



Online News



May 1-3: [MT Stormwater Conference](#)
May 3: [Critical Customer Service Skills](#) Free Webinar
May 3: Billings [Early Stage MT](#)
May 3: MT [SBA Awards](#)
May 7-8: Choteau Community Review Phase 2
May 7-12: [Economic Development Week](#)
May 8-10: [Building Active Communities](#)
May 14-15: Poplar Community Review Phase 1
May 17: Missoula [Early Stage MT](#)
May 22: Bozeman [Early Stage MT](#)
May 22: [Manufacturing & Int'l Trade Day](#)



June 11-13: [BREI Conference](#)
June 14: Resource Team WG Call 9am
June 15: 2nd Quarter MEDA [Scholarship](#) Deadline
June 19: RLF Working Group Call, 10am
June 21- 23: MT Young Professionals Summit, Butte
June 26: [Revitalization Resources Workshop](#)

[SBDC Training Calendar](#)
[MNA Training Calendar](#)

Save the date:
August 9: Innovate Montana

WE ROCKED IT! If you had to miss the Rockin' it Rural MEDA Spring Conference, check out the conference [summary](#); enjoy the photos and presentations.



MEDA ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. *YOU are needed!* Submit a one page proposal to **host the MEDA FALL CONFERENCE**. Share why your town would be best, theme and tour ideas, amenities, etc. Please [email Gloria](#) your response by June 1st. Note: this meeting could be held in conjunction with another conference in your area.
2. The by-laws will be changed to add two at-large seats to the MEDA Executive Committee. These seats will be filled by board members who may be interested in a future officer role.
3. New to the MEDA Board: Tori Matejovsky, Great Northern Development Corp.
4. New MEDA Officers: Past President – Paul Tuss, President – Steve Arveschoug, Vice President – Brian Obert, Treasurer – Rick Edwards.



Ken Richardson and Anne Boothe were thanked for their many years of service on the MEDA Board.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New! Thanks to the MEDA Membership Committee working with the MEDA Board, there is a new “retired” membership category. **MEDA Emeritus Member:** *An individual who is retired but wishes to maintain membership in MEDA. Such person’s annual membership dues may be reduced to \$25 annually, if said person is nominated by an active MEDA member to receive emeritus status and said person is approved by the Board to be an Emeritus Member.*

MEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Awards Committee:** Kathie Bailey, Awards Committee Chair, is pleased to announce two new members to assist with Annual Award determinations. Thanks to Becky Bey and Tori Matejovsky for taking on this task; they will work with the MEDA Executive Committee to determine award winners. Award nominations are due each year on September 5th. [Applications](#)
- **Scholarship Committee:** Anne Boothe, Scholarship Committee Chair, recognized the 1st Quarter Winners for the Rick Jones MEDA Memorial Scholarship: Tracy Baker, Miles City Area Economic Development and Brenda Schilling, Glacier County Port Authority. The Second Quarter deadline is June 15th. [Application](#)
- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Chris Cerquone, Chair. There were 32 people at the MEDA conference who had never before attended a MEDA conference. Each “new” person had a green star attached to his/her name tag to be easily recognized and welcomed. This committee is working on several initiatives; stay tuned for more updates.
- **Legislative Committee:** Rick Edwards, Chair. Dan Villa, State Budget Director (pictured right) and Pam Haxby-Cote, Director, MT Dept. of Commerce, shared during the MEDA conference that the fast-approaching 2019 Legislative Session will be very challenging due to lower-than-predicted revenue.
- **Professional Development Committee:** Brett Doney and Sue Taylor, along with special Case Study presenters, held Economic Development 101 training as a pre-conference event on April 26th. [Review the Case Studies](#) [Presentation Slides](#)





A NEW WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH!

Montana Department of Commerce now has a [LinkedIn](#) page. Visit this page to learn of relevant news stories and job postings. Check it out and keep in touch!

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– This group is all about working with Revolving Loan Funds and learning from each other how to improve day-to-day tasks with RLFs. The next quarterly RLF meeting is set for June 19th, 10am. Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, coordinates the working group.
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This group met on April 12th and was caught up on all of the Montana Community Review progress. The next call is tentatively set for Thursday, June 14th, at 9am.

YOUR MEDA BOARD AT WORK

The MEDA Board met twice on April 26th; once for a working Breakfast at 7:45am, and again at 6:30pm. The board is striving to find the right time to conduct MEDA business that does not conflict with MEDA events. Agenda items included MEDA financials and committee and project updates. Many thanks to Jason Rittal who has served on the MEDA Executive Committee as Vice President, President, and Past President.

TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Check out the information below to learn of new tools and opportunities for you as you work in the field of Economic Development.

⇒ **Next NADO Legislative Update Scheduled for May 16**



MEDA Board held two meetings on April 26th.

The next NADO legislative update webinar is scheduled for **May 16 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET**. The presentation will focus on FY2019 appropriations, farm bill deliberations, and current opioid-related legislation. Click [here](#) to register.

- ⇒ [CEDS Central](#) – a website for all things CEDS.
- ⇒ **Story Map Displays Benefits of CDBG and HOME for Mid-Sized Cities**
The [National League of Cities](#) (NLC) has developed a new interactive tool on impacts of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs for mid-sized cities. The story map, “CDBG and HOME: Essential Grants for Mid-Sized Cities,” assesses 41 mid-sized cities across the nation and how effectively each community is using CDBG and HOME. Additionally, a further study of six cities showcases specific ways that the programs are addressing unique community needs. The story map is available [here](#).
- ⇒ **Presentation Materials Now Available from Forum for Coal-Reliant Communities**
The NADO Research Foundation and the National Association of Counties (NACo) hosted “[Strengthening Economies in Montana: A Forum for Coal-Reliant Communities](#)” at the Billings Food Bank facility in Billings, Montana with the support of the U.S. Economic Development Administration – Denver Regional Office. This educational and interactive forum was designed to convene and assist counties and regions in Montana experiencing economic and other community challenges due to changing conditions of the coal industry. Materials from the event are available [here](#).

Small Business Webinar Series

Five Critical Customer Service Skills

Thur. May 3, 11a.m.

Let's take these 30 minutes to focus on five critical skills that will almost guarantee a rewarding customer service or client interaction. Understand why these skills can make or break your service results. If you are a supervisor, use these skills as a checklist to ensure you are providing training, coaching, evaluation and support for these skills throughout your organization.

Jodi Smith, Workforce Training Director, Flathead Valley Community College

Hear experts provide an overview of small business development topics and phone in or type/chat questions or comments. We will follow-up with requests for additional information. All webinars are **free** and open the public at 11 a.m. (for 30 min) and will be recorded and archived.

- Join the webinar live, access the recorded webinar and for additional resources, go to: www.msucommunitydevelopment.org/smallbusiness.html
- For questions, email: commdev@montana.edu

Webinar Series sponsored by:

Additional support by:

SBA U.S. Small Business Administration
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MONTANA PTAC (PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER)
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC STATE OF MONTANA
GF Great Falls, Montana Development Authority

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Please contact commdev@montana.edu or (406) 994-1750.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION Small Business Development Centers (Montana Department of Commerce and US Small Business Administration) Montana Economic Developers Association

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants! <http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ **Funding Available for Local Fire Response**
The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) is accepting applications to the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. Funding is available for recipients to maintain 24-hour fire department staffing and services. Various types of fire departments are eligible to apply. Applications are due **April 27**. Click [here](#) for more information.
- ⇒ **USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Applications Being Accepted!** [Fact sheet](#); contact your nearest office for application details.
- ⇒ **Broadband for Montana Schools Program**, which got a big boost by the state Legislature when it approved a \$2 million school broadband fund virtually unanimously. This is a terrific opportunity to get your school students connected to high-speed broadband, but \$1 million of the funding is only available until June 2018. If your school wants to take advantage of this funding opportunity we encourage you to act today and enhance broadband access for your school. You may learn more by reaching out to the Montana Department of Commerce at docbroadband@mt.gov or [406-841-2770](tel:406-841-2770) or our partners at EducationSuperHighway by emailing Elle Patterson elle@educationsuperhighway.org or calling [415-967-7454](tel:415-967-7454).
- ⇒ [USDA Community Development Grants](#)
- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email gloria if you would like the username and password.

