



## Online News 2019



Nov 1: [GTA](#) Grant Deadline  
Nov 1: MEDA Scholarship Deadline  
Nov 1 – 3: [Startup Weekend Billings](#)  
Nov 7: Free business webinar: [Valuation](#)  
Nov 15: [WGA Broadband and Mapping Webinar](#)  
Nov 17-19: PNWER [Economic Leadership Forum](#)  
Nov 20: [Gov't Contracting Matchmaking Event](#)  
Nov 22: [HOME](#) and [HTF](#) Applications due



Dec 5: Webinar – [Start your Side Hustle](#)  
Dec: [Various Dates Free Safety ½ Day Workshops](#)

[MT Women's Biz Center](#)  
[SBDC Training Calendar](#)  
[MNA Training Calendar](#)  
[MMEC Training Calendar](#)

## MT NEXT GENERATION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY TOOLS PROJECT *NEEDS YOUR HELP!*

After rankings, reviews, and interviews, the MEDA Board selected [TIP Strategies](#) to conduct the MT Next Generation of Economic and Community Development Tools study. While a contract is being drafted, now is the time to use the powerful MEDA network and raise funds for the study. Once funds are raised, this critical work can begin. Please use YOUR network and reach out for funding support.

[Letter to Members](#)      [Letter to Partners](#)



We're In This Together

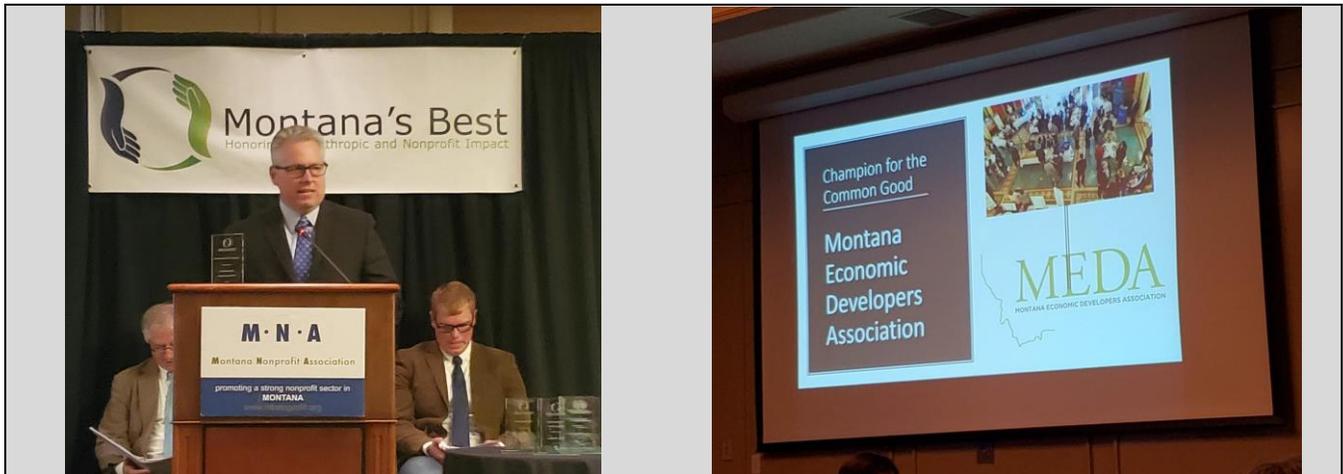
## SAVE THE DATE – THINK SPRING

The MEDA 2020 Spring Conference will be held in Kalispell, May 12 – 14th.

## YOUR MEDA BOARD AT WORK

The MEDA Board has been working all out with the Next Generation of Economic and Community Tools study as well as making recommendations to MT Dept. of Commerce for the person(s) to lead Montana Opportunity Zone activities. If you haven't already, please donate to support the NextGen study and be watching for news on next steps with Montana Opportunity Zones. In addition, the MEDA Executive Committee held a working lunch with MT Dept. of Commerce leadership to become better acquainted and to discuss projects in which MEDA is collaborating.

## AN EXCITING OCTOBER FOR MEDA – STORY IN PICTURES



President Steve Arveschoug accepts the “Champion for the Common Good” award from Montana Nonprofit Association. Thanks to Paul Tuss for submitting the nomination.



WeCAN (Western Community Assessment Network) was invited to Dayton, Ohio, to share with the Kettering Foundation the research gleaned to date. The MEDA Innovation Award was shared with the Kettering Foundation along with Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.

## MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

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

- **Wind Projects, Anyone?** - This group held its first meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Check out the notes and the resources [here](#). If you are interested in learning/sharing about wind projects in Montana, plan to join the group.
- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group met on September 17<sup>th</sup> and had a guest speaker regarding DownHome. [Notes from the call](#).
- **MEDA Opportunity Zone Working Group** – While this group has not met (a meeting is pending soon), you can learn from the MT Dept. of Commerce [presentation](#) shared at the NADC conference this summer.

- **MEDA Remote Work Working Group** –The next meeting is pending. Review [the previous minutes here](#) and check out the interesting [Grow Remote](#) website.
- **CRDCs Working Group** – Montana's Certified Regional Development Corporations recently met in Great Falls to exchange ideas and strategize regarding economic development work across Montana.

## PHASE 2 COMMUNITY REVIEW – Fort Benton

A great MEDA Community Review team met in Fort Benton, October 29 -30, to conduct Phase 2 of the process. In this phase, action plans are created, a steering committee is formed, and a coach is selected. Thanks to our fabulous Visiting Team members: Gayle Fisher, Central Montana Tourism; Susan Joy, MT Dept. of Commerce, Made in Montana Program Manager; Dorothy Meyer, Montana West, Marketing and Communications; and Kacey Pilon, MT Dept. of Commerce, Infrastructure Program Specialist. The Fort Benton Chamber was the leader of the Home Team with support from Bear Paw Development.



## FYI: LEGISLATIVE INTERIM COMMITTEES TO MEET

- [Interim Economic Affairs Committee meets November 7<sup>th</sup>.](#)
- [State Tribal Relations Committee meets November 11 – 12<sup>th</sup>.](#)

## FOURTH QUARTER ROUND - MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS

The fourth quarter deadline for MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship is today, November 1<sup>st</sup>. [Apply here.](#)



### MAKE IT COUNT!

The Census has been a cornerstone of our democracy since the first national count in 1790. On the [website](#), you can find not just Montana talking points and flyers, but materials from the U.S. Census Bureau. [Checkout a terrific Census2020 video.](#)

## MEDA MEMBERS UPDATE

MEDA's Membership Committee, chaired by Chris Cerquone, is preparing to meet to consider new membership options and categories. Currently, only individuals can be a member of MEDA rather than agencies or corporations.

Retired MEDA Member Ken Richardson had some fun placing his WITT hat in scenic photos along his travels. Thanks, Ken!





Located in the industrial park near Butte, Montana, the malthouse is designed to produce 10,000 tons of malt per year, with the capacity to scale to increased production as needed. The business is a new manufacturing plant in Butte-Silver Bow, and adds value to Montana grown barley malts, that will then be sold to craft breweries in Montana and other states. This business is a startup project founded by the late Ron Euland, along with six other investors.

Through a grant of \$111,000 from the Big Sky Trust Fund program with the Montana Department of Commerce, the business has created 5 of the 15 proposed jobs in Butte-Silver Bow. The grant will assist with the purchase of the custom equipment and machinery to be used at the facility.



## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Montana has many business assistance tools [here](#). Want to receive updates from the Department of Commerce? Subscribe to receive [email updates here](#).



- ⇒ Check out the updated website from **MSU Extension** and their great list of grants! <http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ [The Montana History Foundation](#) is offering \$160,000 in grant funding in 2020, beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. The History Foundation will provide grants up to \$10,000 for projects that help preserve and protect Montana's history. Previously, the foundation provided grants up to \$5,000. Doubling the available grant funding will help the History Foundation reach its goal of investing \$1,000,000 statewide by 2020. Tax exempt organizations can apply for funds to preserve buildings and cemeteries, conserve and exhibit collections, collect oral histories and more. Funding details and the application link can be found on <https://www.mthistory.org/grants/>. The grant cycle opens November 1<sup>st</sup> and applications are **due by January 10, 2020**. Contact [Grants Manager Carissa Beckwith](#) with any questions, or to discuss your project before applying. She can be reached at (406) 449-3770.
- ⇒ **Montana Main Street Program FY20 Application Cycle Opens November 15.** The Department of Commerce Community Development Division will begin accepting Montana Main Street Program grant applications for the FY20 application cycle on November 15, 2019. The Montana Main Street Program awards grant funding to member communities on a competitive basis and as funding allows. Applications are evaluated by the Department of Commerce in the order that they are received and grants will be awarded on a continual basis until all funds are allocated. Funding can be used to address long range community planning and revitalization needs as well as more specific prioritized projects. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate the implementation of larger community vision and goals or as they relate to previous or concurrent larger planning efforts (such as a downtown revitalization plan, growth policy, historic preservation plan, etc.). For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

If you have questions regarding the application process or guidelines, please contact our office to work with a Montana Main Street team member at 406.841.2770 or by email at [DOCCDD@mt.gov](mailto:DOCCDD@mt.gov)

⇒ **Big Sky Trust Fund (BSTF) Economic Development Grants**

The next BSTF Job Creation and Planning Grant deadline is **December 18, 2019**.

Planning funds are awarded to eligible applicants to assist with economic development planning efforts that promote long-term, stable economic growth in Montana. Applications which support a critical activity to move an economic development project forward and directly assist a basic sector company are the highest priority for the Department. For more information, click [MARKETMT.COM/BSTF](http://MARKETMT.COM/BSTF).

⇒ The **FY20 Guidelines for Brownfields, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) Grants** have been released and are now available on the [Office of Brownfields and Revitalization webpage](#). Click the buttons below for the full guidelines! *Note: There is no competition this year for multipurpose grants.* The deadline for receipt of proposals is **December 3, 2019, 11:59 p.m.** Eastern Time (ET). Applications must be submitted through [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) using the "Workspace" feature. Information on the Workspace feature can be found at the [Workspace Overview Page](#).

Assessment Grant

RLF Grant

Cleanup Grant

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

⇒ **USDA Seeks Applications for Rural Economic Development Grants**

The grants can be used for business startup costs; business expansion; business incubators; technical assistance feasibility studies; advanced telecommunications services and computer networks for medical, educational, and job training services; and community facilities projects for economic development. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing Technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

Application deadlines are Second Quarter, Dec. 31, 2019; Third Quarter, March 31, 2020; and Fourth Quarter, June 30, 2020. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. local time at the Rural Development state office where the project will be located. For a list of offices, visit the [state office website](#).

⇒ The **MDOC/CDD Housing Trust Fund Program (HTF)** is an affordable housing production program that will complement existing federal, State, and local efforts to increase the supply of decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing for extremely low income (ELI) households, including special needs households, homeless households, and those at risk of homelessness. Applications are due November 22, 2019. [More info](#)