



MEDA

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

Online News 2020



Oct 1: MEDA Value Added Ag Working Group, 3pm
Oct 1: MACo Annual Conference (last day)
Oct 6 – 8: [Big Sky Business Insight Summit](#)
Oct 7 – 9: MT League of Cities and Towns Virtual Conf
Oct 7, 21: PTAC [Webinar](#) – Free
Oct 12: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
Oct 13 – 15: [MEDA Conference and Forum](#)
Oct 13 – 15: [Business of Outdoor Summit](#)
Oct 13 – 16: [IEDC Annual Conference](#)
Oct 13: [ReImagine Rural](#)
Oct 19 – 23: Tell Us Something Workshops
Oct 20 – 22: [NADO Training Conference](#)
Oct 26: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
Oct 27-28 [MT Chamber Annual Meeting](#)
Oct 28: [Strong Towns](#)



Nov 1: MEDA 4th Quarter Scholarship Deadline
Nov 4 – 6: [NREDA Virtual Conference](#)
Nov 5 – 6: [IEDC Business Retention Course](#)
Nov 9: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
Nov 23: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm

**MEDA Fall Conference and
Candidate Forum**
We're In This Together
October 13 - 15

**[AGENDA, REGISTRATION, AND
PAYMENT INFORMATION](#)**

We're In This Together



October 13 – 15, 2020

MEDA Virtual Fall Conference

The MEDA Fall Conference and Candidate Forum is designed to bring you maximum information with minimum Zoom fatigue. You may register for all three segments of content and pop in and out as you choose. You will not want to miss the MEDA 2020 Awards, candidate forums, Tell Us Something, legislative strategy time, and the formation of MT Next Generation of Community and Economic Development Tools strategies.

Cost: \$40 [Payment Link](#) Payment does not register you for the conference.

[Register Here to be emailed the Zoom Link](#) Note: Pre-registration is required.

MEDA MEMBER NEWS

MEDA's membership continues to grow! We have a new Bronze Membership Sponsor: Montana Cooperative Development Center. Memberships with this sponsor level include Tracy McIntyre, Juanetta Keeler, Donnie Harvell, and Davey Madison. Thanks, MCDC, for your support. Another new member, Robert Camoin, comes to us all the way from New York. Robert owns Camoin Associates and is doing economic development work in Montana. Learn more about Camoin Associates [here](#).



Many of you may remember a colleague who recently passed away: Mitch Copp. Mitch worked for over 35 years with USDA in Wyoming and Montana. Mitch was key to countless project success stories all across Montana.

A MEDA member was recently honored. The Montana Small Business Development Center Network, headquartered at the Montana Department of Commerce, announced recently that Regional SBDC Director for the Wolf Point Region Shandy Hanks Moran has been named the 2020 Montana "State Star." The State Star is a national honor that recognizes outstanding performers from Small Business Development Centers around the country.



2020 MEDA AWARDS



At long last, MEDA's 2020 Award Winners will be announced. To learn of the winners "live" you must register for the MEDA conference and join us at 8:30am, October 13th. [Register here](#).



MT NEXT GENERATION OF TOOLS REPORT NOW ONLINE

You will want to take some time to review and become familiar with the Montana Next Generation of Community and Economic Development Tools Report. The [final version](#) is now online for your thoughtful review. Please be prepared to share your thoughts and comments during the MEDA Fall Conference, October 13 – 15.

TELL US SOMETHING and more MEDA scholarships



The MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Q4 is now open; deadline is November 1st. [Apply today](#).

Thanks to MT CARES Act funding, MEDA is offering scholarships for a very unique Professional Development Training. You will be introduced to the importance of storytelling in your community and economic development network during the MEDA conference. This introduction will no doubt convince you to sign up for MEDA Professional Development workshops October 19 – 23, with Marc Moss. A special event will be held the end of October for your stories to be shared. Just think how this training will prepare you for the fast approaching Legislative session!

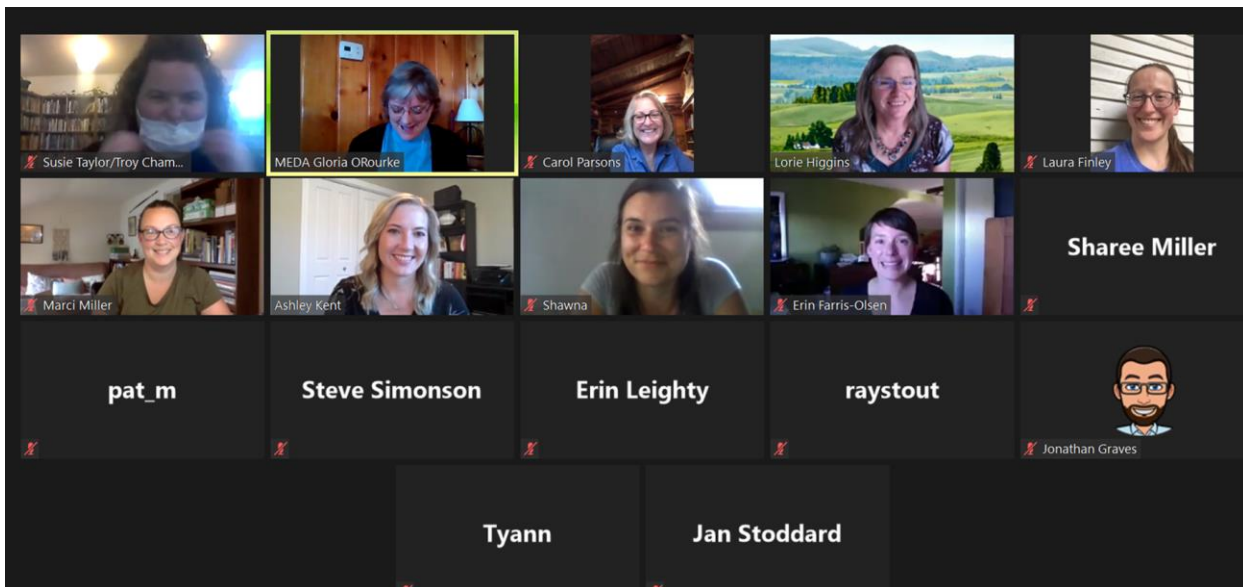
[Register for the Tell Us Something MEDA Professional Development Training](#)

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](#). Next meeting: October 1st, 3pm.
- **MEDA Community Review Working Group** - This [working group](#) is all about assisting with MEDA's Community Review process and switching to a virtual format. The group is also considering a "neighborhood" assessment for areas such as Billings Heights. Troy is Montana's first virtual Community Review. 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. [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 has begun meeting with Rick Edwards serving as Chair; if you would like to join in the conversations, contact [Gloria](#). MEDA is gearing up for the 2021 Legislative Session.

MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW - Troy



We did it! The Troy Home Team and the Troy Visiting Teams have conducted both Phase 1 and Phase 2 to move Troy forward. Listening Sessions took place September 8 – 10 with a virtual town hall meeting held the night of the 10th. You can watch the Town Hall Meeting, read the Phase 1 Report and review the powerpoint for presentations [here](#). Phase 2 took place September 28th; a dynamic visiting team joined the people of Troy virtually to dig deep into issues the community wishes to address. For more information on Community Reviews, visit [WeCAN](#).

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.

- ⇒ [Some great reading for you](#) from Maury Forman



- ⇒ Learn to conduct Ripple Effects Mapping [Register](#) Ripple Effects Mapping — Capturing the Stories of Impact in Community Programs THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 12, 2020

[Register Here for the Summit](#)



- ⇒ [IEDC Training Courses List](#)

USDA Implements *the OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative*
USDA is implementing the [OneRD Guarantee Loan Initiative](#), that will help lenders apply for loan guarantees to support rural businesses, infrastructure and community facilities and increase private investments in rural America.



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.
- ⇒ **MSU Extension** has a great list of grants!
<http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ **USDA Value Added Producer Grants** Cooperatives may receive priority when they apply for the [Value-Added Producer Grant \(VAPG\)](#). The VAPG program helps agricultural producers to fund new processing facilities with the goal of creating new products and expanding on marketing opportunities. The maximum grant amount is \$250,000.



MDOC in the Spotlight:

6 Made in Montana Companies to Produce 'Montana Aware' Masks

25,000 masks will be distributed to Montana's Convention and Visitors Bureaus and Tourism Regions



In a press release in late September, the Montana Department of Commerce announced that six Made in Montana program members will produce 25,000 masks as part of the state's "[Montana Aware](#)" initiative to promote safe and responsible fall travel. The following six companies will produce the masks at their Montana-based facilities: Montana Robe Company in Belgrade, Glacier Clothing Company in Columbia Falls, Rebekah Jarvey in Havre, 406 Creative Vibe in Missoula, REcreate Designs in Polson, and Red Ants Pants in White Sulphur Springs.

“Made in Montana companies across the state have stepped up during the pandemic to provide goods and services to keep people healthy and safe,” Commerce Director Tara Rice said. **“This partnership is an opportunity to support local small businesses, promote the important Montana Aware message to visitors, and continue to encourage responsible public health practices.”**

The Department of Commerce will use a portion of its tourism safety allocation of Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars to make the masks available to Montana’s 19 Convention and Visitors Bureaus and six tourism regions. The CVBs and regions can then distribute free masks to travelers during the fall season. Read the [full press release here](#).

THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

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October 2020