



MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

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MEDA Members Kellie Danielson, Debi Davidson and Dick King presented during the Governor's Forum on Building Montana's Workforce, August 12th, in Kalispell.

MEDA FALL CONFERENCE

Just over 70 people are now registered for the MEDA Fall Conference. As the Montana Economic Summit is not ending until just after 1:00pm, we have delayed the start time for the MEDA Conference until 2:00pm. Please review the [revised agenda](#) and register today if you have not already done so. The location for the conference will be the Copper King Hotel; a block of rooms has been reserved that include lodging for the summit. A pasty dinner is planned for Tuesday evening at Our Lady of the Rockies.

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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announces the availability of \$92.9 million in Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup grant funds. Proposal guidelines and frequently asked questions are available at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm>. Proposals are due by October 15, 2010.

COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

Scholarship Committee: The MEDA Scholarship Committee awarded the following Rick Jones Memorial Scholarships: Julie Jaksha, Headwaters RC&D; Kellie Danielson, Montana West Economic Development; Gib Turner, Lake County Community Development and Jim Rexhouse, Sanders County Community Development. The next scholarship competition will take place in early 2011. Congratulations!

Legislative Committee: The MEDA Executive Board is working to provide updated information on Montana's key economic development programs so that the Legislative Committee can implement action plans regarding MEDA's legislative agenda.

MEDA BEAR Working Group: The MEDA BEAR Working Group met via conference call August 16th and accomplished much: Montana Retention Survey revisions, BEAR Roundup (set for November 15th, 10:00am) and discussed agenda items for the roundup. [Minutes](#) from the call are available on the BEAR website.

Professional Development Committee. Following the August 10th – 11th Professional Development Training, the committee sent out a SurveyMonkey questionnaire for attendees to evaluate the training plus list topics for future trainings. The survey is available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5NRDD9Y>

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. View all of the [Training News](#) for Montana Nonprofit Association.
2. Montana Credit Unions for Community Development (MCUCD), in keeping with their mission to combat predatory lending, have developed an advertising campaign to promote small loans at credit unions. It will work similarly to the successful "MontanaFreeFile.org" campaign that educates the public on free tax filing services available state-wide. View the Public Service Announcement information at <http://www.montanacreditunions.coop/RTF1.cfm?pagename=Small%20Loan%20Needs>.
3. The community development specialists at Big Sky Economic Development will present a free introductory workshop about the grant-seeking process on Wednesday, September 8, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the Big Sky Economic Development conference center located on the first floor of Granite Tower, 222 North 32nd Street in downtown Billings. Contact Jeremy for additional information at 406.869.8416
4. [TechRanch](#) is hosting an educational seminar geared at Montana entrepreneurs looking to boost their web presence to drive more revenue. The seminars will be hosted at the Marina Cay Resort in Bigfork, MT on September 22, 2010 and the Frenchtown Fire Hall in Frenchtown, MT on September 23, 2010. Both seminars will begin at 8:30AM each day. Early-bird registration is from now until September 6. Visit www.orbit-mt.com for more information or [click here](#) to register.



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

View the August 2010 [report](#) and catch up on the latest BEAR Team news. There were 12 business visits held in August in the following counties:

Fergus County - 1

Park County - 1

Yellowstone County - 4

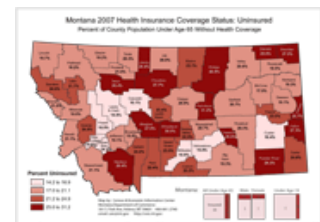
Missoula County - 2

Ravalli County - 2

Flathead County - 2



Turning Data Into Knowledge



Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) for Counties and States

The Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program produces estimates of health insurance coverage for states and all counties. In July 2005, SAHIE released the first nation-wide set of county-level estimates on the number of people without health insurance coverage for all ages and those under 18 years old. In July 2010, SAHIE released 2007 estimates of health insurance coverage by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and income categories at the state-level and by age, sex, and income categories at the county-level.

New Products! The Census and Economic Information Center has historically compiled customized data charts for state and county estimates only. Now available on CEIC's website is a customized table showing a comparison of all states including rank. Also new to CEIC's map library is **Montana 2007 Health Insurance Coverage Status: Uninsured.**

New Webpage! Small Area Health Insurance Estimates are now located at www.ceic.mt.gov/sahie.asp. This new webpage also includes information about the SAHIE Program and a link to the Current Population Table creator. You can use the table creator to customize data you select.

For more information on CEIC, visit <http://ceic.mt.gov>

My Turn: A Peek Ahead

We are launching into the very busy fall months, followed by the holiday season and then...the 2011 Legislative Session will begin. Just as there are only 115 days, 2 hours and 26 minutes left until Christmas, it will soon be time to gather in Helena. Be watching your email inboxes for important announcements regarding MEDA's legislative activities. I don't know of a countdown website for the session, but here is the link for [Christmas](#), in case you don't want to do the math.

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