

MEDA State Public Policy Priorities

Approved 11/19/2020

- 1) Sustain Key Community Economic Development Tools to move through economic recovery and beyond.
 - a. Maintain Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as an effective local- directed economic development tool.
 - b. Maintain current funding levels for state economic development programs, including but not limited to:
 - Big Sky Trust Fund
 - Certified Regional Development Corporations
 - Community Development Block Grant Program
 - DNRC Planning Grants
 - Food and Agriculture Development Centers
 - Growth Through Agriculture
 - Incumbent Worker Training Program
 - Indian Country Economic Development
 - Made in Montana Program
 - MicroBusiness Finance Program
 - Montana Coal Board Impact Funding
 - Montana Cooperative Development Center
 - Montana DEQ Alternative Energy
 - Montana Film Tax Credit
 - Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program
 - Montana Housing Programs
 - Montana Main Street Program
 - Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
 - Montana Technology Innovation Partnership (MTIP)
 - Native American Language Preservation
 - Office of Trade and International Relations
 - Primary Worker Training Program
 - Small Business Development Center
 - Small Business Innovation Research & Small Business Technology Transfer Programs (SBIR/STTR)
 - State Brownfields Program
 - State Wood Products Revolving Loan Program
 - Tourism Grants
 - c. Maintain funding for local and regional tourism entities
- 2) Improve Economic Development Effectiveness
 - a. Increase flexibility and ease of use of existing programs
 - b. Enhance statewide teamwork
 - c. Increase use of Montana Board of Investments
- 3) Improve Broadband Access, Reliability and Affordability

- a. Develop and implement public/private partnership strategies to improve broadband statewide
- 4) Improve Critical Infrastructure
- a. Participate in Montana Infrastructure Coalition's policy efforts
 - b. Maintain funding for Treasure State Endowment Program
 - c. Improve local access to passenger and freight rail service
 - d. Support and expand including Delivering Local Assistance (DLA) in infrastructure bond
 - E. Continue support for water, sewer, roads, infrastructure programs
- 5) Improve Competitiveness Amongst Competing States
- a. Launch professional state business attraction effort
 - b. Launch professional state talent attraction effort, building on state tourism marketing and branding
 - c. Use Next Gen Study as starting point for developing strategies to improve Montana's economic competitiveness
 - d. Benchmark competitiveness of programs and incentives against abutting states
- 6) Workforce Development
- a. Foster better public/private workforce development partnerships at state, regional and local levels to include economic development organizations
 - b. Increase use of apprenticeship and internship programs
 - c. Increase resources and flexibility of two-year and Tribal colleges to respond to regional workforce training needs and opportunities
- 7) Community Development
- a. Recognize the importance of livability including but not limited to housing, quality childcare, health and safety, and quality of life factors.