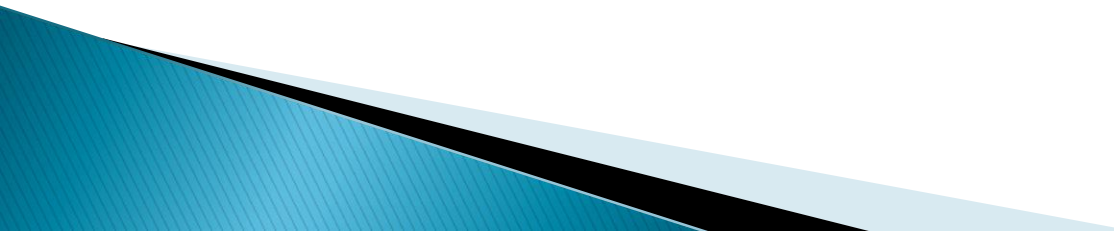


2015 Legislative Recap

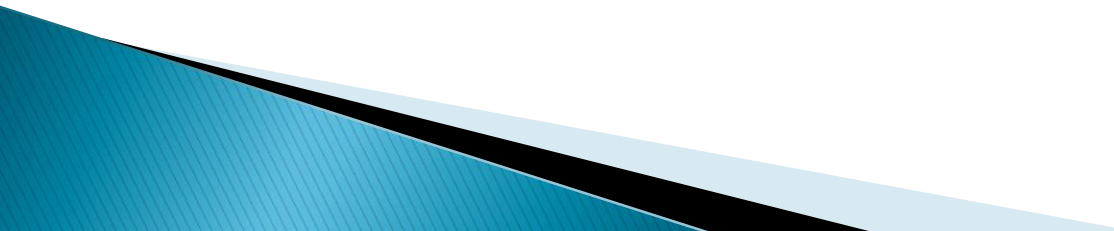
MEDA Spring Conference

May 2015

Overall Reflection of Session

- ▶ Many good things came out of the session, especially from an economic development perspective.
 - ▶ Major disappointment was lack of infrastructure funding.
 - ▶ Because of the efforts of our members and our partners (both in hearings and through behind-the-scenes conversations), we saw positive results.
- 

2015 Focus Items for MEDA

- ▶ Extend the sunset related to the 2019 programs.
 - ▶ Obtain funding for infrastructure projects, especially in eastern Montana.
 - ▶ Obtain inflationary increase for 2019 programs and move some program funding from OTO to base.
 - ▶ Protect Tax Increment Financing Program
 - ▶ Enhance rules related to Brownfield redevelopment
 - ▶ Increase Medicaid availability
 - ▶ Promote the creation of legislation that allows for Benefit Corporation status
 - ▶ Enhance Career and Vocational Education Programs
- 

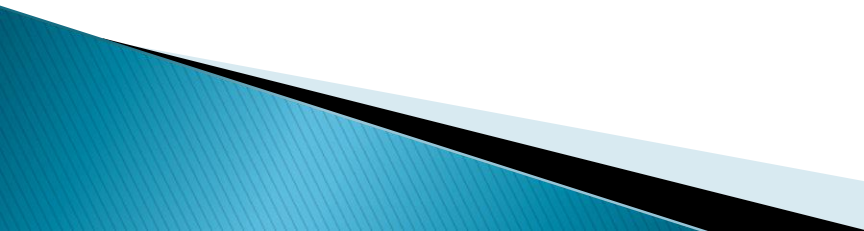
2019 Program Funding

<u>Program</u>	<u>Was /yr</u>	<u>Now /yr</u>
▶ Research & Commercialization	\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000
▶ CRDC	\$ 425,000	\$ 478,125
▶ SBDC	\$ 125,000	\$ 140,625
▶ SBIR/STTR	\$ 375,000	\$ 421,875
▶ Trade	\$ 300,000	\$ 337,500
▶ Growth through Ag	\$ 625,000	\$ 625,000
▶ MMEC	<u>\$ 200,000</u>	<u>\$ 325,000</u>
▶ TOTAL	\$3,325,000	\$3,603,125

Other Program Funding of Interest

- ▶ Primary Sector Workforce Training
 - \$600,000/yr OTO
 - Also, \$1,280,000 committed today but not used. Would revert to special revenue account instead of general fund.
- ▶ Food & Ag Centers
 - \$105,000/yr OTO
- ▶ Insure Montana (Medicaid Expansion)
 - \$4.5 million - 2016 only
- ▶ Indian Country Economic Development (ICE)
 - \$800,000/yr
- ▶ Native American Language Preservation
 - \$750,000/yr OTO
- ▶ Native American Gap Financing
 - \$500,000 OTO
- ▶ Sports Facility Infrastructure Grants
 - \$750,000/yr

What Now?

- ▶ The next session starts today.
 - ▶ Some work will be done during the interim sessions.
 - ▶ Key items for consideration:
 - Extension of sunset for economic development programs
 - Infrastructure enhancement
 - Workforce training
 - ▶ Committee needs to continue meetings on a monthly basis and engage legislators early in the process.
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Thanks for your support &
involvement!!!

