MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR AUGUST 2013

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2013 MEDA FALL CONFERENCE
As well as Christmas, (there are only 145 shopping days left) October 2nd – 4th will be here before you know it. Your host for the 2013 MEDA Fall Conference, to be held in Sidney, is the Eastern Montana Impact Coalition with Leslie Messer, Executive Director of Richland Economic Development, serving as Conference Chair. The MEDA Fall Conference Committee has planning well underway with the agenda to include: Professional Development training, Ignite Montana! presentations, three tours, MEDA Legislative Strategic Plan, and an in-depth USDA/RD Program Training. The tours pending include a visit to an oil rig, a gasification plant, and a walk through of IAP Community Living Solution housing. More planning is in the works. The MEDA 20 Years of Partnership and Progress time capsule will be sealed at the close of the conference. Thanks to the MEDA Agenda Committee: Leslie Messer, Chair; Jason Rittal, Jim Atchison, Kellie Danielson, Martin DeWitt, Karyl Tobel, Brett Doney, and Tracy McIntyre.

See Monthly Report

MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Atten: OUTREACH SPECIALISTS ASKED TO MAKE THREE MORE CLICKS
  BEAR Outreach Specialists are being asked to do the following after each business visit:
  1. Click Add
  2. Click Metrics Survey
  3. Click a company
  And enter the time spent with the company, jobs information, private or public dollars accessed, etc.
  Thank you for taking the time to add even more value to our program data!

- REPORTED GENERATED FOR MONTANA MAIN STREET PROJECT
  A report was generated and sent to the Governor’s Office to share what 698 businesses had to say about doing business in Montana. This data will supplement the Main Street Montana roundtable data collected. Read the BEAR Report

- OUTREACH
  There were 18 business visits held in July. Visits in each county: Big Horn – 1, Flathead – 7, Gallatin – 1, Lake – 1, Missoula – 2, Yellowstone – 2, and Stillwater – 4.

  Outreach Specialists in July and number of business visits:

  Marie Mahugh – 1  Mike Jackson – 5
  Warren Vaughan – 1  Chad Moore – 4
  DeAnn Thomas – 1  JR Strand – 1
  Bill Nicholson - 1  Jeremy Wolf - 1  Angie McDonald - 2
  Marissa Hauge – 3  Lynn Lagerquist - 1
  Allen Kawasaki – 1  John Moberly – 3
A challenge to any data user is government agencies often provide several measures for what appears to be the same statistic. For example, the Census Bureau provides several population numbers or estimates for the same area. The following table provides the differences between the population figures from the Decennial Census, the American Community Survey and the Intercensal Population Estimates – all products of the US Census Bureau.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Census Program</th>
<th>Brief Description of Population Statistics</th>
<th>Frequency of Release</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Decennial Census</td>
<td>Actual count (census) of population. Censuses is conducted every 10 years and is the most accurate statistic since it is not an estimate.</td>
<td>Once a decade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercessal Population Estimates</td>
<td>Population Estimates Program (PEP)</td>
<td>Population estimates produced for the years between two decennial censuses. So, once the 2010 Census figures were reported, the Intercessal Estimates for all the years between 2000 and 2010 were calculated. Intercessal estimates are the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns. Intercessal Estimate utilizes current data on births, deaths, and migration to calculate population change since the most recent decennial census, and produces a time series of estimates of population.</td>
<td>Once a decade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcessal Population Estimates</td>
<td>Population Estimates Program</td>
<td>Population estimates produced for the years after a decennial census when only the beginning population is known. They are produced and revised each year. For dates when both postcessal and intercessal estimates are available, intercessal estimates are preferred.</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Population</td>
<td>American Community Survey (ACS)</td>
<td>Population estimates are based on a rolling sample of addresses from the Master Address File. The data is collected through a mailed survey to the households. Various controls and weights are used to adjust the data including information from the intercessal population estimates.</td>
<td>Annually for Census areas with Populations of 65,000+ Every 3 years for Census areas with Populations of 20,000+ Every 5 years for all reportable geographic areas no matter the population size</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, contact CEIC staff at ceic@mt.gov or (406) 841-2740.

**GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink.** Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.

- **GRANTSTATION:** Click here to read the entire newsletter or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email MEDA for the username and password.

- **Montana Main Street Program** is back! The Montana Main Street Program offers technical assistance and expertise to all Montana communities and awards competitive grant funding to member communities actively
working on downtown revitalization, long range planning, economic development, and historic preservation. For more information on the Montana Main Street Program, please visit the program website at http://mtmainstreet.mt.gov/default.mcpx, contact Main Street Program Coordinator Tash Wisemiller at 406-841-2756, or email DOCMainStreet@mt.gov.

OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS FOR YOU
Interested in sharpening your professional skills as an economic and community development practitioner? Looking for new tools to place in your economic development tool box? Check these out.

1. If you need current data about your county, here is a wonderful resource. Very easy to use, simply click on your county on the interactive map. http://headwaterseconomics.org/tools/eps-hdt/geography

2. Strategies to Recruit Alumni and Young Families to Your Community
Beginning in October, the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship and the Heartland Center for Leadership Development will co-host a three-part webinar series to help rural leaders address youth out-migration through attracting alumni and young families. The cost for the series is $189. Register Now!

3. Registration for the Northwest Economic Development Course is now open! On August 19-23, 2013, the nationally accredited 22nd annual economic development course takes place in Ellensburg, Washington. This popular event brings together some of the best consultants, practitioners, and teachers to give their thoughts on how states and communities can establish a healthy environment that can lead to economic development. Please visit our website at www.commerce.wa.gov/nwedcourse for more information and to register for the course.

4. Montana Department of Commerce Business Resources Division Finance Programs 2013-2014 Certified Partner Training: TRAINING IS NOW AVAILABLE
The Business Resources Division is excited to announce that new ELearning webinars for the various funding programs is available for the next period of certification/recertification between July 11, 2013 and September 13, 2013. Each webinar includes a webinar course and a test. New Certified Partners and those receiving recertification will be announced at the Fall MEDA Conference in October 2013. NEW AND RECERTIFIED PARTNERS – wear your Sunday best we’ll take a group picture this year! Please see the links to the webinars and quizzes at the Business Resources Division Home Page: http://businessresources.mt.gov/default.mcpx

MY TURN: Ignite Montana!
Have you heard of the “Ignite” format? I was privileged to attend Ignite Missoula! several years ago and have never forgotten the experience. Each presenter is allowed five minutes and not more than 20 slides to convey his/her message. You might think that with such delivery little could be learned, understood or absorbed, but after all of this time, I still remember most of the presenters and their topics. The MEDA Fall Agenda Committee has asked Brett Doney to organize the first every Ignite Montana! while we gather in Sidney. Stay tuned for more details and be prepared to either participate or enjoy a great learning experience.

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