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MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group
April 13, 2017
9:00am – 10am

On the call: Sue Taylor, Kim Porter, Paul LaChapelle, Gus Byrom, Lorie Higgins, Janelle Gustafson, and Gloria O'Rourke.

1. Introductions

Gloria welcomed everyone to the call and requested introductions.

2. Lorie Higgins, Three State Grant Description and Update

Lorie thanked everyone who wrote letters for the grant application; reviewers provided extra points for the 20 support letters. The full amount of \$500,000 was awarded to last over a three year period. It is from a program under USDA/ National Institute of Food and Agricultural Ag Food and Research Initiative which involves social innovation. Paul noted about 40% of the grant award is taken for administration.

The why: Lorie had worked with the Idaho Review Program since 2003. She experienced a training with Mary Randolph around 2007 that caused Wyoming to blend some aspects of the review process with their RTA process. Idaho discovers three focus areas for a community and then engages community support to work on those areas. Lorie then heard the Kettering Foundation was working with Montana and Wyoming on the RTA process. After several meetings with Idaho and Montana, Lorie began working on the grant.

3. Regarding the grant – Lorie Higgins

Evaluation – information is needed from the community as to how far the process worked for the community, what could have been done differently to make a positive difference, and what were the impacts; did it move the dial? Return on investment will be studied; was it worth the cost? Case studies will also be used to determine how communities were changed. A pre and post survey analysis will be conducted as well. Ripple Effects Mapping will be used to determine what change was actually due to the community assessment.

Publication – research and outcomes will be publicized. Patterns effecting rural states will be highlighted.

Design Team – the Design Team will be made of up individuals from each state. Three face-to-face meetings and several video conference calls will be held. The delivery organizations (such as MEDA) will work with their state leader (Montana's is Paul) and will layout the plan in detail as outlined by the grant. The Design Team will come up with a grant ap for the minigrants.

Mini-Grants – for the communities participating there will be \$1500 - \$2500 awarded for a project. The purpose for the mini grant involves capacity building. Projects might include: haul away junk cars, flowers around gateway sign, etc., that would inspire others to step up.

Best Practices Guide – this document will be created based on the results of the grant activity.

Technical Assistance – will be provided for the participating communities for visioning, planning, identifying assets, action teams, etc., and will include community coaching. Kettering supports a community conversation approach; Lorie is learning more about this process from Kettering.

4. **Discussion and Questions**

Lorie will send a summary of the grant and Gloria will share with the RTA working group. Lorie's phone is 208.669.1480

How will communities be selected? Just go with those who are on the waiting list? Or pick –and – choose? A criterion for selecting communities is used in Idaho. This will be decided by the Design Team and may look different for each state. Previous assessment team sites may be used as well.

Gus discussed the need to help communities implement their various plans, i.e. Growth Policy etc.

Paul mentioned the need to incorporate the Community Capitals in the process.

5. **Wyoming Resource Team Update** – Kim will provide an update on our next call.

6. **Montana Resource Team Update**

There is a Ronan One Year Celebration scheduled for May 16th from Noon – 2pm.

7. **Next Call** - Our next call will be May 11th at 9am.