



May 3: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
 May 3: MT Master Remote Work Class Begins
 May 5: MEDA Legislative Committee 7am
 May 5: DOD SBIR/STTR [Phase 1 Proposal Workshop](#)
 May 9-15: [Economic Development Week](#)
 May 10: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
 May 12: [MEDA Annual Membership Meeting](#)
 May 12: NextGen Workforce Committee 1pm
 May 12: SBIR [Commercializing Innovation](#)
 May 13: MEDA Remote Worker Working Group 9am
 May 18 – 19: [MT Housing Conference](#)
 May 24: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
 May 25: MEDA Scholarship Deadline
 May 26: NextGen Workforce Committee 1pm
 May 28: Peer Learning Network 9:30am

MEDA VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
with presenter Director Scott Osterman

May 12th 10am
[Register Today!](#)

JUNE

June 6: Small Business [Webinar Series](#) 11am
 June 7: MT Master Remote Work Certification Class Begins
 June 7-11: SelectUSA Investment Summit
 June 8: NextGen Workforce Committee 1pm
 June 9 – 11: [MYP Sunrise City Summit](#)
 June 10: MEDA Remote Worker Working Group 9am
 June 10: NextGen Workforce Committee 1pm
 June 10: [Women Lead Central Montana](#)
 June 9-11: [Montana Young Professionals Summit](#)
 June 14: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
 June 22: NextGen Workforce Committee 1pm
 June 25: Peer Learning Network 9:30am
 June 28: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
 June 29-30: [MEDA 2021 Summer Conference](#)



[Registration Open, Draft Agenda, Sponsorships](#)

TWO BIG MEETINGS FOR MEDA: One Virtual Hour; One-Day-and-a-Half



Director Scott Osterman

First, join us on May 12: One Hour Virtual Membership Meeting

Director of Montana Department of Commerce, Scott Osterman, will be MEDA's guest speaker and share an update on activities within MDOC. May 12th at 10am. [Get your Zoom Link today!](#)

In addition to hearing from Director Osterman, you will vote for board members, and officers, hear committee and working group updates, legislative outcomes, plus help us plan the MEDA Summer Conference.

Second, join us in person or via Zoom for the MEDA Summer Conference



MEDA SUMMER CONFERENCE JUNE 29 – 30, 2021

It's time; let's do this. It is time to identify priorities and build strategies based on the Montana Next Generation of Community and Economic Development Tools study. Whether attending in person in Helena or via Zoom, roll up your sleeves and prepare for work. It's time!

AGENDA REGISTRATION SPONSORSHIP
SAFETY GUIDELINES PAYMENT LINK

MEDA SCHOLARSHIP 2nd Q Deadline is May 25th

The second quarter deadline for the Rick Jones Memorial MEDA Scholarship application is May 25th. Apply today! Thanks to MT CARES Act and a partnership with [NDC](#), \$600 scholarships are available for MEDA members to engage in the excellent NDC courses. Additional details are on our website at: <https://www.medamembers.org/membership/scholarships>

MEDA MEMBER NEWS

- MMEC has a new (but not new to MEDA) expert to assist with building manufacturing businesses in Montana. [Brent Campbell](#) re-joins MEDA with his consulting company, BAC Consulting and is now on the MMEC team. Welcome back, Brent.
- SBA has named the new Montana Deputy District Director: **Brian Buch**. Brian's last name is easy to remember because it sounds like "book." Brian can be reached at brian.buch@sba.gov. He will play a leading role in directing and managing SBA's business training, counseling services, lending programs, disaster assistance and more.
- **Jenni Graff** is the first-ever Director for [Early Stage Montana](#). She is eager to share about Early Stage and help tech entrepreneurs grow their businesses. Jenni@earlystagemt.org, 406-531-6430
- Welcome to **Shayna Blaser**, the new Women's Business Center Director for Prospera Business Network and **Deanna Morrow**, Vice President of Business Development at Wavteq, in Kalispell. Deanna is a remote worker as Wavteq is a global company. You can reach Deanna at 832-345-5243 or email deanna.morrow@wavteq.com.



Deanna Morrow

Want to celebrate the success of a client?

[Nominate for a Montana Ambassador Award!](#) Deadline is May 21st.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS and COMMITTEES

All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group or Committee. Working together, we are making a difference!

- **MEDA Legislative Committee:** Whew! What a whirlwind of a wrap-up for Montana's 67th Legislature. MEDA Legislative Committee will hold a wrap-up meeting on May 5th, 7am. The committee is considering to continue to meet at least monthly to prepare for the 2023 session. Special thanks to Rick Edwards, Legislative Committee Chair and the following members: Beth Epley, Paddy Fleming, Grant Kier, Jim Atchison, Joe Willauer, Julie Jaksha, Kathie Bailey, Paul Tuss, Ann Peterson, Adam Schafer, Tracy McIntyre, Steve Arveschoug, Paul Reichert, Brett Doney, Jason Rittal, Dianne Lehm, Jackie Haines, Jim Thaden, Lindsey Wallace, Lorraine Roach, Michael Peter, Sarah Converse, and Toni Schneider.



- **MEDA Value Added Ag Working Group** – A wish-list was developed by this group with dreams of improving Montana's Value Added Ag opportunities. Follow this group's progress on the [webpage](#). Paddy Fleming serves as Chair.

- **MEDA Community Review Working Group and Peer Learning Network** - This new Peer Learning Network is strengthening community leadership across Montana. The Montana Peer Learning Network was formed as a result of the three-state Community Review Project. Each meeting there is a short presentation followed by Q & A from community leaders. Next meeting: May 28th 9:30am



- **The MEDA CRDC Working Group** is meeting regularly and networking to share innovative ideas to sustain their organizations and businesses across the state. Paul Tuss serves as Chair.
- **MEDA Broadband Committee** was formed as a result of the NextGen report. This committee was very active and dedicated throughout the Legislative session and made a difference! [Webpage](#) Tracy McIntyre is serving as Chair. [Broadband Priorities](#)

- **MEDA Workforce Committee** was formed as a result of the NextGen report. Mary Craigle and Nicole Rush are Co-Chairs. Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm. Check out the latest notes and join the conversation. Notes and [Webpage](#)

- **MEDA Remote Work Working Group** – This working group is collaborating to develop marketing and information to encourage remote workers to consider Montana and build a support network for teleworkers. **Huge announcement!** Montana now has a Master Remote Work Certification course. Thanks to this committee for helping to get this done! [Register](#)



YOUR MEDA BOARD AT WORK

The MEDA Nominating Committee met and will make recommendations to the board regarding board seats and officers for 2021-2022. MEDA members will vote on officers and board members on May 12th.

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.

⇒ **Big Sky, Montana for the 30th Annual Summit from August 15-19!**

Registration

PNWER Annual Summit is the leading forum where people in the policy world and the business world come together to figure out solutions to regional challenges. Join hundreds of regional legislators, business



30th PNWER Annual Summit

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

August 15-19, 2021
Big Sky, MT

More info at pnwer.org/2021-summit

leaders, and key decision makers in coming together in a hybrid in-person/virtual event in Big Sky, Montana on August 15 - 19, 2021, to explore shared challenges in the region, discuss best practices, strengthen regional relationships, and develop action plans for addressing these challenges in the future.

⇒ **Enjoyed Tell Us Something MEDA story-telling workshops with Marc Moss? [Sign up for his newsletter.](#)**

⇒ **[Introduction to Entrepreneurship-led Economic Development](#) June 17 – 18, Online**

This course focuses on building an understanding of the importance of building a community centered around entrepreneurship and small business creation, sustainability and growth. After taking this course, course participants will be able to identify their role in the ecosystem, understand the roles of others and come away with the skills to bring organizations together around shared goals. Learn important skills such as assessing a community's appetite for risk, identifying resource gaps, understanding the importance of inclusion, and developing practical ways to measure success.

⇒ **Montana World Trade Center is again organizing a Montana presence at the upcoming **Select USA Summit**. Due to the current global situation, the summit will be held virtually this year, June 7-11. <https://www.selectusasummit.us/> Select USA is an important forum for Montana as we continue to message about our place in the global community. Our virtual booth will feature our one-page documents highlight our key industries that easily explain the opportunities that exist in Montana. In addition, we will be creating and featuring a spotlight video on our state and two short industry highlight videos, per Select USA's virtual booth preset layout.**

If you would like more information on this summit and our efforts, if you are interested in participating in the upcoming summit, or if you have information or assets that you feel are relevant to this project or would be a good addition to our presence, please contact Brigitta Miranda-Freer, Executive Director of the Montana World Trade Center at brigitta@mwtc.org.

⇒ **The Harbinger Consultancy** is offering new online courses. harbingerconsult.com



Check out these new, unique, informative courses.

SUMMER COURSES

- Do-It-Yourself Trail User Research You Can Do This Summer
- Exploratory Scenarios Planning for Community Collaboration, Adaptation and Action
- Do-It-Yourself Visitor Surveys for Parks, Trails and the Towns that Serve Them
- Tell the Economic Story of Your National and State Parks and Heritage Areas Without Hiring an Economist

⇒ **NADO Reports: The White House Unveils the *American Families Plan***

President Biden's plan will significantly expand access to healthcare, child care, early childhood education, and community colleges. The Biden administration has presented the plan as a companion to its \$2.3 trillion infrastructure proposal, the [American Jobs Plan](#). The *American Families Plan* allocates \$1 trillion in new spending and \$800 billion in tax credits and aims to provide two years of tuition-free community college, to increase funding for Pell Grants to benefit low-income and minority students, to expand access to affordable high-quality childcare, to offer universal pre-kindergarten, and to provide funding for family and medical leave, among other provisions.

⇒ **Receive training to be a Master Remote Worker! Montana's new opportunity.** [Register](#)



About this Certificate

Montana State University Extension has partnered with Utah State University Extension to offer the Master Remote Work Professional certificate course, a 1-month specialized training designed to equip workers and business owners with training needed to:

- Find a job working remotely for a company
- Expand a business to serve customers remotely
- Increase skill levels for people already working remotely

Participants receive assistance with finding a remote job, with building their business and connecting to a network of other remote workers.

GRANT RESOURCES

- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password. Help GrantStation be the best it can be.
- ⇒ Check out this [grant source](#) from the University of Montana.
- ⇒ **MSU Extension** has a great list of grants!
<http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ **National Funding Opportunities**
<https://grantstation.com/GrantStation-Insider/04-29-2021#national>
Support for Efforts to Ensure a Just and Sustainable Future
Youth Running Projects Funded
In-Kind Advertising Program for Nonprofits in the U.S. and Abroad
Grants Promote Racial Equity in Education
- ⇒ T-Mobile, in partnership with Smart Growth America and Main Street America, has launched the **Hometown Grant program** committing up to \$25 million over the next 5 years to support community projects in small towns across the U.S. Elected leaders, town managers and employees, and non-profit leaders from American towns with 50,000 people or less are invited to submit applications for receiving grants of up to \$50k to help fund projects that build, rebuild or refresh community spaces that foster local connections. Eligible projects include implementing tech upgrades at a local library, refreshing a local park and rebuilding a historic building. The Hometown Grant program will award grants to eligible projects on a quarterly basis.
- ⇒ **NADO Reports: Upcoming Webinars on 2021 RAISE Grant Program, Formerly Known as BUILD or TIGER Grants**
A [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) for the [2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\)](#) discretionary grant program, formerly known as BUILD or TIGER grants, was released earlier this month. To help applicants navigate the application process, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is offering a series of topic-specific webinars that delve into various aspects of the RAISE application process. These webinars are expected to quickly reach capacity but **they will be recorded**. The full list of webinars, along with other resources for applicants including webinar recordings, can be found [here](#).
 - **Webinar: How to Compete for RAISE Grants – Tribal and Rural Applicants**
May 4, 2021 – 1:00-2:30pm ET - [register here](#)
This webinar is designed explicitly for rural and tribal applicants. A project is designated as rural if it is *not* located within or on the boundary of an Urbanized Area, as designated by the U.S. Census Bureau, that has a population greater than 200,000 in the 2010 Census. For projects that include expenditures in both urban areas and rural areas, the Department will designate the project as urban or rural based on where the majority of project funds will be spent.
 - **Webinar: How to Compete for RAISE Grants – Planning Grant Applicants**

May 20, 2021 – 3:00-4:30pm ET - [register here](#)

This webinar will review requirements for RAISE planning grant applications. Activities eligible for funding under RAISE planning grants are related to the planning, preparation, or design—for example environmental analysis, feasibility studies, and other preconstruction activities—of eligible surface transportation capital projects. Planning grant applications do not require a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) and there is no minimum project size. Up to \$30,000,000 is available for planning grants.

The deadline to submit an application is **July 12, 2021 at 5 p.m. ET.**



MDOC Spotlight: New websites!

Check out the Updated [MARKETMT.COM!](#)

We're thrilled to announce that the Department of Commerce has launched an updated [MARKETMT.COM](#) website under a new web system. Thank you to all who worked hard to make this change!

Please take a moment to go through the new [MARKETMT.COM](#) site and **look for any bookmarks or broken links** to any of the pages on the site, and **update your own sites for any broken links.**

And, if you haven't already, take a look at the new [SBDC.MT.GOV](#), [CEIC.MT.GOV](#), [MADEINMONTANAUSA.COM](#), [REEDERSALLEY.COM](#) and [VIRGINIACITYMT.COM](#).

National Economic Development Week Celebrated from May 9-15, 2021

Goals of #EconDevWeek

- **Articulate:** Voice the value of your contributions to your local economy
- **Organize:** Build a base of support within your community for the work of your ED
- **Show and Tell:** Emphasize the importance of economic development through tangible examples and peer case studies
- **Amplify:** Spread your message and increase exposure of all the good work your EDO does throughout the year!

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS for 2021

Gold	Silver	Bronze
 <p>NorthWestern Energy <i>Delivering a Bright Future</i></p>	 <p>MYAP Montana Youth Apprenticeship Partnership</p>  <p>NewFields Perspective. Vision. Solutions.</p>	 <p>MONTANA MDT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Small Business Enterprise Program</p>  <p>KLJ ENGINEERING, REIMAGINED</p>  <p>MONTANA Cooperative DEVELOPMENT CENTER</p>  <p>Cushing Terrell.</p>  <p>MW MISSION WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</p>