



Online News 2019



Oct 2 – 4: MT Nonprofit [“Breakthrough” Conference](#)
Oct 3: Free webinar: [Promote with LinkedIn](#)
Oct 2 – 4: [MT League of Cities & Towns Conference](#)
Oct 4: [New deadline for DLA aps](#)
Oct 9: [Launching of Billings 1 M Cups](#)
Oct 14-16: [Innovate MT](#)
Oct 19 -20: [NADO Annual Training](#)
Oct 24: [BSEDA Annual Meeting](#)
Oct 28: [Coal Board Applications Due](#)



Nov 1: [GTA](#) Grant Deadline
Nov 1: MEDA Scholarship Deadline
Nov 1 – 3: [Startup Weekend Billings](#)
Nov 17-19: PNWER [Economic Leadership Forum](#)
Nov 22: [HOME](#) and [HTF](#) Applications due

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

LEWISTOWN WAS AM M M M AZING!



Thanks to everyone who contributed to a fabulous conference in Lewistown, starting with our host: Snowy Mountain Development. From presenters, to sponsors, to attendees, the conference was terrific. Even the weather cooperated!

If you had to miss it all, check out the

[MEDA Fall Conference Summary](#)

MEDA RFP UPDATE

MEDA published an RFP titled “Montana Next Generation Economic and Community Development Tools.” The outcome of this study will be an analysis to redefine the essential economic and community development tools to drive Montana’s economic future. Nine firms responded to the RFP; each proposal will be ranked by the committee with the MEDA Board making the final decision. In addition, if you would be interested in financially supporting this study, please contact the MEDA office at 406.563.5259. We’re In This Together!



MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

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

- **Wind Projects, Anyone?** - It is uncertain if a formal working group will form, but Steve Simonson has pulled together a conference call on October 1st for those interested in discussion wind project across Montana. The call will be held at 8:45am; let the MEDA office know if you would like to join the group.
- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, Chair. This group met on September 17th 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.

YOUR MEDA BOARD AT WORK

The MEDA Board met in Lewistown, immediately following the conference on Friday, September 13th. On the agenda: Next Generation of Tools RFP, Opportunity Zone RFP, Spring Conference, revamping MEDA’s membership options, and much more.



MEDA MEMBERS UPDATE

Welcome to our newest MEDA Member: Kay Reynolds. Kay is President/CEO of Resources and Tools for Business Success, and resides in Missoula.

Angie Nelson, formerly with the Growth through Agriculture program has taken a new job serving as a Budget Analysis for the Governor's Office. Eric Seidensticker is the new Director for the Food and Ag Center with Headwaters, RC&D.

FOURTH QUARTER ROUND - MEDA SCHOLARSHIPS

The fourth quarter deadline for MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship is November 1st. [Apply here.](#)

WANTED: TEAM MEMBERS FOR FORT BENTON

While the Whitehall Community Review has been postponed, there is news from Fort Benton: a date change. Phase 2 will begin in Fort Benton on October 29th – 30th. If you are interested in serving on a team, please contact MEDA at 406.563.5259. For more general information on the process visit <https://www.communityreview.org/> and <http://www.medamembers.org/resources/community-reviews>



[Checkout a terrific Census2020 video.](#) 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.

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.



- Three critical reports have just been released regarding manufacturing in Montana.

<p>2019 Montana Manufacturing Report New</p> <p>Read the full 2019 State of Montana Manufacturing Executive Summary</p>	<p>2019 Montana Manufacturers Survey New</p> <p>Read the full 2019 Montana Manufacturers Survey</p>	<p>2019 Evaluation & Economic Impact of MMEC New</p> <p>Read the full Evaluation and Economic Impact report</p>
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- [Montana's Economy at a Glance Report](#)

- **EDA Launches Opportunity Zones Resource Webpage**
MEDA conference attendees indicated a high interest in Opportunity Zones. The [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#) (EDA) is encouraging its economic development partners to find ways to highlight Opportunity Zones in their regions in order to attract investment and encourage public-private partnerships. EDA has created an [EDA Opportunity Zones Webpage](#) for economic development stakeholders and others to use as a resource to help them foster job creation and attract private investment. Click [here](#) to access the EDA resource page.

Small Business Webinar Series: Marketing on LinkedIn

This webinar digs in to making the most of LinkedIn to promote the work that you do. [Register](#) It is free! October 3rd, 11:00am – 11:30am.

Small Business Webinar Series 2019

Marketing on LinkedIn

**Thursday, October 3rd, 2019
11 AM, MST**

LinkedIn hosts over 590 million professionals who represent the largest group of influential, affluent, and educated people anywhere. Find out what content to share, which products suit your needs, and how much time you'll spend daily or weekly to ensure your brand stays in front of the people who matter most to your business.

Register at <https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4177>

Host experts provide an overview of small business development topics and phone in or type or chat questions or comments. We will follow-up with requests for additional information. All webinars are free and open the public at 11 AM (for 30 min) and will be recorded and archived.

- Join the webinar live or access the recorded webinar and see additional resources at <http://www.mta.com/multipurposedevelopment.org/smallbusiness.html>
- For questions, email commdev@montana.edu

Webinar Series Sponsors



Additional Support



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Please contact commdev@montana.edu or (406) 594-1100.

The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Title IX Affirmative Action Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.



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Program and Business Spotlight

[International Truck Body](#) (ITB) started as a Truck Body Manufacturer making parcel delivery vans as well as Grain Dump Bodies for the agriculture industry. ITB has produced over 10,000 of these van since the late 70's and they are still producing them today. ITB products are engineered for rugged, real-life industrial and military applications.

ITB designs and manufactures aluminum products for a variety of applications, utilizing their proprietary Snaplock design. Production includes Flight Line Tow Tractors for the U.S. Air Force, Vehicle loading ramps for C-130 cargo airplanes, and others. The flight Line Tow vehicles are used to pull around aircraft up to 70,000 lbs. around the flight deck around the world. The auxiliary ramp is the preferred ramp for quickly loading and unloading vehicles into the C-130 cargo aircraft.

The company was originally located in Conrad Montana and in 2018 moved its operations to Anaconda. The business refurbished the Arbitrator Building.

In 2017, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County received a \$97,500 BSTF grant to assist ITB. To date, they have created 22 net new jobs. The business also received a \$30,000 Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant to assist with the training of the new jobs.

Cory Riley, Operations Manager said, *"We couldn't do our business without relationships and partnerships like those with MEDA and MDOC."*



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>
- ⇒ **ExportMontana - Montana Trade Show Assistance**
Are you planning on exhibiting at any U.S. trade shows outside Montana between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020? If so, we have grant funds available to reimburse you for up to \$3,000 of your expenses. Our [trade show assistance program](#) can help you with out-of-state market expansion by exhibiting at U.S. trade shows. The application process is simple and approval is fast. Fill out the [trade show assistance application](#) and return it to us up to 15 days before you exhibit. Once you return from the show, you then fill out a reimbursement request, provide receipts, and we send your reimbursement within 14 days.
- ⇒ 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](#)
- ⇒ The **MDOC/CDD HOME** Program strives to partner with local governments and organizations to:
- Expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for very low-income and low-income Montanans (those at or below 80% of area median income); and
 - Mobilize and strengthening the abilities of units of local governments, public housing authorities, community housing development organizations, and other organizations to implement strategies for achieving an adequate supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing. [Application Info](#)
- ⇒ The **DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL)** is now accepting planning grant applications. Register and apply at www.fundingmt.org. Planning grants are available to government entities for planning activities which lead to an RRGL program project application to conserve, manage, develop or protect a renewable resource in Montana. The program **does not** cover costs associated with final design, aquatic invasive species, in-kind activity, or indirect and/or program costs. For more

information visit our [website](#) or contact our program staff at 444-9766 or Involve@mt.gov Program Guidance ([pdf](#))



[GTA Website](#)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Projects should primarily add value to Montana's agricultural products and create/retain jobs in Montana.

Projects should be consistent with the Growth Through Agriculture Act. (gta.mt.gov)

Match - \$1 for \$1 match required.

To get started: contact Food and Agriculture Development Center network (foodandag.mt.gov) and/or SmallBusiness Development Center network (sbdc.mt.gov).

Maximum funding: \$150,000 (up to \$100,000 in loan funding; up to \$50,000 in grant funding).

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

equipment purchases
construction costs
consultant services/
engineering costs

APPLY ONLINE

fundingmt.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1, 2019



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