2015 Legislative Recap

MEDA Spring Conference
May 2015
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Was/yr</th>
<th>Now/yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research &amp; Commercialization</td>
<td>$1,275,000</td>
<td>$1,275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRDC</td>
<td>$ 425,000</td>
<td>$ 478,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBDC</td>
<td>$ 125,000</td>
<td>$ 140,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBIR/STTR</td>
<td>$ 375,000</td>
<td>$ 421,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>$ 300,000</td>
<td>$ 337,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth through Ag</td>
<td>$ 625,000</td>
<td>$ 625,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMEC</td>
<td>$ 200,000</td>
<td>$ 325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$3,325,000</td>
<td>$3,603,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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.
Thanks for your support & involvement!!!