



Montana's Next Generation Economic and Community Development Tools

An analysis to redefine the Essential Economic and Community Development Tools and Strategies to Drive Montana's Economic Future

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED:

1. What is the anticipated start date for the project?

October or early November 2019

2. When would you like the project completed?

April-May 2020

3. Was the RFP sent directly to any firms? If so, how many?

MEDA did not send to firms directly; our members did send out across their networks.

4. Who is the selection committee? We are trying to get an idea of the number of members and organizations represented.

The selection committee consists of representatives from three Certified Regional Development Corporations, one Economic Development Organization, and one engineering firm. The committee will make recommendations to the board for the final selection.

5. What is the budget for the project? Simply trying to understand the capacity for scoping as the budget would give an indication of the desired scale for the project.

MEDA is securing partnerships and our target goal for this project is \$120,000.

6. Will a committee of the membership be assigned as the core working group or steering committee during the project? How big do you anticipate this group will be?

Yes, a Steering Committee will be assigned to serve as the core working group with representation from MEDA, local government, industry, etc. Seven to nine people will be immediately involved.

7. Who will be the lead point of contact for MEDA on the project?

Gloria O'Rourke will be the point of contact and will distribute information accordingly.

8. I am interested in potentially teaming with another firm. Will a list of participants in the pre-proposal call be available after the call so we can make those contacts?

No, this should be done through each consultant's network.

9. What are the evaluation criteria/points for ranking proposals?

- a. Priority 1. Scope of Work – understanding and fulfilling the intent.
- b. Priority 2. Timing – timeframe appropriate with ours
- c. Priority 3. Personnel - qualifications
- d. Priority 4. Budget range

10. Since MT is a large state with a dispersed population, and since rural input is critical for success, what support can MEDA provide in terms of engaging rural EDOs and MEDA members?

MEDA will work hand-in-hand with the consultant to identify appropriate contacts across the state such as the Certified Regional Development Corporations, Economic Development Organizations, and many of our partners.

11. Since travel costs and time are a consideration for both consultants and MEDA members, would video-conferencing with board or MEDA members be an acceptable option for presenting interim findings?

Yes, this would be acceptable for interim findings.

12. Is there a plan already in place for what form of an advisory group will be formed and will that include MEDA members and others such as State officials, others that are part of the community and economic development ecosystem?

Please see Questions 6 and 10 above.

13. How much should we look at the [State's Economic Development Report](#) to think about some of the areas we should focus on our scope.

This document would be very helpful in giving you a background of Montana's economic activity and economic diversity. Other documents that we recommend include MT Department of Commerce Action Plan <https://commerce.mt.gov/conplan/documents> MT Department of 2019 Labor Day Report. <https://dli.mt.gov/>

14. Do the EDOs and/or other groups do any form of surveying of members that we could build on?

MEDA does have a subscription to SurveyMonkey and uses it to survey members and would be happy to coordinate surveys for this project. EDOs and Certified Regional Development Corporations also conduct surveys and these could be collected for your use.

15. Under the scope of work - "Identify and define the challenges facing Montana's economic and community development" - are you looking at this from an organizational standpoint or from a 'how do we make sure we have a thriving economy standpoint'?

While MEDA as an organization will be involved in the strategy implementation, this analysis is more for the purpose of the thriving economy standpoint.

16. Would you envision any form of organizational capacity analysis to better understand risks in the system?

Organizational capacity would have a tie in when the final Next Generation strategy is realized. Capacity issues could be a part of the analysis, but not related to MEDA's structure so much as overall implementation capacity.

17. Have any of the benchmark states or regions been identified already previously?

Yes, the Western region and other states with similar demographics, economic development structure, and resources.

18. Are you interested in using a data-driven approach to identify challenges? - e.g. what industry sectors will be impacted by automation and Industry 4.0.

Yes.

19. Are the topics of workforce development and housing considered as part of the economic and community development system?

Yes, but a balanced perspective.

20. What is the desired timeline for this work to be done? Are there any factors that will drive when ideas/ recommendations are needed?

Please see Questions 1 and 2 above.

21. While I know this can be sensitive, would be able to provide a budget estimate? As some of the questions allude to, we can go very big with our thinking but that requires labor. We like to provide a scope of work that is responsive to the needs and budget so you can evaluate and compare what you will really be getting from us.

See Question 5 above.

22. What are the existing programs and funding tools referenced in the RFP and included in the baseline evaluation? If information is not readily available about any of these, how do we access relevant information for proposal development?

Visiting [this website](#) and noting the links under 2019 Session will provide information on key economic development programs. MEDA will work with the consultant to identify existing studies. Please see Question 13 above.

[Labor Day Report](#)
[State Reports](#)

23. Is MEDA's vision for this Next Generation plan a set of programs and funding tools that, similar to 1999, is spearheaded by the State of Montana?

We anticipate local, state, and private collaborations to be a part of the Next Generation plan.

24. Does MEDA have expectations, parameters or preferences for the nature, primary constituents, and extent of the field work and scoping noted on p. 4 under "Expectations"?

MEDA will work with the consultant to find the best way to share information for field work.

25. Regarding findings, the RFP states "presentations to the MEDA Board / Membership and identified key partners will be expected. This could include up to three presentations."

Does MEDA have expectations, parameters or preferences for other parts of the plan development process or final product that may not be reflected in the RFP?

No.

26. Does MEDA have recommendations for existing plans, evaluations, and other documents to review during proposal development?

Please see Questions 13 and 22 above.

27. What is the breadth of stakeholder engagement that MEDA is seeking? For example, are you expecting that the consultant would just reach out to your members, or also include businesses, government leaders, etc. in that process?

Yes, with coordination through MEDA's Steering Committee.

28. What types of community development practices are under the purview of this scope of work? For example, is MEDA requesting insight on housing, social services, and/or neighborhood development policy—or is this more related to the types of community assets that economic developers can influence?

While social services have a role in community and economic development, this analysis is more related to types of community assets that economic developers can influence.

29. Who are the regional/national competitors that Montana most frequently competes with for attracting new economic projects/investments.

Please see Question 17 above.