medamembers.org/, MEDA News, and are often featured in reports and case studies.
- MEDA’s legislative and research teams tap into the great resource of Impact Awards for testimony to the State Legislature and as examples to share with state agencies.
- Awardees will receive an Impact Award certificate, a press release, and have the opportunity to take their photo with the MEDA President. The certificate, photo, and press release will be sent to each awardee to announce the award and share it with regional partners, stakeholders, and media outlets.
Showcase your success and network with peers:

- Award winners are frequently asked to showcase their award-winning projects at future roundtables.
- In addition to the roundtables, awardees will have ample opportunities to talk with peers about their award-winning projects and share best practices.

Community and organization recognition:

- Winning an Impact Award presents awardees with numerous opportunities to build the reputation of their organization with the communities they serve, regional stakeholders, funders, and potential clients; and recognize staff for their hard work and dedication to the organization.

**Eligibility**

- Only MEDA members can apply for the award.
- If multiple regional development organizations, such as members of a state association, would like to apply for an Impact Award for a collaborative project, only one application needs to be submitted, but the lead applicant must be a current MEDA member.
- Only three applications per organization may be submitted.
- Projects must show substantial quantitative or qualitative results in your region. For a competitive application, address one or more of the following: uniqueness and level of impact; ability to be replicated; long-term viability and significance; inventive partnerships and collaborations; and/or creative funding mechanisms.

**Deadline**

The application window will run through to August 14, 2020.

[Click here to apply!](#)

We look forward to hearing about the impactful work you are doing to serve your region! Follow MEDA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for updates.

Questions? Contact Brett Doney at BDoney@GrowGreatFalls.org