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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 September 2015.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR September 2015 MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

NEW at MDOC: Montana Office of Tourism and Economic Development

As anyone closely involved with Montana economic development knows, big changes took place in MT Dept. of Commerce on July 1st with the merging of the Business Development Division with Montana Tourism Division. The new division, Montana Office of Tourism and Economic Development is sure to more closely align business development efforts, community planning, and tourism resources. Visit the website and become familiar with the five bureau chiefs who are here to help your business clients: <http://www.marketmt.com>

SALES AND CONSTITUENT SERVICES

The Sales and Constituent Services Bureau is the outreach and education arm of the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development. It helps to connect Montana businesses and organizations with division resources through workshops, trainings, public relations, and programs such as Made in Montana. It also administers the \$1 million tourism grant program.



Jeri Duran
 (406) 841-2872
[Email](#)

FINANCE ASSISTANCE

The Finance Assistance Bureau houses a variety of financing programs that provide businesses with grants and loans to help create good-paying jobs for Montanans. Activities eligible for funding include job training, working capital, equipment purchases, or construction materials.



Karyl Tobel
 (406) 841-2732
[Email](#)

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Research and Information Services Bureau provides Montana businesses, communities, and government access and use of the right information for decision-making and facilitates processes related to siting, permitting, workforce and financing all to grow the Montana economy, create jobs and improve communities.



Mary Craigle
 (406) 841-2739
[Email](#)

BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Business Technical Assistance Bureau connects businesses and entrepreneurs with the tools to create and grow market opportunities and jobs.



Casey Lozar
 (406) 841-2821
[Email](#)

MARKETING

The Marketing Bureau promotes Montana as a vacation destination to domestic and international audiences through paid, earned, and owned media. Major programs include consumer advertising, digital marketing, public relations, and social media. The bureau offers financial assistance through joint venture and niche marketing grant programs.



Jenny Pelej
 (406) 841-2896
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DROP US A LINE

Send us a comment or question! (Don't forget to include contact information if you'd like a reply.)

[Contact Us](#)

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE INFORMATION

We're still working to bring our resources together into the digital space. In the meantime, please visit our separate websites for more information:

- tourism.mt.gov
- businessresources.mt.gov

IWT FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE

According to the new schedule, Second Quarter Funds are now available (October 1st) for Incumbent Worker Training Grants. Here we go with round two!

BEAR OUTREACH DATA FOR SEPTEMBER

Number of business surveys or contacts: 17

Flathead County - 2	Anaconda/Deer Lodge County - 1	Stillwater County - 1
	Gallatin County - 13	

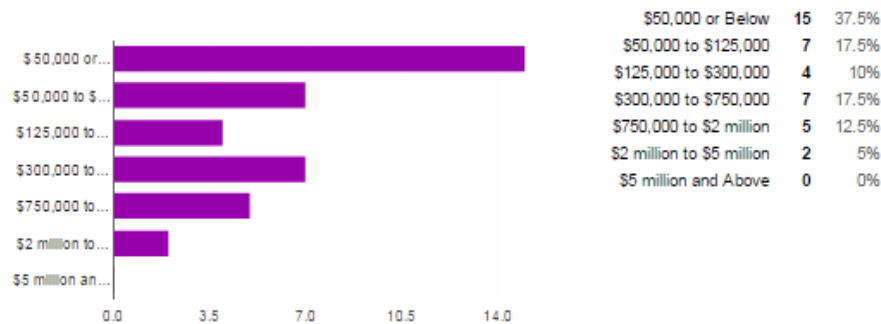
BEAR Team Members conducting visits:

Mike Jackson - 2	Warren Vaughan - 13	Kim Morisaki - 1
Joel Bertolino - 1	Jillann Knutson - 1	Gloria O'Rourke - 1

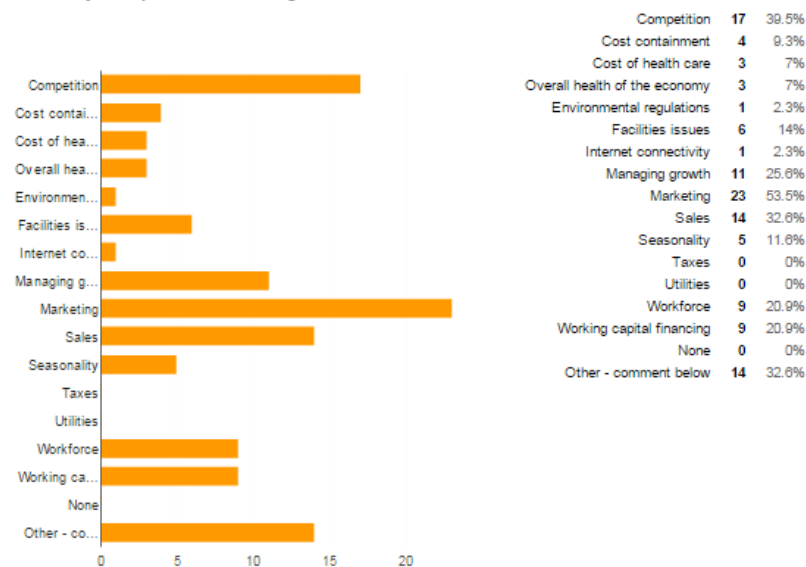
DATABASE FINDINGS – from July 1 to September 30, 2015

Marketing and Sales

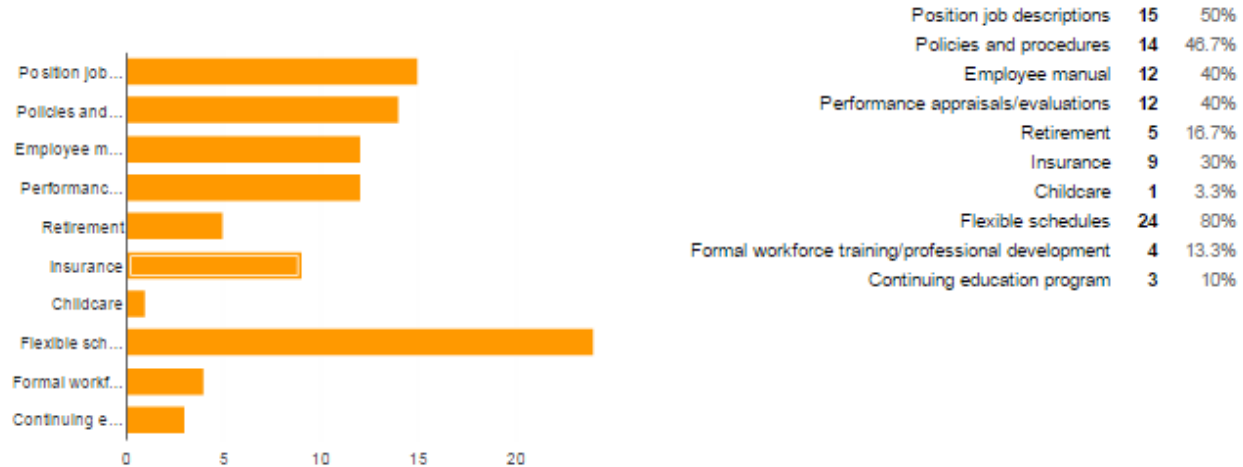
Annual Sales



What are your top business challenges?



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



YOU ARE INVITED – REGISTER AS A MEDA MEMBER

If you have not yet registered to join colleagues at the MEDA Fall Conference, save \$\$ by registering today. Check out the updated agenda for both the conference and the MT Infrastructure – Call to Action Town Hall Meeting. [AGENDA](#) and [REGISTRATION](#) Plan on obtaining information to sharpen the tools in your economic development tool box and enjoying networking as only MEDA/BEAR can provide.

Catch the Main Street Montana Project [Symposium](#) prior to MEDA:



BEAR SURVEY LINK

[New MT BEAR Survey](#) [Link for the survey in Word format](#) for easy note taking as it matches the form. Users must eventually enter the information directly into the survey.

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.