September

- Sept 5: Deadline for MEDA Awards
- Sept 7: Free Webinar on Credit Card Processing at 11 am
- Sept 9-12: NADO Training
- Sept 13: TecNet Billings
- Sept 14: RTA Working Group at 9 am
- Sept 17-20: IEDC Annual Conference
- Sept 19: RLF Working Group at 10 am
- Sept 21: Import 101 Training
- Sept 21-22: Leadership MT Conference
- Sept 26: NADO Legislative Update Register
- Sept 26-28: MNA Conference

October

- Oct 4: EDA CEDS Training
- Oct 5-6: Montana Superheroes – MEDA Conference
- Oct 10: Recruitment and Retention Workshop
- Oct 11-12: Revitalization Brownfields Conference
- Oct 12: RTA Working Group at 9 am
- Oct 18-20: MT Downtown Conference
- Oct 24: TIF in Montana 9:30 am – 4:30, Butte

MONTANA SUPERHEROES – BUILDING OUR COMMUNITIES

The MEDA 2017 Fall Conference, hosted by Beartooth RC&D, will take place October 5th – 6th, Old Roosevelt School, Red Lodge, MT. The agenda highlights success stories and tools that are used by Montana Superheroes working in the Economic Development arena.

Two new items: Solution Wall and Try Me Wall to exchange ideas and information.

The kickoff event is the Annual MEDA Awards followed by a case study of the transformation of the Old Roosevelt School. Back by popular demand: a tour, breakout sessions and IgniteMontana! And there is much more planned for the agenda. The MEDA Pre-Conference Professional Development Training will be on the topic of Workforce Development. The room block closes September 16th and registration costs jump on September 29th.

Your superhero Agenda Committee includes: Sue Taylor, Chair; Karyl Tobel, Russ Fletcher, Bill Foisy, Kathie Bailey, Tracy Timmons, Paul Tuss, and Gloria O’Rourke

Agenda  Registration  Sponsor

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING – MEDA PRE CONFERENCE
Empowering Workforce Development October 5th 9am – 11:30am Old Roosevelt School, Red Lodge, MT

Join us for this session to learn more about the BillingsWorks model and how it strives to address the needs of Montana employers as they struggle to fill open positions, retain the best employees and expand their business. This session will also help you to gain a better understanding as to what potential employees look for in a workplace and in a community. And how can we help to create more Destination Employers? Presenters: Karen Baumgart, Director of BillingsWorks; Ryan Van Ballegooyen, Manager, Job Service Billings.

EDA CEDS TRAINING – OCTOBER 4TH IN BILLINGS

While on your way to the MEDA Conference, take in the EDA CEDS Training to learn of the new guidelines in preparing your Community Economic Development Strategy document. Turn your ideas into action.

FEATURED MDOC PROGRAM AND PARTNERS

PROGRAM:  Big Sky Trust Fund – Job Creation
PROJECT:  Joint Project with Multiple Partners
BUSINESSES:  Orbital Shift and OnXMaps
LOCAL MULTI-COMMUNITY PARTNERS:  City of Bozeman, Missoula County, Missoula Economic Partnership, and Prospera

Something new in our monthly MEDA Newsletters: a featured MDOC Program and an example of that program at work. Everyone working in the field of Economic Development knows that it takes programs and partnerships to bring a project to a successful outcome. Each month, there will be a focus on a program and the partners that assisted to bring about success.

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program

Focus – Joint Projects

The BSTF Program has helped two businesses that needed to create jobs in both Missoula and in Bozeman:

Orbital Shift, Inc. is a cloud software application company that allows employers to create and maintain staff schedules. Orbital Shift needed to create 16 net new jobs in both Missoula and Bozeman. Youtube

Montana Mapping and GPS is a GIS/GPS software company showing precise public and private land boundaries and ownerships. Montana Mapping needed to create 25 net new jobs in Missoula and 16 jobs in Bozeman. Website

By working together, the City of Bozeman, Missoula County, Missoula Economic Partnership, Prospera Business Network and BSTF Staff enabled the BSTF Program to award $467,500 of job creation funds helping these two businesses grow in two different locations. These applications were single projects with two sponsors. If you have a unique situation and need to talk to a staff person about how to structure an application please contact the BSTF Program to brainstorm on possible solutions.
The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program (BSTF) Job Creation Program accepts applications from local governments to assist a basic sector business with the expansion of its workforce.

A basic sector business is a business that has a focus of out-of-state sells or clients. Typical eligible uses of BSTF funds include reimbursement for the following: purchase of the land, building, equipment, wages of new workers, lease rate reduction and construction materials. Expenses that occur prior to the contract’s effective date are not eligible for reimbursement. The maximum award amount is based on the location of the project and whether the county is considered a high-poverty county, or not a high poverty county. A high poverty county has 14% or more individuals living in poverty status.

An employee in a newly created job must be making a minimum wage requirement of 170% of Montana’s minimum wage, which calculates to $13.85/hour (ERISA eligible benefits can be included in the calculation in meeting the wage). The award amount is based on the quality of the job, which is typically measured by the level of pay. Jobs paying at or above the County or State Average wage (can include ERISA eligible benefits) are more likely to receive a higher level of funding.

BSTF Job Creation applications are accepted through Webgrants, which is located at www.fundingmt.org. The FY18 application deadlines are posted on the website (www.bstf.mt.gov) with the next upcoming deadline being October 9, 2107.

For more information please contact Annmarie Robinson at 406-841-22

MEDA BOARD AT WORK

The MEDA Board held a work session and board meeting on the campus of MSU Bozeman, in August. Pam Haxby-Cote, State Director, MDOC, and several on her staff spent several hours working with the board to share information on the State Budget and the 2019 Legislative Session.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- MEDA RLF Working Group—The next RLF meeting is set for September 19th. If you work with Revolving Loan Funds you will want to participate in this working group as participants discuss, learn and share their day-to-day tasks with RLFs.  

  Notes
• **Professional Development and Scholarship Committee** – A meeting was held on August 18th to decide on the pre-conference Professional Development Training. The topic: Workforce Development.

• **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – The next meeting will be September 14th at 9am. An update will be provided on the three state grant that is reviewing and improving Resource Team Assessments. Notes from the call. Learn more about MEDA’s assessments here.

• **CRDC/EDD Working Group** – This working group met outside of Lewistown the end of August to review best practices, discuss legislative strategies, and regional activities across Montana.

  ![L to R: Gypsy Ray, Beth Epley, Jim Atchison, Paul Reichert, Joe Willauer and Eric Seidensticker.](image)

**MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship Update**
Several applications were received for the Third Quarter Deadline. Anne Boothe and the Scholarship Committee will be making the announcement soon regarding awards. Fourth Quarter applications are now being accepted. Deadline: October 23rd. For more information visit: [Criteria and Application](#)

**MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**
There were no new MEDA members in August. MEDA’s membership is at 227. MEDA Members Sue Taylor, Gus Byrom, Paul Lachapelle and Gloria O’Rourke met in Boise, Idaho, in early August to conduct the messy work of revising Resource Team Assessments. Montana, along with Idaho and Wyoming, received a grant to study and fine-tune the process for each state. One tool that will be shared at the MEDA Conference: Ripple Effects Mapping.

  ![Pictured left: Paul Lachapelle, MSU, demonstrates Ripple Effect Mapping to the MEDA Board.](image)

**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.
o **Presentation Recording and Slides Available for NADO Legislative Update Webinar**

On August 29, NADO hosted a monthly legislative update providing up-to-the-minute information on developments in Congress and the impacts on regional development organizations. The webinar includes updates on the status of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget and appropriations process and must-do items on the congressional agenda for September. Click [here](#) to view the presentation slides and [here](#) to access a recording of the webinar. The next monthly briefing is scheduled for **September 26 at 2:00 p.m. ET**. Click [here](#) to register.

o **CEDS Training Presentations Now Available for Download**

NADO RF staff recently provided training at the Florida EDD Training Workshop in Orlando, organized by the EDA Atlanta Regional Office and hosted by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Presentations focused on CEDS implementation, partnership building, communication strategies, and opportunities for plan alignment and integration. The presentation slides are now available for download. Click [here](#) for “Implementing the CEDS: A Roadmap for Regional Economic Development” (PDF) and click [here](#) for “Opportunities for Aligning the CEDS with Other Planning Processes” (PDF).

o **Skill Builder Series – applying for State and Federal Grants**

   Great Falls or Billings

o **Nonprofit Administration Online Program**
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants!
   http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html

⇒ The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announced this week that USDA is accepting applications for the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program for FY 2017. Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2017 under this window.

⇒ USDA Community Development Grants

⇒ Ag Development Council extends GTA program deadline
   The Agriculture Development Council met last week and voted to extend the deadline for the popular Growth Through Agriculture (GTA) program, from September 15, 2017 to November 15, 2017. The deadline was extended to allow more time for producers to apply for funding.

⇒ MEDA is a member of GrantStation. Email gloria if you would like the username and password.