

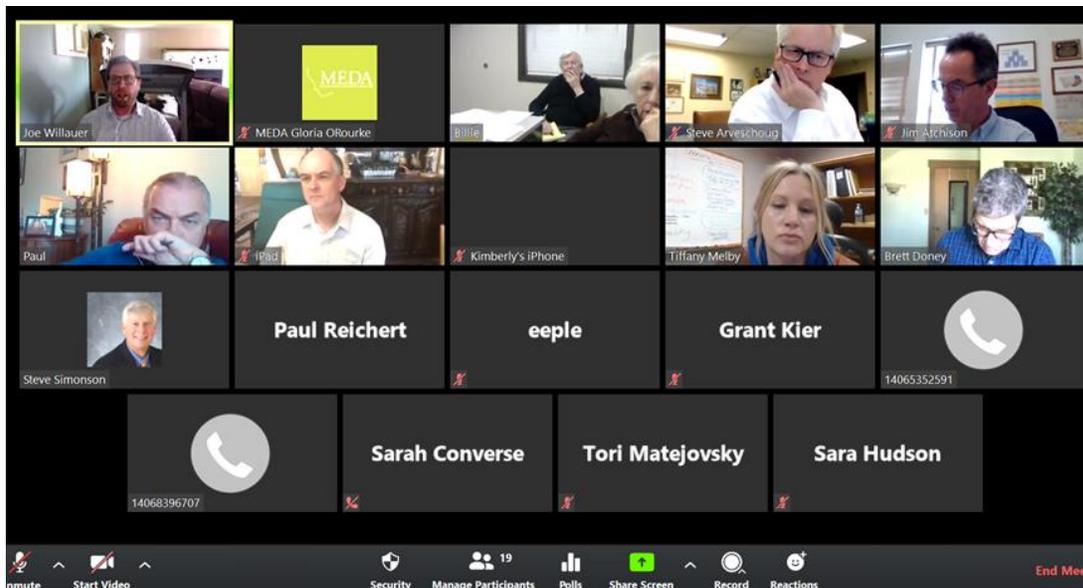
SPRING

- May 1: MEDA [Scholarship](#) Deadline
- May 5: [W2ASACT](#) Conference Call 10:00 - Noon
- May 7: [Reopening Best Practices](#) During COVID-19 11:00 – 11:30am
- May 7: [Mission Modeling in Uncertain Times](#) – UofM and Blackstone Launchpad 2pm
- May 11: [Housing Coordinating Team](#) Meeting 9:00 – 11:00am
- May 11-12: [Grant Writing USA](#) Two Day Virtual Course
- June 16: Save the Date – Montana Housing Partnership via Webinar

MEDA AT WORK - We're In This Together

As MEDA members are no doubt in survive-as-you-go-doing-the-best-we-can-with-what-we-have mode, you may have missed some of the communications of MEDA's leadership at work behind the scenes.

MEDA CRDC EDO [joint letter](#) regarding MT CARES Act MEDA [recommendations to MT Congressionals](#)



UPDATED COVID-19 RESOURCE PAGES

The resources and information flow regarding COVID-19 are ever changing. Listed below are several key sites that are helpful to those working in the field of Economic and Community Development.

- ★ [Governor Bullock's Re-Opening Phases](#)
- ★ [Montana COVID-19 Website](#)
- ★ [Disaster Tool Kit from Grow Great Falls](#)
- ★ [Nonprofit COVID Resources from MNA](#)
- ★ [Dept. of Labor – Employer Resources](#)
- ★ [Emergency Housing Assistance](#)



MONTANA'S NEXT GENERATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TOOLS: Progress Update

The framework for the Montana NextGen report has been viewed by the project Steering Committee. TIP Strategies is working on the first draft of the report which will be shared with the project Stakeholders by mid-May. Once feedback is obtained from the Stakeholders, another draft of the report will be reviewed by the Steering Committee. Plans are in the works for involving MEDA members and partners in a strategic rollout of the report and action plans.



We're In This Together

MEDA MEMBERSHIP CHECK IN



Debi Davidson's long career in Community and Economic Development is coming to a close. If you would like to [sign a virtual card](#) for her, please do so by May 7th. Thank you for your service to Montana, Debi, and your friendship to so many.



Celebrate with Kathie Bailey, Snowy Mountain Development, as she rings the bell in completion of her last round chemotherapy!

MONTANA IS BEHIND!

Push the Census across your network – again and again

Over half of U.S. households have now responded to the [2020 Census](#)—that is nearly 74 million responses. Paper questionnaires are now arriving in mailboxes, and the Census



Bureau anticipates reactivating field operations beginning June 1. The response deadline has been set for October 31, 2020. Montana, with its rural challenges, ranks 8th from the bottom in response rate. What can you do to turn this around? Encourage your colleagues to not wait for a mailed invitation but self respond. Go to my2020census.gov or call 1-844-330-2020

MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW UPDATE

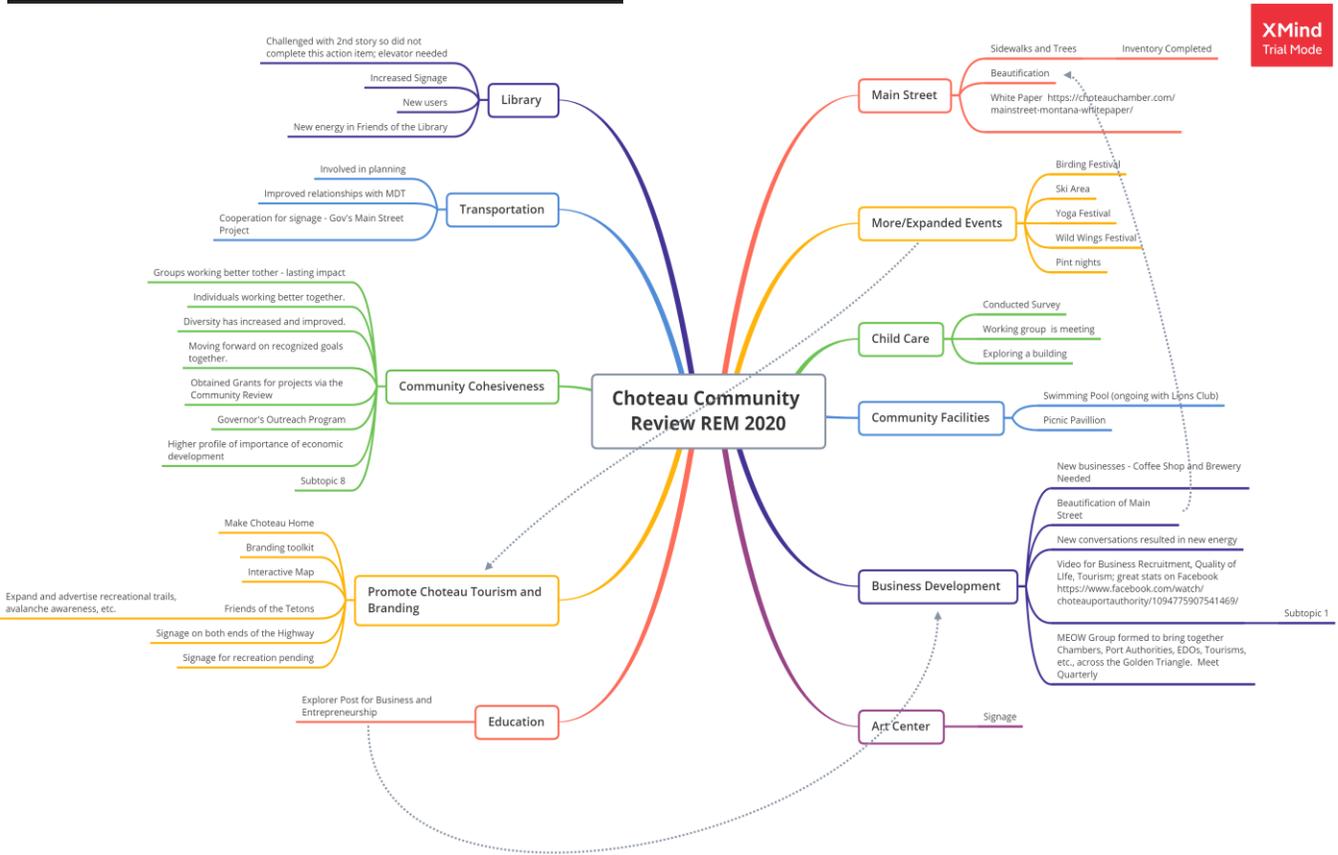
First ever virtual Ripple Effects Mapping

Choteau was the location for MEDA's first recharged Community Review process. To determine the success and outcomes of the new format, Ripple Effects Mapping was planned. It was to be a face-to-face event with a bit of celebrating all that was accomplished. With social distancing, Choteau was MEDA's first virtual Ripple Effects Mapping meeting – and a success! Community leaders joined the Zoom call, breakout rooms were opened up for small group meetings, then all returned to report out for the Xmind ripple effects to form. Well done!



Some of the Choteau Ripple Effects Mapping participants.

Fabulous outcomes from the MEDA Choteau Community Review:



Troy- Survey Time

Again, no thanks to COVID-19, the community of Troy was unable to have a team visit for Phase 1 of the MEDA Troy Community Review. The good news, however, is that the survey is out and the gathering of data has begun. For more information on Community Reviews, visit [WeCAN](#).

MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS 2020 – Q2 Deadline is May 1st

The 2nd Quarter Round will close at midnight on May 1st. [Apply today.](#)

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group.

- **MEDA Community Review Working Group** - This [working group](#) is all about assisting with MEDA's Community Review process and resources. During the meeting on April 16th, the group discussed how the process can change and adapt to social distancing. Next meeting: June 18th 9am. [Notes from the call.](#)
- **MEDA Remote Work Working Group** – Review [the April 7th meeting notes here](#) and check out the interesting [Grow Remote](#) website.
- **The MEDA CRDC Working Group** is meeting regularly and networking to share innovative ideas to sustain their organizations and businesses across the state.

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.

- **New Report on COVID-19 Impacts on Small Businesses**
Main Street America conducted an online survey this past week to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the approximately 300,000 small businesses in their network. More than 5,850 small business owners responded. Nearly 40 percent of the businesses represented are in towns with fewer than 10,000 residents. The report contains survey findings and economic development policy implications. [Read more and download a copy here.](#)
- Montana State University is seeking input from all Montanans on how the COVID-19 is impacting your food habits and everyday health. Everyone is encouraged to complete the survey; you might win a \$200 gift certificate. [Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Security in Montana survey.](#)
- *Grant Writing USA Two Day Virtual Workshop*
Join an all-star host committee for this Western States two-day grant writing training delivered live and online via Zoom May 11-12, 2020, 9:30 - 4:30 MT. For full details and registration [click here](#). Dates not good for you? No problem - register and enjoy on-demand replay anytime until the end of May.
- **Nonprofit Townhall: May 7 | [Mission Modeling in Uncertain Times](#)**
In partnership with the University of Montana and the Blackstone Launchpad, MNA will present an innovative and accessible approach to modeling the functions that make your mission impactful and sustainable. Whether you want to learn how to map the core fundamentals of your mission or you want to learn to approach your mission delivery with a fresh “start-up” mentality, this session is sure to give you tools and concepts that will fire up and align your teams to meet the uncertain future boldly.

Small Business Webinar Series 2020

Reopening Best Practices During COVID-19

Thursday, May 7, 2020
11 AM, MST

In this brief 30-minute webinar, we will provide some of the basics business owners will need to take into account as they reopen their business during the COVID-19 crisis.

Register at
<https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4451>

- 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



Nathan Reiff

Business Development
Officer

Great Falls Development
Authority

growgreatfallsmontana.org



Montana has many business assistance tools [here](#). Want to receive updates from the Department of Commerce? **Subscribe to receive email updates here**

Webinar Series Sponsors



Additional Support



U.S. Small Business Administration



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) 994-3620.

The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ **MSU Extension** has a 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.
- ⇒ **USDA Seeks Applications**

USDA to Prioritize Projects Supporting Strategic Economic and Community Development

- [Community Facilities Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Water and Waste Disposal Program Loans, Grants and Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Business & Industry Program Loan Guarantees](#)
- [Rural Business Development Grants](#)



To apply for the funding, applicants must meet underlying program requirements and submit the Form RD 1980-88 to the nearest USDA office. Program funds available under SECD expire on June 30, 2020.



Program and Business Spotlight

This month, MEDA's Montana Department of Commerce focus is on the TSEP program. The following press release provides information on just what TSEP is all about. Emilie Ritter Saunders lesaunders@mt.gov



Twin Bridges, Mont.

Commerce Awards Planning Grants to 9 Montana Communities

HELENA, Mont. -- The Montana Department of Commerce announced Wednesday that nine Montana communities will share more than \$132,000 in planning grants through the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP). The grants will be used to initiate the development of infrastructure projects in Montana communities.

“With the uncertainty we are facing at this time, it is important that we continue with an eye to the future to support engineering planning work for critical infrastructure to improve the health and safety of Montana communities,” Montana Department of Commerce Director Tara Rice said. **“These TSEP grants will help towns plan infrastructure projects that provide clean and safe water and improve a community’s resiliency for the next generation.”**

TSEP Planning Grants are used to fund infrastructure planning documents such as Preliminary Engineering Reports for drinking water systems, wastewater treatment facilities, storm water systems, solid waste systems, bridges and Capital Improvements Plans. These reports are used to identify and prioritize what infrastructure improvements are needed for a community. The documents are required for infrastructure projects that apply for TSEP project funding.

The following communities have received TSEP Infrastructure Planning grants:

- **Darby:** \$15,000 to complete a wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report
- **Nashua:** \$12,723 to complete a water Preliminary Engineering Report
- **Phillips County:** \$15,000 to complete a water Preliminary Engineering Report for Buffalo Trail Water District
- **Power-Teton County Water and Sewer District:** \$15,000 to complete a wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report
- **Superior:** \$15,000 to complete a wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report
- **Ten Mile Creek Estates-Pleasant Valley WSD:** \$15,000 to complete a wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report
- **Thompson Falls:** \$15,000 to complete a wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report
- **Twin Bridges:** \$15,000 to complete a water Preliminary Engineering Report
- **Worden-Ballantine Yellowstone County WSD:** \$15,000 to complete a water Preliminary Engineering Report

“The Town of Nashua’s infrastructure is outdated, some areas dating back to 1974. We have experienced numerous freezing meters, main lines, and issues with providing service,” Nashua Clerk and Treasurer Christina Washington said. **“This TSEP grant would better the quality of service the Town can offer to our residents, by identifying and repairing our service lines.”**

Eligible applicants for TSEP planning grants include incorporated cities or towns, counties, consolidated governments, tribal governments and county or multi-county water, sewer or solid waste districts.

For more information, visit comdev.mt.gov/Programs/TSEP/PlanningGrants.

THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

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May 2020