



118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 3F * Anaconda, MT * 59711
406.563.5259 info@medamembers.org
<http://www.medamembers.org>

It is MEDA's privilege to submit this report for the current contract to Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Department of Labor and Industry and Montana BEAR Team participants regarding Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program activity in the state. The following is a summary of MEDA BEAR activities as provided for in the Scope of Work under Amended Contract MT-MEDA-ED-17-01 for the month of May 2017.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR MAY 2017 MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The BEAR Google Form Database was the recipient of one BEAR Team visits in May, from Warren Vaughan and the Bozeman BEAR Team.
- Because of budget cuts at the state level, as of July 1, 2017, the statewide Montana BEAR Program will no longer be funded. It is hoped the seven BEAR Teams across the state will continue their good work and provide support for business expansion and retention needs. In cooperation with Montana Department of Labor, a question is being added to the IWT application providing an opportunity for a business to indicate it is seeking additional resources beyond IWT. The MEDA office will serve as a referral point for these requests and utilize statewide economic development contacts to fill the business need(s).

A final Montana BEAR Report will be compiled the end of June. Records will remain on file so that BEAR Teams can access their client information that was submitted via the Google survey form. And as always, the MEDA office is ready to assist with referrals and resources as needed.

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