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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-12-01 for the month of November 2015.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR November 2015

MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WATCH FOR THE BEAR SURVEY

A BEAR Survey will soon be coming to your email inbox. Please watch for it!

REFRESHER COURSE FOR GLENDIVE AREA

A conference call training was held in November for Amy Deines, Glendive Job Service Manager and Cathy Kirkpatrick, Executive Director, Dawson County Economic Development Council (DCEDC). Amy and Cathy reviewed BEAR Basics and discussed options for reviving a BEAR Team in the Glendive area.

BEAR OUTREACH DATA FOR NOVEMBER

It was great to see new outreach taking place in Park County with Clyde Park and Gardiner businesses participating.

- **Number of business surveys or contacts:** 17
- **Counties involved and number of visits:** Flathead – 4, Gallatin – 10, Park – 2, Lake - 1
- **BEAR Team members conducting visits:** Michael Jackson – 4, Mora McCarthy – 1, Warren Vaughan – 10, Katie Weaver – 1, Stephanie Cunningham – 1, Sarah Skofield – 1, Lynn Lagerquist, and Carol Cunningham.

IWT FUNDING 2nd QUARTER UPDATE

Chris Wilhelm, MDLI, reported on November 12th that IWT 2nd Quarter funding had been exhausted. Applications are still being accepted and will be placed in “submitted” status to be reviewed for eligibility in the order in which they are received. Eligible applications will be awarded funding beginning in January; on a first-come, first-served basis until 3rd quarter funding is exhausted. If funding is released from other grantees prior to next quarter's allocation, eligible applications can be awarded.

A few SECOND QUARTER STATS – (remember, these numbers change as grant status changes)
Applications Awarded: 107 Ineligible: 9 Withdrawn: 13 Cancelled after the award was made: 6
In the Queue (awaiting final determination and available funding): 67

Applications completed and paid: 66

BEAR BUSINESS SURVEY LINK

[New MT BEAR Survey](#) Users should enter the business information directly into the survey for results to be collated accurately.

REMINDER

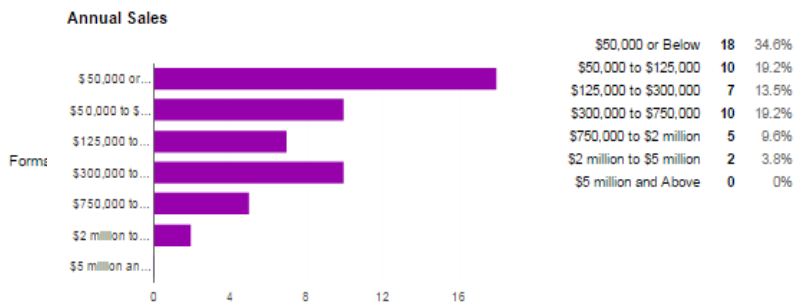
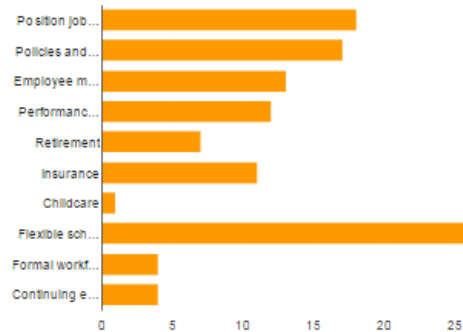
BEAR Team members must complete and submit their BEAR visits **prior** to a business completing an IWT grant application. If there is no entry in the database for a company, there is no verification that the business received a BEAR visit, an assessment, and demonstrated a need for an IWT grant. Please see the state [statute](#) that requires a business to be recognized by either BEAR, SBDC, or MMEC. <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/service/iwtregulations.asp>

TRAINING: Mike and Gloria are available either via webinar or in person to conduct a BEAR training, refresher course, or organize presenters for a specialized business topic. Contact the office by dialing 406.563.5259 or emailing gloria@medamembers.org.

DATA SAMPLING FROM BUSINESS VISITS TO DATE:

Do you have the following available for your business and employees:

Marketing and Sales



What are your top business challenges?

