

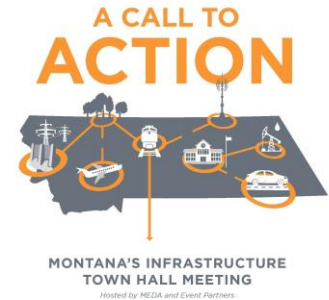


## NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2015

### WARNING! WARNING!

### MEDA EARLY BIRD RATE ENDS Oct 5<sup>th</sup>

If you have not yet registered, save \$\$ by registering today. Check out the updated agenda for both the conference and the MT Infrastructure – Call to Action Town Hall Meeting. [AGENDA](#) and [REGISTRATION](#) Plan on obtaining information to sharpen the tools in your economic development tool box and enjoying networking as only MEDA can provide.



### Catch the Main Street Montana Project [Symposium](#) prior to MEDA:



### TWO KEY ROLL-OUTS:

#### ⇒ MDOC/Montana Office of Tourism and Economic Development

As anyone closely involved with Montana economic development knows, big changes took place in MT Dept. of Commerce on July 1<sup>st</sup> with the merging of the Business Development Division with Montana Tourism Division. The new division, Montana Office of Tourism and Economic Development is sure to more closely align business development efforts, community planning, and tourism resources. Visit the website and become familiar with the five bureau chiefs: <http://www.marketmt.com>

#### ⇒ ChooseMT

According to Governor Bullock's recent Labor Day Report, in the next 10 years, state businesses are expected to create 6,500 new jobs per year, but the labor force is expected to grow by only 4,100 workers per year. The ChooseMontana initiative is designed to appeal to a new generation of workers and early retirees who miss their home state, and/or visitors to Montana who want to enjoy Montana's quality of life year round. Another goal is to retain workers who are already receiving an education in Montana by creating more apprenticeships, internships to expose students to the work arena and continue dual enrollment classes, which have doubled in recent years, for high school students. <http://www.choosemontana.com>



## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The MEDA Scholarship Committee recently announced the successful applicants for the 3rd Quarter MEDA/Rick Jones Scholarship: \$1000 to Kathie Bailey of Snowy Mountain Development with headquarters in Lewistown. Funds allowed Kathie to join other community members at the NACA/NADO Coal Reliant Community Innovation Challenge Workshop. \$250 each was awarded to John Wingart of Lake County Development and Jennifer Ewan of Missoula Economic Partnership who are both working toward professional certifications from EIDC and NDC. Don't forget the Fourth Quarter [MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship](#) Round deadline is deadline to submit 11.16.2015 – award notice by December 1st (award 12.1.2015 to 3.1.2016)

## MEDA AWARDS UPDATE



A very special segment of the MEDA Fall Conference will be to announce, recognize, and present the first ever MEDA Awards for innovation and excellence in economic development. You will want to stay for the lunch and closing on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, and be a part of this celebration.



## MEDA WORKING GROUPS

- **MEDA RLF Working Group is Rolling Again** – The MEDA RLF Working Group is back on track with Tiffany Melby serving as Chair. The group will meet the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00am. View the minutes (thanks, Sammie Chagnon) [on the working group website](#). If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Gloria at the [MEDA office](#).
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – The first meeting of the MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Participants discussed two main areas of focus: improving the current process and adjusting the current process to meet planning document data collection needs. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation. A regular meeting schedule will soon be set.

## MEDA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

MEDA's membership now stands at 247. To review all of the benefits of membership, [visit our webpage](#). New to MEDA: Mel Lehman, Great Falls College – MSU; and Angela Grinolds, Headwaters RC& D. Welcome!

## GRANTS AND FUNDING

- [Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants](#) Extension Community Resources Program weblink. Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
- The **Northwest Trade Adjustment Assistance Center**, a non-profit, helps manufacturing companies fund improvement projects of their choice. Eligible companies can receive up to \$75,000 in matching grant funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to fund these projects. Companies must show they have been impacted due to low-priced import competition. NTAAC quickly assess a company's eligibility and prepares, submits and tracks the application, cost free. Visit the website for more information [www.nwtaac.org](http://www.nwtaac.org) or contact Patrick Meuleman Phone: 208-343-6855
- The Department of Energy is launching a new program called the **Small Business Voucher** pilot that will give small businesses focused on clean energy access to technical expertise at national labs - including Idaho National Lab (INL). If a business or individual is interested or has questions contact me Brian Spangler, DEQ, [406-444-6459](tel:406-444-6459) and visit the website at <http://www.sbv.org>

- **GRANTSTATION:** [Click here to read the entire newsletter](#) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email [MEDA](#) for the username and password.



## Highlights for September or read the [Full Report](#)

### IWT FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE

According to the new schedule, Second Quarter Funds are now available (October 1<sup>st</sup>) for Incumbent Worker Training Grants.

### BEAR OUTREACH DATA FOR SEPTEMBER

Number of business surveys or contacts: 17

Flathead County - 2	Anaconda/Deer Lodge County - 1	Stillwater County - 1
	Gallatin County - 13	

### BEAR Team Members conducting visits:

Mike Jackson - 2	Warren Vaughan - 13	Kim Morisaki - 1
Joel Bertolino - 1	Jillann Knutson - 1	Gloria O'Rourke - 1

### OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS 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.

- ⇒ Join the **MT Dept. of Commerce Tourism Town Hall Meeting:** Monday, October 5th from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the Montana Roadhouse, 904 3rd Ave. SW, White Sulphur Springs, MT. Read the details [here](#).
- ⇒ Schedule a meeting! **The Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Division (CDD)** is excited about the HOME and CDBG Economic Development program changes. HOME and CDBG-ED staff are preparing to make hit the road this fall/early winter to meet with individuals. CDD will reserve a space in each location and be available to meet with your organization individually or with a group. CDD has prepared a meeting agenda and expect each meeting will be approximately an hour to hour and a half.
  - \* **October 19-20th - Hamilton and Missoula**      \* **October 21st - Kalispell**
  - \* **November 16th - Great Falls**      \* **November 17th - Havre**
  - \* **December 1st - Miles City**      \* **December 3rd - Bozeman**
 Send an email titled *HOME/CDBG-ED Meetings* to [DOCCDBG@mt.gov](mailto:DOCCDBG@mt.gov) or [DOCHOME@mt.gov](mailto:DOCHOME@mt.gov) to reserve a meeting time. In this email, please identify your organization, the individual(s) who will participate, and **two** times that are most convenient for you in case of conflict. Questions? Contact [\(406\) 841-2770](tel:4068412770)