



# MEDA

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

## Online News 2020

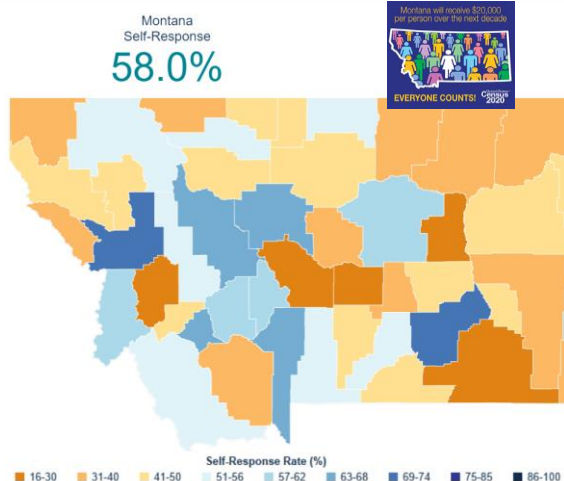


- Sept 1: MEDA Fall Conference Committee 10am
- Sept 3: [Accessing SBA Programs](#) 11:00am
- Sept 3: MEDA Board Meeting Noon
- Sept 4: **MEDA AWARDS DEADLINE!** [apply](#)
- Sept 8 – 10: Troy Community Review
- Sept 9, 23: PTAC [Webinar](#) – Free
- Sept 10 – 17: [MT Healthy Communities and Economy](#)
- Sept 14: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
- Sept 15, 29: [Relmagine Rural](#)
- Sept 16: [Tell Us Something live show](#)
- Sept 17: [Leadership 2.0 begins](#)
- Sept 21 – 25: MNA Resolve Virtual Conference
- Sept 24: [Radically Rural](#) Online Summit
- Sept 27 – Oct 1: MACo Annual Conference
- Sept 28: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm



- 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 – 16: [IEDC Annual Conference](#)
- Oct 13: [Relmagine Rural](#)
- Oct 20 – 22: [NADO Training Conference](#)
- Oct 26: MEDA Broadband Committee 2pm
- Oct 27-28 [MT Chamber Annual Meeting](#)

### MONTANA NEEDS YOU: IF YOU DO NOTHING ELSE TODAY, DO THIS!



#### Take the Census; share the Census.

Due to a host of reasons, Montana is behind in the census. Please do your part today to make sure everyone in your network has taken the Census! Here are links to help:

<https://census.mt.gov/>

<https://census.mt.gov/Maps>

<https://census.mt.gov/Resources>

**Deadline: September 30<sup>th</sup>**

## MEDA MEMBER NEWS

We have new members as well as members who have transitioned to new positions. Taylor Lovell is the new SBDC Advisor, Headwaters, RC&D. Chris Reeder is a new Program Specialist with Big Sky Trust Fund, MT Dept. of Commerce. Christy Cummings Dawson has joined the Montana West Economic Development Team in Kalispell. Last but not least, Andy Shirliff is now Outreach Specialist for Montana SBA. MEDA's membership continues to grow; thanks for spreading the word about our vital network.



Chris Reeder

## 2020 MEDA AWARDS - DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 4TH

What has your organization accomplished over the past year? What impact has been made? Review the new Award Criteria for both [Impact Awards](#) and the [Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development Award](#). The deadline is 5:00pm, September 4<sup>th</sup>, with a celebration to take place this fall. Everyone involved in economic and community development is encouraged to submit multiple applications so that your success can indeed be celebrated!



[Impact Awards Rules and Criteria](#)

[Application for 2020 Impact Awards](#)

[Application for AJP Champion Award](#)



## MT NEXT GENERATION OF TOOLS REPORT UPDATE

The MEDA Board is meeting this week to vote to accept the report; next steps in moving forward would include prioritization of issues, and strategic planning to act upon those issues. All steps in moving forward will involve MEDA's membership and partners. Today, September 1<sup>st</sup>, is the deadline for your feedback.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NextGenComments>

## MEDA FALL CONFERENCE

The MEDA Fall Conference Committee has held several meetings and is seeking the perfect agenda for MEDA's members. Thus far, the committee is looking at a candidate forum, awards celebration, Next Gen steps, program updates and more. In addition, professional development is in the works. Everything should come together within the next two weeks.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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

## UPDATE: MEDA WORKING GROUPS and COMMITTEES

All partners, including MEDA Members and Non-Members, are welcome to join a Working Group.

- **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 will be the first virtual Community Review. [Notes from the call.](#)
- **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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, at 2pm. [Webpage](#) Tracy McIntyre is serving as Chair.
- **Legislative Committee** –The committee is following several interim studies and gearing up for the 2021 Legislative Session.

## MEDA COMMUNITY REVIEW - Troy



Troy is ready for Montana's first Phase 1 Virtual Community Review! Listening Sessions will take place September 8 – 10 with a virtual town hall meeting held the night of the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Troy Home Team has contacted individuals and advertised its Listening Sessions; the Visiting Team has held one practice session and is gearing up to listen and assist in moving Troy Forward. [Listening Session Schedule](#). 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.



Montana Nonprofit Association Annual Conference

Registration is open!

<https://www.mtnonprofit.org/conference/>

### A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

We believe that we learn better together. While professional development opportunities geared towards individuals abound, real magic happens when teams share experiences of learning and growing together.

But, sending your entire team to a conference in another city isn't always realistic. Which is why we are so excited about the opportunity to offer a virtual experience. It removes barriers and opens the door to team learning.

## Small Business Webinar Series 2020

### Accessing SBA Programs: Your Guide to SBA Counseling, Capital, and Contracting

**Thursday, September 3, 2020  
11:00 AM, MST**

This webinar will provide an overview of SBA Resources including current EIDL and PPP information.

Register at  
<https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4454>



**Martin DeWitt**  
U.S. Small Business Administration



**Andy Shirliff**  
U.S. Small Business Administration



**Kelly Dixon**  
U.S. Small Business Administration

Hear experts provide an overview of small business development topics and phone in or type or chat questions or comments. We will follow-up with requests for additional information. All webinars are free and open to the public at 11:00 AM (for 30 min) and will be recorded and archived.

- Join the webinar live or access the recorded webinar and see additional resources at [www.mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4454](https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4454)
- For questions, email [chambers@montana.edu](mailto:chambers@montana.edu)

**Webinar Series Sponsors**








**Additional Support**





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998/Section 999/Section 1000.



## FALL 2020 DOES THE STATE OF MONTANA BUY WHAT YOU SELL? FREE Webinar Series

**Webinar Details**

Contracting with the State of MT

- Who buys what?
- Goods & Services vs. Construction Contracts
- Disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE program)
- Where to find useful sources

**eMACS:**

- How to register as a vendor in eMACS
- How to respond to solicitations/events
- Where to find bids & proposals
- Where to find useful resources

**Q&A**

**Virtual Tour Dates**

9-10:30 am  
**AUGUST 12**

**AUGUST 26 - \*10-11:30 AM**

**SEPTEMBER 9**

**SEPTEMBER 23**

**OCTOBER 7**

**OCTOBER 21**

Register for any date that works for your schedule. All will be online.

**REGISTER HERE:**  
[www.montanaptac.org/event](http://www.montanaptac.org/event)  
**CONTACT US:**  
406-869-8413



PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Personal, timely advice on contracting with the government.

This procurement technical assistance center is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the Defense Logistics Agency.



[More information](#)

[Register](#)

### Quick Links for More Opportunities:

- ⇒ <https://helenachamber.com/leadership-2/>
- ⇒ [Montana COVID-19 Relief](#)
- ⇒ [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.



USDA is providing guarantee percentages, annual fees, periodic retention fees, and optional construction fees to help lenders apply for the Agency's four flagship loan guarantee programs. These programs are:

- [Water and Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees Program](#);
- [Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program](#);
- [Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program](#); and
- [Rural Energy for America Guaranteed Loan Program](#).



## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password.
- ⇒ **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.



- CDBG Affordable Housing Development and Rehabilitation Applications are being accepted through **September 15, 2020**: <https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/ApplicationForms>
- CDBG Community and Public Facilities Applications are being accepted through **September 15, 2020**: <https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Facilities/ApplicationForms>



**MDOC Partner in the Spotlight: [MCDC](#)**



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Each month, the MEDA newsletter focuses on a department or program within MDOC; or spotlights a particular partner of MDOC. This month, the focus is on Montana Cooperative Development Center. On a personal note, this spotlight is a result of the MEDA office experiencing a major communication disruption. Who came to the rescue?

Montana Cooperative Development Center. Who knew?! MCDC can provide two hours of technical assistance to any economic development organization or cooperative. Thank you!

In a nutshell, what is a cooperative? A cooperative is an organization that is owned and democratically controlled by the people who use its products, supplies or services. Cooperatives are formed to meet the specific objectives of members, and are structured to adapt to member’s changing needs. Working together as a group, members find they can accomplish more collectively than they could individually

The benefits of belonging to cooperatives include:

- Access to quality supplies and services at reasonable costs
- Increased visibility and leverage in the marketplace
- Share in earnings based on use of co-op
- Effective political action
- Enhance local economy through services and job creation

Cooperative Development Specialists in Montana are housed in ten Economic Development Organizations across Montana: Beartooth RC&D, Native American Development Corporation, Headwaters RC&D/Butte & Silver Bow Economic Development Corporation, Mountain West Economic Development Corporation, Snowy Mountain Economic Development Corporation, Park Local Development Corporation, Eastern Plains Economic Development, Great Northern Economic Development, Ravalli County Economic Development Authority, Bear Paw Economic Development.

From just October 2019 to April 2020 here is the work accomplished as per the HB52 Legislative report:

State Investment .....	\$65,000
Leveraged Investments:	
USDA- Rural Development .....	\$179,302
Montana Council of Cooperatives (Association) .....	\$5,000
Private/Other Funds .....	\$63,077
Total Investment .....	\$370,456

**METRICS FOR SUCCESS**

Cooperatives Formed.....	2
Cooperatives Assisted.....	16
Businesses assisted not cooperatives .....	22
Number of Businesses incorporated no cooperative.....	1
Groups working with us to explore cooperative business model .....	20

**In case you need it, here is list of MCDC’s IT services: <https://www.mcdc.coop/services-2/> Thanks for coming to MEDA’s rescue!**

# THANKS TO OUR MEDA MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

Gold	Silver	Bronze
 <p><b>NorthWestern Energy</b> Delivering a Bright Future</p>	 <p><b>NewFields</b> Perspective. Vision. Solutions.</p>  <p><b>MYAP</b> Montana Youth Apprenticeship Partnership</p>	 <p><b>MONTANA MDT</b> DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Small Business Enterprise Program</p>  <p><b>KLJ</b> ENGINEERING, REIMAGINED</p>  <p>Lake County Community Development Corporation Growing Communities, Growing Businesses <b>LCCDC</b></p>  <p><b>Cushing Terrell.</b></p>

August 2020