



## MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2010

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MEDA Members at the Rural Policy Seminar

## MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE DATE

While it seems strange to be talking about spring when the holidays are just around the corner, please note the date for the 2011 MEDA Spring Conference: April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, in Bozeman, at the Bozeman Holiday Inn.

## 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. *Clean Energy Funding Workshops Slated for Havre on November 16-17<sup>th</sup>*: This fall and winter Montana farmers, ranchers, and small businesses -- along with agency and non-profit staff and private grant writers -- will be able to learn more about how to tap renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities for rural Montana. The workshops will outline what loans, rebates, and grants are available in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The workshops will include a specific focus on the USDA-RD's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant and loan program. November 16<sup>th</sup> focuses on grantwriter packagers and agency staff – MEDA members would probably get the most use out of this session. The November 17<sup>th</sup> workshop is shorter and geared more for prospective applicants --farmers, ranchers and rural businesses. You could encourage your clients to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> workshop. Contact: Al Kurki, NCAT, 449-0104
3. *The Economic Development Administration (EDA)* has issued a notice soliciting applications and outlining new application and review procedures for the Public Works and Economic Development Facilities Program, the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program and the Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund (GCCMIF). Funding cycle deadlines are as follows: December 15 for funding cycle 1, March 10 for funding cycle 2, June 10 for funding cycle 3, September 15 for funding cycle 1 of FY 2012. To be considered during a particular funding cycle, complete applications must be submitted to <http://www.grants.gov> or delivered in hard copy to your regional office. Applicants are urged to begin the process early, especially those new to using grants.gov, as the registration process can take up to three weeks.

Also, eligible applicants can choose to receive preliminary feedback on an application's technical and competitive merits. EDA will provide the applicant with feedback no later than 15 business days after receipt of the application.

For further details on the new application and review procedures and funding availability, please go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-25896.pdf> or <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-25896.htm>

## WORKING GROUPS – Sign up before November 5th

An email was recently sent across the MEDA listserve inviting individuals to sign on to a MEDA Working Group. If you are interested in joining one or more of the following groups, please email Gloria. Following the November 5<sup>th</sup> signup deadline, conference calls will be scheduled.

- Value Added Ag
- Energy
- Innovation and Strategic Planning (Forwarding Economic Development in MT)
- Leadership Support and Training
- Transportation
- Brownfields
- Economic Gardening
- Native American Economic Development
- Workforce and Education
- BEAR – Business Expansion and Retention

## 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. **Primary Sector Workforce Training Webinar:** This webinar training workshop is to inform and assist interested parties regarding the preparation of grant applications for the Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant Program. Date: November 5<sup>th</sup>. Time: 10:00am – 11:00am. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/466814136>
2. **CDBG Training Webinar:** This webinar training workshop is to inform and assist interested parties regarding the preparation of grant applications for the Community Development Block Grant-Economic Development Program. Date: November 18<sup>th</sup>. Time: 1:30pm – 4:30pm Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/239667056>
3. View all of the [Training News](#) from the Montana Nonprofit Association.
4. **Montana Ener-Tech Alliance:** First event, Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 presentation; 5:00 social hour / networking reception. Location: Front Street Station, 800 E. Front Street, Butte. As background, the Montana Ener-Tech Alliance is a partnership between NorthWestern Energy and TechRanch. The goal of the Alliance is to create opportunities for "green energy" entrepreneurs to learn, network, collaborate, form joint ventures and gain access to capital. This event is free, but pre-registration is required. Register at [www.montanaener-tech.org](http://www.montanaener-tech.org)
5. **Help Montanans Survive and Thrive During Tough Economic Times**  
*Register today for a session near you!*
6. The "Economic Development in Underserved Communities" national conference at the Kansas City Fed brought together the latest research and practice for discussion and collaboration. Read conference proceedings, including papers and presentations, at <http://www.kc.frb.org/eventinfo/community/2010-09-09-underserved-agenda.cfm>.



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

View the October 2010 [report](#) and catch up on the latest BEAR Team news. There were 15 business visits held in October in the following counties:

**Stillwater County – 1**

**Gallatin County – 1**

**Yellowstone County - 3**

**Missoula County - 2**

**Ravalli County - 4**

**Flathead County – 4**

Join the 2010 BEAR Roundup Webinar, November 15<sup>th</sup>; 10:00am: [Register today](#)



### **Turning Data into Knowledge**

With the upcoming release of data from the 2010 Census and additional releases of American Community Survey (ACS) data, it is important to understand some key differences between these two surveys. The 2010 Census data shows the counts of population and basic demographic characteristics as of April 1, 2010. The word census means acquiring information from a total population. Information is sought from everyone, not just a sample.



The Census Bureau collects the ACS data from a representative group (a sample) rather than the whole population. **All ACS data are estimates.** To help you interpret the reliability of the data, the Census Bureau provides the margin of error of these estimates. This shows how close the responses of the sample are to the results if the entire population had provided the responses. [Read the complete article...](#)



### **My Turn: In Summary**

Hopefully you have by now viewed the [Rural Seminar Summary](#) and noted the discussion points at the end of the report. In a nutshell, the message from Matt Chase (NADO) and Chuck Fluharty (RUPRI) was that federal policy changes are diminishing funds to rural areas. The discussion following the presentations could be summarized by this statement: **those working in the economic development field hold the power to make the rural voice heard.** Please note the ideas to accomplish this at the end of the online summary.

*Do you have a Success Story to share? [Download the report template](#) and send to MEDA.*