



MEDA

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

Online News 2020



- Nov 2: MEDA 4th Quarter Scholarship Deadline
- Nov 2 – 6: [National Veterans Small Business Week](#)
- Nov 3: MEDA Legislative Committee 8am
- Nov 4: MEDA Remote Worker Working Group 3:30pm
- Nov 4 – 6: [NREDA Virtual Conference](#)
- Nov 5: MEDA Scholarship Committee 9am
- Nov 5 – 6: [IEDC Business Retention Course](#)
- Nov 5 – 6: [Farmer Cooperatives Conference](#)
- Nov 6: MEDA Happy Hour! 11am**
- Nov 9: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
- Nov 10: [Rise and Shine Small Business Summit](#)
- Nov 12: [NIAID SBIR/STTR Webinar](#)
- Nov 17: MEDA RLF Working Group, 1pm
- Nov 19: [1st Session Do It Yourself Surveys Trials Parks](#)
- Nov 23: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
- Nov 30: [Tourism Grant Program Deadline](#)



- Dec 3 – 4: [IEDC Real Estate Development and Re-Use](#)
- Dec 8: MT Main Street Program [Grants Open](#)
- Dec 14: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
- Dec 16: BSTF [Job/Planning Grant Deadline](#)
- Dec 28: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
- Dec 30: Deadline MT Eviction Intervention Project
- Dec 31: [Workforce Recovery Grant Deadline](#)

We're In This Together



October 13 – 15, 2020
MEDA Virtual Fall Conference

Had to miss it?

[Check out the summary.](#)

MEDA HAPPY HOUR – FRIDAY 11/6 AT 11AM

Want to end the week on a fun and inspirational note? Hang out with MEDA for Happy Hour. Registration is required (no cost) to avoid zoom bombers. Plan to join us for one hour. Highlights of the hour will include five short stories from those who took the Tell Us Something workshop. Get inspired, relax, and share with your colleagues. [Register](#)



MEDA 2020 IMPACT AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations once again to our seven 2020 Impact Award Winners and to Jim Atchison, 2020 Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development.

[2020 Award Winners](#)



100+ PARTICIPATED IN MEDA FALL CONFERENCE

If you were not one of the 100+ people who participated in the MEDA Fall Conference and Candidate Forum, you can find the links to the slideshows and recordings in the [conference summary](#). The conference had a bit of everything – from professional development, candidate forum, awards, ignite presentations, legislative strategy...and so much more.



MEDA MEMBER NEWS

Did you catch the big news from Snowy Mountain Development Corporation? Watch this video and hear Secretary of HUD, Ben Carson, congratulate SMDC on being the first economic development organization to become an Envision Center. [Envision Center Announcement](#).

We have two long-time MEDA Members retiring...or perhaps a better word is “transitioning” to different adventures. Brent Campbell, WGM Group, said, “After a welcome hiatus, I will continue my service to Montana communities, economy and a clean and healthy environment. I look forward to our paths crossing in the future.” Another terrific member, Susan Wolff, will be stepping away from her work as CEO/DEAN of Great Falls College-MSU, but not until June 30, 2021.

MEDA has seven new members! They include: Kelly Sullivan, EDA Planner, Headwaters RC&D; Taylor Lyon and Kaylee Thornley with Lake County Community Development; Dori Brownlow, Legal Advisor, Development District Manger from Missoula County; Julianne Snedigar, MSU Blaine County Extension; and Heidi Christison, Interstate Engineering.

One of our members has changed positions. If you were part of the MEDA Fall Conference you would have heard Elizabeth Patten share the news that she is now Director of Institutional Advancement for Miles Community College.

Two of our members proved to be true-to-their-word. During the MEDA Fall Conference, the zoom host made it clear she would accept chocolate bribes in exchange for two minutes to talk. Bribes were paid in full by Steve Simonson and Elizabeth Patten.



Bribes received and enjoyed.

MEDA 4TH QUARTER SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS TODAY

The MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Q4 is closing November 2nd. [Apply today.](#)

UPDATE: MEDA WORKING GROUPS and COMMITTEES

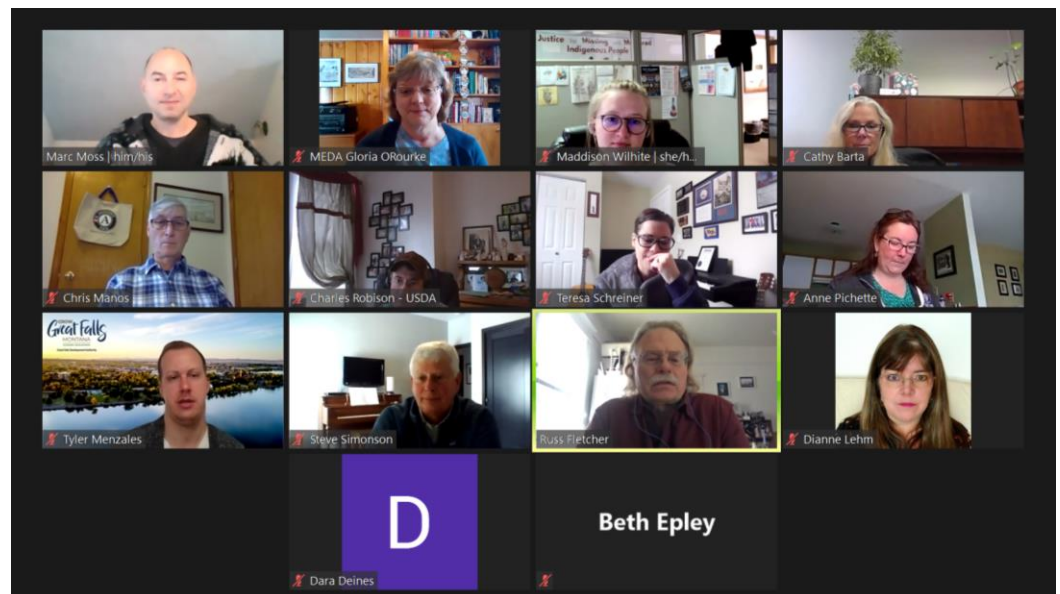
All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group.

- **MEDA Value Added Ag Working Group** – Our newest working group is chaired by Paddy Fleming. The group is just getting started but you can see its progress on the [webpage](#).
- **MEDA Community Review Working Group** - This [working group](#) is all about assisting with MEDA's Community Review process and switching to a virtual format. Troy is Montana's first virtual Community Review and has now launched into Phase 3. Phase 1 is Listen, Phase 2 is Learn and Phase 3 is Launch. Check out the Troy success [here](#).
- **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. Next meeting: November 4th, 3:30pm. [Notes](#)
- **The MEDA CRDC Working Group** is meeting regularly and networking to share innovative ideas to sustain their organizations and businesses across the state.
- **MEDA Broadband Committee** was formed as a result of the NextGen report. Strategies are in the works to improve Montana's broadband access; meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, at 2pm. [Webpage](#) Tracy McIntyre is serving as Chair.
- **Legislative Committee** – This committee is working on Policy Statements and Legislative Priorities. If you would like to join in the conversations, contact [Gloria](#). MEDA is gearing up for the 2021 Legislative Session. Next meeting: November 3rd 8am.
- **MEDA RLF Working Group** – This group will meet on November 17th, at 1:00pm. If you work with Revolving Loan Funds, you will enjoy visiting with your colleagues and comparing best practices.
- **MEDA Scholarship Committee** – Marie Hirsch, Chair, has called a meeting to discuss new scholarship opportunities for MEDA Members. Join us on November 5th at 9am.

MEDA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – The Impact of Storytelling

About 18 people participated in the in-depth storytelling workshop with instructor Marc Moss, of Tell Us Something. It was learned that data can provide information, but the story behind the data is what will make the issue or topic memorable.

All participants agreed the training was hard work but incredibly valuable. Hear some of the stories during MEDA Happy Hour on November 6th, at 11am.



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.

To learn more about
Rise and Shine
or to register,
click [here](#).

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Nov 10th
11am - 1pm



Rise & Restore
SMALL BUSINESS VIRTUAL SUMMIT

In response to COVID-19, Headwaters RC&D has partnered with Great Northern Development Corporation, America's Small Business Development Center of Montana and Montana Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program to present the Rise & Restore Small Business Virtual Summit. This event will take place on November 10, 2020, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM via Zoom. Join us for a timely talk and sneak previews of speakers, topics and the Minnow Tank competition being presented at our live conference in Spring 2021.



**Resident Recruitment in Rural America:
Capitalizing on COVID-19 Influx of New Talent into Montana**

Ben Winchester has been working both in and for small towns across the Midwest for over 25 years. He lives in St. Cloud, Minnesota with his wife and two children. Ben is trained as a Rural Sociologist and works as a Senior Research Fellow for the University of Minnesota Extension. His applied research on economic, social, and demographic topics surrounding the theme of "rewriting the rural narrative" is a new way of looking at rural America. Winchester received his B.A. in Mathematics and Statistics from the University of Minnesota, Morris (1995), and M.S. in Rural Sociology from the University of Missouri, Columbia (2001). He was a founding employee at the Center for Small Towns, an outreach and engagement program at the University of Minnesota, Morris and specializes in community development, demographic analysis, data visualization, and moving communities away from anecdotal.

- ⇒ **Did you miss the webinar on the Opportunity Development Cooperatives:** Local Solutions by Local People- Building Resiliency through Opportunity Development Cooperatives (also known as Investing Cooperatives)? Don't worry we have it recorded with all of the webinar materials included. Visit our [MCDC Website today](#) and please share within your network.
- ⇒ **ITRR Report: The Montana Expression 2020: Residents' Attitudes Towards Tourism**
The report is a summary of Montana residents' attitudes toward tourism during the summer of the 2020 pandemic. Data were collected during 3rd quarter (July through September) 2020. The pandemic has dramatically changed travel and tourism patterns in an unprecedented fashion.

Anecdotal evidence suggested that visitors to the state were different this year, and residents appeared fairly unhappy about them being in Montana. This study was conducted to determine if residents' attitudes toward visitors and the travel industry have indeed changed. To see the full report, click [here](#).
- ⇒ [IEDC Training Courses List](#)

National Veterans Small Business Week

Nov 2 – 6, 2020 | sba.gov/nvsbw

[Registration and more Information](#)



⇒ Do-It-Yourself Visitor Surveys for Parks, Trails and the Towns that Serve Them

Three one hour sessions (Nov. 19, Dec 3 & 10) + optional Q & A Session on December 17th.

<https://www.harbingerconsult.com/visitor-surveys>

⇒ Montana Innovation Partnership is producing videos to share success stories of Montana SBIR clients. Here is a link to the first short (4.5min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqSulASVrZo>.

GRANT RESOURCES

⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password.

⇒ Check out this [grant source](#) from the University of Montana.

⇒ The **Montana Business Adaptability Grant Program** is still accepting applications. The deadline to apply is November 15, 2020. For more information on eligibility requirements or to apply, visit [COVIDRELIEF.MT.GOV](https://www.covidrelief.mt.gov).

⇒ The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF) **Workforce Recovery program** is designed to support Montana businesses that had to lay-off employees and/or reduce the hours of the employee to part-time status due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Commerce will reimburse Montana businesses based on the growth of jobs up to pre COVID-19 levels. Please [reference the guidelines](#) for further information on the program. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted or December 31, 2020, whichever comes first. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

⇒ **MSU Extension** has a great list of grants!
<http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>

⇒ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will begin accepting grant applications for four recreation grant programs on **Monday, November 2, at 12:00 p.m.** via the online system at funding.mt.gov.

Applications for the following grant programs are due by Monday, February 1, 2021:

- **New! Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program**

- **New! Summer Motorized Trail Pass Grant Program**
- **Recreational Trails Program**
- **Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Program**

FWP is offering virtual training sessions for prospective applicants from October through January. These sessions are free and highly recommended for new and returning applicants to any of the four grant programs. During the training, FWP staff will provide tips on writing a competitive application, using the grant management software to submit an application, and understanding differences and similarities between programs. Online trainings via Zoom will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday, November 5, 2020: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 8, 2020: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 7, 2021: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For more information on attending a grant application training session or applying to one of these opportunities, visit STATEPARKS.MT.GOV/RECREATION. For full press release, click [here](#).



MDOC in the Spotlight

Commerce Department Launches Program to Provide Legal Assistance for Montanans Facing Pandemic-Related Evictions

Deadline: November 10th

The Montana Department of Commerce announced a new partnership with the Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) to form the Montana Eviction Intervention Project, a new program that will provide civil legal assistance for Montanans facing evictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This partnership is to make sure Montana renters have access to free legal resources that can provide information, guidance and support so people can stay in their homes and not have to worry about possibly being evicted,” Montana Department of Commerce Director Tara Rice said. **“The Montana Eviction Intervention Project will help financially stressed Montanans who are facing an eviction with free legal representation before or during an eviction proceeding.”**

The COVID-19 public health emergency has more adversely affected people who normally live paycheck-to-paycheck and are suddenly out of work and struggle to pay for food or rent. Although there are some civil legal solutions available for struggling renters, they are often too complicated to navigate without support from legal or housing experts. For example, the current nationwide [Centers for Disease Control eviction moratorium](#) contains numerous complex legal requirements.

Through the Montana Eviction Intervention Project, MLSA will work with Justices of the Peace and Clerks for Limited Jurisdiction Courts across the state, as well as the Supreme Court’s Office of the Court Administrator to develop a referral system for people who are representing themselves in an eviction and connect those people with an attorney to provide legal services.

"We are excited to be able to launch the Montana Eviction Intervention Project with the support of the Department of Commerce and the Governor's Office," MLSA Executive Director Alison Paul said. "This project will provide valuable legal representation to Montanans struggling to get by in these difficult times. Through the project, the Montana Legal Services Association will help Montanans avoid illegal evictions, negotiate with landlords to obtain additional days to move out and plan an alternative home, connect with available social services, educate judges on the new eviction ban and avoid negative legal judgements for tenants. The goal of these services is to decrease the number of homeless Montanans during the coronavirus public health emergency "

The Montana Eviction Intervention Project is supported by a \$70,000 grant provided by the Montana Department of Commerce using federal CARES Act funding. The program will continue to assist Montanans who are facing an eviction and need legal assistance until December 30, 2020. For more information visit MONTANALAWHELP.ORG or call 1.800.666.6899.

Montana renters who have lost income due to COVID-19 may be eligible for monthly rent assistance through the Emergency Housing Assistance program. The deadline to apply is Nov. 10, 2020. Apply at COVIDRELIEF.MT.GOV.

THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

Gold	Silver	Bronze
	 	    

November 2020