May 1: MEDA Scholarship Deadline
May 2: Free Webinar: Creative Labor Solutions
May 6 – 11: National Economic Development Week

**MEDA 2019 Spring Conference**
May 20 - 22
[Agenda][Registration]

May 28-29: I90 Aerospace Conference and Expo
May 29: GovMatch Event in Billings

June 17-19: MT Housing Conference

MT Womens Biz Center
SBDC Training Calendar
MNA Training Calendar
MMEC Training Calendar

**EARLY BIRD RATES END MAY 2nd!**

**COLLABORATION, COOPERATION, AND CAVIAR ~**
*Perfecting Public and Private Partnerships*

May 20 – 22, 2019
Glendive, MT

**MEDA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING – in Glendive**

Each spring conference, MEDA Professional Development and Scholarship Committee organizes a training on Economic Development as a pre-conference event. It will include an overview of economic development and major components, case studies, showcasing Montana programs, partners and resources at work. Here is the agenda; the course is sponsored by NorthWestern Energy:
9:00am – 9:15am Introductions; What is MEDA? – Joe Willauer
9:15am - 10:30am Intro to Economic Development Overview and Major Components; Building Blocks. Presenters: Kim Morisaki, Jim Atchison, and Sue Taylor.

Break
10:45am-11:15am Interactive Case Study - showcasing Montana Programs, Partners, and Resources at work. Jim Atchison and Julie Emmons
11:15am-11:40am Rapid-Fire Program Updates: Main Street Employer Ownership – MCDC; MWTC, MDT, etc.
11:40am-11:45am Wrap Up

HB52 – SIGNING CELEBRATION PENDING
Wrap Up Video
You have no doubt heard that HB52, MEDA’s #1 Legislative Priority, is waiting for Governor Bullock’s signature. While the sunset was not removed from Montana’s key economic development programs, the date was extended for eight years. The bill also contains more reporting requirements and the removal of the Board of Research and Commercialization program. Be watching for opportunities to join in MEDA’s strategic planning to identify the needed tools for Montana’s economic development future. It is expected a signing celebration will take place during National Economic Development Week, May 6 – 11.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Welcome to two new MEDA Members:

Paul Gladen
Accelerate Montana
Missoula

Scott Kulbeck
MT Farm Bureau Foundation
Bozeman

Plan to meet both Paul and Scott at the MEDA Conference and learn of new programs and opportunities available for Montana.

Thirty Six Years!
Jim Davison, a founding board member of MEDA (referred to as the “Dirty Dozen”), and Executive Director of Anaconda Local Development for 36 years, is moving up and onward.

Adam Vauthier, who Jim has mentored for years, is stepping up.

There are not enough words to thank Jim for his service to MEDA since 1983.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

• MEDA RLF Working Group – Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group met on April 16th and enjoyed a discussion following an EDA presentation. Notes from the call.

• MEDA Opportunity Zone Working Group – this group was all set to meet (twice actually) and due to IRS changes, it has been postponed. A doodle will be sent soon to those signed up to schedule the first meeting. Also, look forward to the Opportunity Zone presentation during the MEDA Spring Conference.
• MEDA Remote Work Working Group – thanks to efforts by Anne Boothe, this working group formed and held its first conference call on April 11th. Notes from the call. If you are interested in joining the group just email Gloria.

MEDA RIPPLE EFFECTS MAPPING – STEVENSVILLE, VICTOR, DARBY
The latest three communities to complete Ripple Effects Mapping are set to receive grant awards in exchange for their “mapping” time. Thanks to WECAN (see above), the three-state grant that is helping Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana to fine-tune its community assessment process, Ripple Effects Mapping (REM) is being used to determine outcomes from previous assessments. More Info

Julie Foster, Ravalli County EDA, assisted with Ripple Effects Mapping activities to determine successful outcomes from Resource Team Assessments held in 2004 and 2005.

Stevensville:

Victor:

Darby:

MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW – Want one? Just give us a call. 406.563.5259
If you have a community that is on the edge of making progress – but needs a little organization, encouragement, and resources boost - MEDA would love to work with you to make that happen. For more information visit https://www.communityreview.org/ And http://www.medamembers.org/resources/community-reviews
MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE — 2nd Quarter Deadline May 1st; 3rd Quarter Deadline August 10th
Plan ahead and apply for a Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship: criteria and application.

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.

Visit the new Main Street Montana Project website.

Small Business Webinar Series 2019
Creative Labor Solutions
Thursday, May 2, 2019
11 AM, MST
As the labor market continues to tighten, finding workforce to meet the demands of the market is becoming increasingly difficult. This webinar details the benefits of creating apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and internship opportunities to attract and retain potential employees. Also discussed will be the military’s Career Skills Program (CSP) to tap into the labor force soon to be leaving military service.

Register at https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4172

Hear experts provide an overview of small business development topics and phone in or type in chat questions or comments. We will follow up with requests for additional information. All webinars are free and open to the public at 11 AM (or 30 min) and will be recorded and archived.
• Join the webinar live or access the recorded webinar and see additional resources at http://www.montanaregionaldevelopment.org/ruralbusiness.html
• For questions, email kwoods@mtd.edu

Additional Support
Sponsors
Register at https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4172

Grow your Export Sales - To meet growing international demand, exports of American agricultural products and equipment have increased significantly over the past few decades. Unfortunately, this opportunity is often hindered by a lack of financing. The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM)
is a federal government agency that enables U.S. businesses of all sizes to win international sales in more than 180 countries. For more information contact ExportHelp@exim.gov or call 202.565.3901.

- New IRS Opportunity Zone Guidelines; Implementation Plan; Agency Partners

Check out many business assistance tools here.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants! http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html
⇒ MEDA is a member of GrantStation. Email gloria if you would like the username and password.
⇒ HUD posted the FY19 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants NOFA to www.grants.gov With this publication, HUD is making available up to $5,000,000 for Planning Grants, including Planning and Action Grants.

1. Planning Grants are two-year grants that assist communities with severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plan and building the support necessary for that plan to be successfully implemented.

2. Planning and Action Grants are three and a half year planning grants that pair planning with action. Under these grants, the planning process activities would take place during the first 24 months of the grant period. Action Activities must build upon the planning for the target housing and neighborhood. Applications are due on Monday, June 10, 2019. For more information about the Choice Neighborhoods program, please visit www.hud.gov/cn.

⇒ Rural Community Facilities TA and Training Grants. USDA RD has announced that grants are available for intermediary organizations to provide technical assistance and training for rural organizations and agencies to identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in their area, and once those needs have been identified, locating public and private resources to finance those identified needs. Program page with more information available here: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-technical-assistance-and-training-grant. Application Deadline: June 10, 2019.

⇒ USDA Rural Broadband Resources

The USDA is now accepting online applications for funding through its ReConnect Rural Broadband Pilot Program. The program is focused on efforts that will expand broadband in rural America. The first round of applications are due on May 31. There are two additional funding opportunities set for June and July. You can see those by clicking here.

⇒ USDA Launches Broadband e-Connectivity Resource Guide

The USDA has announced the launch of a new toolkit to help support the development of high-speed broadband e-Connectivity in rural communities. The resource is a guide that helps customers identify their type of e-Connectivity project and identify resources offered to fund, plan and equip the projects. The toolkit is free and available to all online. More information is available here.