



MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR JANUARY 2011

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Montana Means Business
Rotunda Day Jan 25th

DEADLINE: 2/15 ROUND ONE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rick Jones Memorial MEDA Scholarship Round 1 is now open for 2011. In addition to MEDA scholarships, First Interstate Bank is sponsoring one scholarship in Round 1 and a second scholarship in the Fall. Criteria for applying as well as the application form are available at <http://www.medamembers.org/scholarships.html>



ECONOMIC GARDENING WEBINAR

Save the date and time: February 16th at 10:00am. The MEDA Economic Gardening Working Group has coordinated with Chris Gibbons, the founder of Economic Gardening to provide an informational webinar for Montana. There is no cost for the presentation; more details available soon.

STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Your MEDA Legislative Committee has been very busy, and not just at 7:00am each Wednesday for the scheduled conference call. Letters have been written in support of TSEP, Big Sky Trust Fund, all of the 2019 programs and the One-Time-Only programs. Representatives of MEDA have presented the letters at hearings and testified on our membership's behalf. On the Federal level, watch your inbox for sample letters you can use to help protect Essential Air Service (EAS), CDBG and EDA funding. Publications showcasing key economic development programs are available at <http://www.medamembers.org/legislature.html> Use these documents to showcase the success of our economic development programs.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS

MEDA Working Groups were extremely busy as well as productive in January. Below is a brief summary of each.

- **BEAR:** The MEDA BEAR Working Group met on January 5th with Dave Morey to discuss the best way to re-start the IWTG funding process. It was decided to restart with a first-come-first served approach. The Missoula, Polson and Hamilton Job Service offices have been trained to complete the application process from start to finish and will assist with administering the funds. Special attention will be paid in the last month of the program so the last application receives the last dollar. In the future, the funding will be on a quarterly basis. See <http://www.medamembers.org/bear/> for more information.
- **Economic Gardening:** This group met via webinar on January 26th and viewed a powerpoint by Marcy Allen on the basics of Economic Gardening. The group will send regular informational articles to MEDA's membership and is planning a webinar with Chris Gibbons, founder of Economic Gardening, on February 16th at 10:00am. See <http://www.medamembers.org/gardening.html> for more information.
- **Transportation:** The Transportation Working Group met via conference call on January 11th and reviewed the [MDT Research/ToolKit](#) website. The purpose of the MEDA Transportation Working Group is to build relationships and foster communications with MDT regarding economic and community development

and transportation-related issues, funding, and setting project priorities. The webpage for this group is <http://www.medamembers.org/transportation.html>

- **Revolving Loan Fund:** This group met on January 11th and had a lively discussion on managing problem loans. RLF Working Group meets the second Tuesday of every month. Invited to join the next call on February 8th: **Native American Economic Development Working Group** to discuss tribal issues and the loan process. For more information visit: <http://www.medamembers.org/rf.html>
- **Innovation and Strategic Planning Working Group:** This group is making great progress in bringing innovative economic development ideas and models to light in Montana. The group met via conference call on January 27th. One and possibly two interns will be conducting the research process after February 15th. The Innovative Working Group will then review the ideas and present a summary to MEDA members possibly during the MEDA Spring Conference. To review the minutes visit: <http://www.medamembers.org/planning.html>
- **Workforce and Education:** This group met on January 7th and visited with Pat Wise, GOED, on the activities involving workforce and education taking place around the state. Susie Burch, FVCC, has been invited to join the call on February 17th to share ideas on what COT's need before instituting a training or course when a need is indicated by employers. The minutes of the last call are available at <http://www.medamembers.org/workforce.html>

Working Group conference calls scheduled (dial in using 712.432.0175 pin 217279) in February:

- February 8th 3:00pm; RLF Working Group
- February 16th 10:00am; Economic Gardening Webinar with
- February 17th 10:00am; Workforce and Education Working Group – discussion with guest speaker Susie Burch, FVCC.

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. [New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink](#). Check out these great community grant links. Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
2. The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology is accepting proposals for funding. Proposals are due March 1, 2011. The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT website at <http://businessresources.mt.gov/MBRCT/requestforproposal.mcp.x>. If you have any questions about the RFP, please contact Dave Desch, Executive Director, (406) 841-2760.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Interested in sharpening your professional skills as an economic and community development practitioner? Looking for new tools to place in your economic development tool box? Check these out.

1. **MDOC, DEQ, DNRC, USDA, W2ASACT Funding Workshops Spring 2011.** Workshops are free and pre-registration is not required. Questions? Call 406.841.2770. If your community is planning to construct a public infrastructure project within the next few years that will require a grant or a low interest loan to make the project affordable, catch one of these workshops: Great Falls, February 23rd; Billings, March 9th; Missoula, March 23rd.
2. **Outlook Seminars:** The seminars run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and will be held in nine Montana cities during February and March 2011. Registration costs \$80, which includes a proceedings booklet, lunch and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER's award-winning business journal. Following is the schedule for other seminar cities:
 - **Butte** – Thursday, Feb. 3, Holiday Inn Express
 - **Kalispell** – Friday, Feb. 11, Hilton Garden Inn
 - **Sidney** – Tuesday, March 15, USDA/Agricultural Research Station
 - **Miles City** – Wednesday, March 16, Bureau of Land Management

For more information or to register for a seminar, visit the BBER website at <http://www.bber.umt.edu> or call 406-243-5113

3. **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Funding the Topic of February 17, 2011 Workshop in Billings**

Farmers, ranchers and rural businesses who want to cut energy costs are invited to attend the “Tapping Clean Energy for Rural Montana” workshop in Billings, Thursday, February 17th. The workshop will outline what’s needed to secure loans, grants or rebates for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Attendees of the Clean Energy Funding workshop will receive educational materials and sample applications. For more information about the workshop costs and how to register, contact Al Kurki at 406-449-0104 or by e-mail at akurki@ncat.org.

4. Announcement and Invitation to Attend Poster Session - Showcase Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology Projects

February 8, 2011 * 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. * Capitol Rotunda
 Contact: Dave Desch - (406) 841-2760

Poster Session to showcase research and commercialization projects funded by the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology <http://businessresources.mt.gov/MBRCT/default.mcp.x>.

5. [Bozeman, Montana's First Economic Development Summit Featuring Dan Ripke, 2/17 And 2/24](#)

6. NADO Innovation webinars – free. The series is bi-weekly and will be available on the website <http://www.knowyourregion.org> if you can't make the call. The focus is on innovative and economic development tools and strategies.

7. The Montana World Trade Center, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center and state partners have come together to launch a customized export training program to help Montana companies develop and build export sales. [ExporTech](#) combines the state's best experts on exporting and trade resources in one location. Limited to Eight Montana Companies per Location ; Qualifies for the Incumbent Worker's Training Program. Introductory rate of \$595 (Regularly \$995). Training program includes 3 one-day sessions over 3 months
 Session Dates: March 14th, April 18th, and June 13th (Bozeman); March 15th, April 19th, and June 14th (Missoula)



MONTANA BEAR Report Learn what is new in your region with the statewide Montana BEAR Program's [monthly report](#).

View the January 2011 [report](#) and catch up on the latest BEAR Team news. There were 19 business visits held in January in the following counties:

Flathead County – 4

Stillwater County – 1

Yellowstone County - 5

Fergus County - 1

Missoula County - 6

Ravalli County - 2

MY TURN: A TERRIFIC 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Thanks to tremendous dedication by our Montana BEAR Teams, the 2010 [Statewide Montana BEAR Report](#) is glowing with progress. In addition to IWT numbers provided by Dave Morey, here are some highlights:

• 205 Business visits in 2010; 1,041 to date	• 79 Outreach Specialists compared to 67 last year
• 32 Counties have now held BEAR visits	• 97 Referrals generated; 75 successfully closed
• Brian Edwards 50 visits; Michael Jackson 23	• Missoula jumped from 4 visits in 2009 to 23 in 2010

It is interesting to note that business needs have changed a bit. In the past, workforce issues have been the number one referral need addressed. In 2010, the greatest need was for finance and capital assistance. Workforce training was a close second followed by entrepreneurship and management. Thanks to all of our Montana BEAR Team workers and volunteers.