



## Online News



Sept 6: Interim Economic Affairs Committee meets  
Sept 6: [Hire for Peak Season](#) – free Biz Webinar  
Sept 10 – 12: [MCDC Impact Week Schedule](#)  
Sept 13: MEDA RTA Working Group 9am  
Sept 15: MEDA Scholarship Deadline  
Sept 18: MEDA RLF Working Group 10am  
Sept 19: [MEDA Professional Development 2 – 5pm](#)  
Sept 20 – 21: [MEDA Unconference!](#)  
Sept 22: [Minnow Tank Finale](#)  
Sept 26-28: [MT League of Cities and Towns Conf](#)



Oct 1: [MT Food Show](#)  
Oct 2 – 4: [MT Nonprofit Annual Conf](#)  
Oct 25-26: [MT Chamber Annual Meeting](#)

[SBDC Training Calendar](#)  
[MNA Training Calendar](#)  
[MMEC Training Calendar](#)



[AGENDA](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)



### **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION RATE ENDS SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>!**

You will not want to miss the MEDA Fall UNConference! Unlike traditional conferences, the MEDA Fall Unconference is a participant-oriented meeting where the attendees decide on discussion topics and flow. The informal and flexible program allows participants to suggest topics of their own interest and choose sessions accordingly. The format provides an excellent opportunity for attendees to work collaboratively on topics of common interest. The overarching goal for most unconferences is to prioritize conversation over presentation.

**Latest Agenda Updates – [see all details here.](#)**

- Six main topics for Thursday morning include: Capacity Building and Collaboration, Opportunity Zones, Business Clusters, Teleworking/Gig Economy, Partnerships building Development, and Business Attraction Strategies.

- Glacier Bank/First Security Bank sponsoring MEDA Awards Luncheon.
- NorthWestern Energy is sponsoring Professional Development Training. Topic: Facilitation Skills for Economic Developers.
- MoFi sponsoring the Missoula Walking Tour which leads to the CTA sponsored Social at Caras Park! Dinner is on your own with food trucks standing by.
- Stahly Engineering sponsoring the Mind your MEDA Business Working Breakfast regarding Legislative Strategy.
- Rural Economic Designs sponsoring the morning break to bring Beyond the Golden Shovel on new marketing avenues for MEDA members.
- Newfields Testimonial Booth – be prepared to create a video library of testimony on Montana’s key economic development programs and/or success stories. Montana Cooperative Development is providing the videography services via Guy Gregory.

## MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



Jason Rittal

MEDA Past President Jason Rittal is now the Deputy Director for Montana Association of Counties. Here is his [new contact information](#). Congratulations, Jason.

[Michele Turville](#), formerly of Bear Paw, is the new Deputy Director for Sweetgrass Development.

New to MEDA: [Pat Doyle](#), Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, of Helena. Welcome to MEDA!

## REMINDER FOR MEDA MEMBERS

The MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship third quarter deadline is September 15th. [Application](#)

## MEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Chris Cerquone, Chair. This committee is very busy and is assisting with the updated webpage for MEDA. The committee has broken into subcommittees to make marketing recommendations to the board as well as ideas for restructuring the MEDA board. A special board meeting has been called on September 19<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of voting on changing the by-laws. Among other items, the board is considering adding four permanent seats to the board to obtain more representation across Montana.
- **Legislative Committee:** Rick Edwards, Chair. The MEDA Legislative Committee is gearing up for a critical Legislative Session. The committee discussed the draft strategy during a meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup>, some of which includes extending or removing the 2019 Economic Development Program Sunset, temporarily transferring funds to build capacity in two other programs, and supporting several one-time-only programs. More information will be discussed and shared at the Mind your MEDA Business segment of the Unconference on September 21st.
- **Awards Committee:** This committee received eight Innovation Award submissions and one Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development nomination. The committee has reached out to reviewers for final award decisions. All will be revealed and celebrated during the MEDA Awards Lunch on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **Relevancy Committee:** Members of this committee are working with groups such as Montana Infrastructure Coalition, MACo, and MT League of Cities and Towns, to ensure MEDA’s voice at the table. A subcommittee is meeting to discuss and prepare for an important study of Montana’s economic tools – now and for the future.



## MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– This group is all about working with Revolving Loan Funds and learning from each other how to improve day-to-day tasks with RLFs. The next quarterly RLF meeting is set for September 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am. Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, coordinates the working group.
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This group will meet Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9am, to provide input on the new Montana Community Review process.
- **CRDC Working Group** – The CRDCs met in Billings August 29-30 to share best practices. The group toured the whiz-bang areas of the Billings Public Library and learned how the library has become an integral and vibrant economic partner in the Billings area.



## MEDA BOARD UPDATE

The MEDA Board met in Billings for a relatively brief meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Two items on the agenda included MEDA's Legislative Strategy and changes to the MEDA By-Laws. An update will be provided during the Mind your MEDA Business segment on Friday morning, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at the MEDA Unconference.

## 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.

- **IEDC Conference:** We know we'll see many of you in Atlanta September 30-October 3 for [IEDC's Annual Conference](#), the largest yearly gathering of economic development professionals.
- **Montana Cooperative Impact Week.** [.Visit the website for more information.](#)
- **Information About Applying for Funding on Grants.gov** If you're thinking of applying for a grant from [grants.gov](#) but don't know where to get started, consider reviewing the posts on the [grants.gov community blog](#). Their grant writing basics section has information about Demystifying Funding Announcements, Understanding the Funder and



### MONTANA COOPERATIVE IMPACT WEEK

Park / Meagher / Sweet Grass

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**September 10, 2018**

**Gardiner**  
2:00-3:30 pm – CO-OP COFFEE HOUR+  
*Hosted by the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce - 216 W. Park Street*

**Livingston**  
6:00 – 7:30 pm – CELEBRATING COOPERATIVES SOCIAL  
Livingston Food Resource Center - 202 S. 2nd Street  
*Hosted by Park Electric Cooperative and MSU Park County Extension*

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**September 11, 2018**

**White Sulphur Springs**  
10:00 - 11:30 am - CO-OP COFFEE HOUR+  
All Seasons Inn & Suites – Conference Room - 808 3rd Ave. SW  
*Hosted by Meagher County Chamber of Commerce and MSU Meagher County Extension*

4:00 - 6:00 pm - COOPERATIVE IMPACT DAY OPEN HOUSE  
*Hosted by Vocal Credit Union - 4261 Highway 12 E*

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**September 12, 2018**

**Big Timber**  
1:00-3:00 pm - COOPERATIVE IMPACT DAY OPEN HOUSE  
Carnegie Library - 314 McLeod Street  
*Hosted by Sky Federal Credit Union and Triângon Communications*



Avoiding Last Minute Problems. For more information, the [grants.gov homepage](http://grants.gov) has introductory videos about applying for grants.

- **Small Business Webinar Series:** How do you know when you're ready to hire? Many businesses need to bring on seasonal staff to meet customer demand. But many business owners don't set performance expectations for the new staff member. Many business owners also don't know how much that new employee will actually cost. This webinar will discuss some key numbers to look at to help determine when to hire, how much pay the new hire, and what to expect of that person's performance as it impacts the bottom line.

You can register for the webinar at: <https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4051>.

- [CEDS Central](#) – a website for all things CEDS.

- [Partners for Rural America Annual Conference](#)  
September 16 – 19, 2018 Partners for Rural America (PRA) was founded in 1998 to support the efforts of its member State Rural Development Councils (SRDCs), which are uniquely positioned to expand economic and social opportunities for America's rural communities and their residents, promote equal treatment of rural America by government agencies and the private sector and provide a collective voice for rural America.

SRDCs across the country work in their states to conduct research, work with state and federal government officials, partner with other community and economic development organizations and serve as leaders representing the perspective and needs of rural communities throughout their states.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- ⇒ **USDA Invites Applications for Funding to Help Support Commercial Scale Biorefineries**

USDA is accepting applications for funding under the [Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program](#). The purpose of this program is to provide guaranteed loans to fund the development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial scale biorefineries using eligible technology and of Biobased product manufacturing facilities that convert renewable chemicals and other biobased outputs of biorefineries into end-user products, on a commercial scale. The program's objectives and outcomes are to:

- (1) create jobs and enhance the economic development of the rural economy;
- (2) diversify markets for agricultural and forestry products and agriculture waste material;
- (3) increase the energy independence of the United States; and

**Small Business Webinar Series**

**Hire For Your Peak Season & Don't Lose Money Doing It**

Thursday, September 6th, 2018  
11 AM, MST

The webinar will feature ratios to assist business owners or managers in justifying a new or seasonal hire and to ensure the additional cost of an employee will do more than break even with increases in sales volume. Performance metrics related to the new hire will also be addressed.

Register at  
<https://mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/4051>

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 the public at 11 AM for 30 min and will be recorded and archived.

- Join the webinar live or access the recorded webinar and see additional resources at <http://www.msucommunitydevelopment.org/smallbusiness.html>
- For questions, email [commdev@montana.edu](mailto:commdev@montana.edu)

Webinar Series Sponsors

AMERICA'S SBDC MONTANA  
POWERED BY SBA  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
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ADDITIONAL SUPPORT  
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Phil Quigley  
Founder and President  
Quigley and Associates  
Quigley and Associates is a learning and development firm focused on helping people discover and apply their leadership strengths.  
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The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

(4) promote resource conservation, public health, and the environment.

For more information on how to apply, see page 38119 of the August 3 [Federal Register](#).

⇒ SBA - [Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative Services](#) – 2018

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

⇒ Apply for the Tourism Grant Program. By investing in destination development, you'll be positioned to bring a larger share of this economic impact into your community—and tourism grants can help.

If you represent a Montana nonprofit organization, city or county government, or tribal government, your project to support the development or promotion of tourism and recreation in your community may be eligible to receive a grant. Up to \$750,000 will be awarded this grant cycle. Applications will be accepted until **Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.** Learn more and apply online at: [MarketMT.com/Grants](#)

