



Online News



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- 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 Spring Conference Check out the latest [agenda](#).

Here is the [attendee list](#) to date.

[Register!](#)

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 (left) has served as a mentor for Adam throughout Adam's career.

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 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.



Kari Woods
Apprenticeship Specialist
Montana Registered Apprenticeship Workforce Services
Montana Department of Labor & Industry
www.apprenticeship.mt.gov

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

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

- Join the webinar live or access the recorded webinar and see additional resources at <http://www.msucommunitydevelopment.org/smallbusiness.html>
- For questions, email commdev@montana.edu

Webinar Series Sponsors



Additional Support



Webinar Series Sponsors: AMERICA'S SBDC MONTANA, SBA, MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, MEDA, MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA.

Additional Support: GROW Great Falls MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations 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. The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

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

GOVMATCH 2019

MATCH YOUR BUSINESS WITH GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES NEED YOUR GOODS & SERVICES

TAP INTO MILLIONS

MEET WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCY BUYERS
MAY 29, 2019 | 8:30AM-3PM
NORTHERN HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM
19 NORTH BROADWAY • BILLINGS, MT 59101

FREE OF CHARGE • OPEN HOUSE • REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ALL INDUSTRIES INVITED
CATERING TO CONSTRUCTION, HIGH-TECH TO MARKETING,
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES NEED YOUR EXPERTISE

FOR INFO AND TO REGISTER, LOG ON TO
MONTANAPTAC.ORG

SIGN UP TODAY



Logos: MONTANA PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center), BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AMERICA'S SBDC MONTANA.

THIS PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER IS FUNDED IN PART THROUGH A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY.

Register at <http://www.montanaptac.org>

- **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](#).