



ONLINE NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2013

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MEDA WEB PORTAL – PROGRESS!

Progress continues on the MEDA Web Portal project. Working with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, MEDA is striving to coordinate economic development organization's information to be accessible with one click on the GOED/State of Montana website. If your organization does not have a website or wishes to upgrade at a very reasonable cost, please contact the MEDA office for more information.

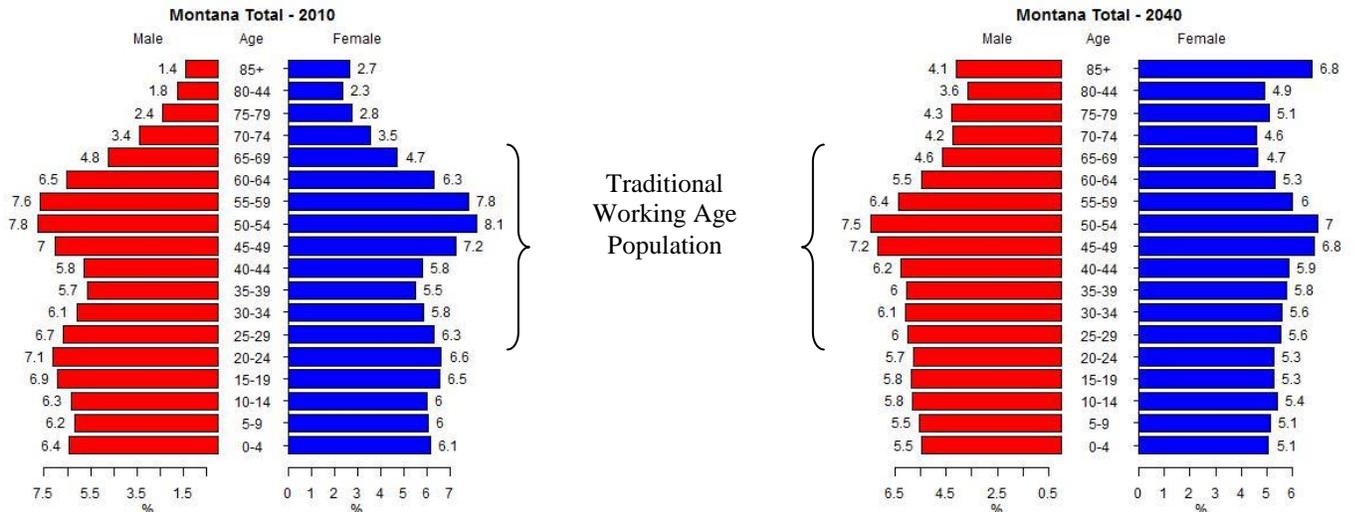
MEDA BOARD UPDATE

The MEDA Board will meet on Tuesday, December 10th, 9:00am to Noon, in Helena, Room 172 at the Capitol, to compile the MEDA Legislative Strategy. The ROI Legislative Strategy Team will meet Monday evening, December 9th, in Helena, to prepare recommendations to the board.

MEDA Online News – December 2013 Population Pyramids



A population pyramid, also called an age pyramid or age picture diagram, is a graph which shows the distribution of various age groups. Population pyramids are particularly useful in showing the shift over time. The pyramid on the left shows the actual age distribution of Montana's population in 2010. The pyramid on the right shows this same distribution projected for the year 2040. As the illustrations show, there is a significant shift of the population into the older age groups, particularly in the distribution of female residents. This trend will pose planning challenges and opportunities for Montana in finding sufficient workforce to maintain economic growth.



Source: eREMI – a product of Regional Models, Inc. April

LIVINGSTON!

Introducing the **First Interstate Bank**

GROW YOUR BUSINESS EVENT

Presented by: **Maury Forman**

"Small businesses and economic developers have a common goal of creating a strong economic base for a community. This event will identify the techniques and strategies that create prosperous businesses while at the same time healthy communities in Montana."

WHEN: Thursday, Dec. 5th
2:30 - 4:30 PM

WHERE: Shane Center
415 E Lewis St, Livingston

Meet with local business owners, assistance providers and members of the NRMEDD TOPs team! Admission is free including refreshments at the event.

- Book author and director of the award winning Northwest Economic Development Course at Central Washington University
- Finkle Leadership Award in International Economic Development, 2012
- Washington State's Governor's Performance Award, 2012
- Unsung Hero Award from Teens in Public Service Foundation

[Register for the Workshop](#)

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.
- **Growth Through Agriculture:** The next deadline for draft applications for the Growth Through Agriculture program is January 31, 2014. For more information, visit www.agr.mt.gov or contact Angie Nelson or Collin Watters at [406-444-2402](tel:406-444-2402) or gta@mt.gov.
- **Brownfields Grant Funding:** The FY14 ARC RFP has been posted to <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm>. All three RFPs, the Assessment Checklist and the FAQs are posted to our brownfields site. Proposals are due by 11:59 EST on January 22, 2014.
- **Smart Growth America** is now accepting applications for its 2014 free technical assistance workshops. Communities interested in learning about smart growth strategies are welcome and encouraged to submit an application for one of 12 types of technical assistance workshops. <http://www.matr.net/article-58154.html>

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.

- [Grow Your Business Event with Maury Forman](#), December 5th, 2:30pm – 4:30pm, 415 E. Lewis, Livingston, MT.
- [Montana Department of Commerce Announces FundingMT.org](#)
- **Final Chance for Comments: Review Montana's Draft 2014-15 Consolidated Action Plan**
The Consolidated Plan is a document that guides housing, economic development, and community development activities funded by the Hu.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), primarily those benefiting low- to moderate-income households. To comment on the State's activities for the upcoming plan year (calendar year 3/1/13-3/31/15), please attend our final meeting and webinar on the draft 2014-15 Action Plan.
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013
TIME: 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.
WHERE: MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, 301 S. PARK AVE., ROOM 228, HELENA, MT 59601
You may attend in person, or via webinar. To register for the webinar, please go to <http://housing.mt.gov/CP/currentpublicmeetings.mcp.x>.
The Action Plan is available online: <http://housing.mt.gov/CP/cpdocuments.mcp.x>.
After the meeting, you may submit comments to the Department from Dec. 4, 2013 through Jan. 8, 2014. You may email written comments to DocConPlan@mt.gov or mail them to the address below.
- **2014 Harvesting Clean Energy:** Registration is open for the 2014 Harvesting Clean Energy conference, which will be held Feb. 4 through 6 at the Colonial Inn in Helena. The conference will bring in leading clean-energy experts and practitioners to talk about what's involved in creating successful clean-energy projects that can cut a farm's energy costs and produce power or feedstocks to market. <http://harvestcleanenergy.org/events/conference.html>.



BEAR stands for Business Expansion and Retention and is the statewide program for keeping and growing Montana's businesses. [See Monthly Report](#)

November Highlights:

- The MEDA BEAR Working Group is holding a conference call on December 2nd with MT Dept. of Commerce leadership to discuss how best to train BEAR Teams on MDOC programs. The discussion will also include how best to train MEDA members on MT. Dept. of Labor programs.
- There were 14 Retention Visits held in November with 28 Action Items created and 15 closed. Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 6, Yellowstone – 1, Gallatin – 3, Missoula - 1, Stillwater – 3.
- Action Items were opened by: Gallatin – 25, Park -2, and Flathead – 1.
- Hours logged: 24; Jobs created: 3; Public Investment: \$149,829 Private Investment: \$81,323.

November Outreach Specialist Visits:

Jessica Burch - 1	Donald Jones - 1	Kathy Wojcik - 1	Lynn Kinnaman - 1
Sarah Stewart - 1	Mike Jackson – 5	Marissa Hauge - 3	Angie McDonald - 1
Kim Morisaki - 1	Mora McCarthy - 2	JR Strand - 1	Warren Vaughan - 8
Chad Moore - 1	Deborah McAtee - 1		

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

It is hard to believe but it is almost that time of year to be sending MEDA Membership dues invoices. Also, be watching for a “save the date” announcement regarding MEDA’s spring conference. There are currently 204 members in MEDA.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS

MEDA CRDC/EDD Working Group – The Montana EDD’s compiled a letter and sent it to Jodi Duncan, EDA, to request a conference call to continue the discussion that began in August regarding the EDD reporting process. The meeting is set for December 18th, 9:00am – 10:30am.

MEDA BEAR Working Group – This working group will meet via conference call on Monday, December 2nd, 1:00pm – 2:00pm to discuss activities within the statewide BEAR program.

MEDA Transportation Working Group – Kathie Bailey, Chair, has organized a meeting with Montana Dept. of Transportation Director Michael Tooley and his Planning Department staff to visit with MEDA members on transportation projects and issues. The meeting will take place Tuesday, December 17th, 1:00pm – 3:00pm, 2nd Floor Commission Room, 2701 Prospect Ave., Helena.

MEDA Brownfields Working Group –Katharine Thompson, City of Kalispell, has agreed to Chair this working group. A “doodle” is available to determine the best meeting date. <http://www.doodle.com/rr9hfayi9pi4367n>

MY TURN: STAND UP

Maybe it was a perfectly timed sales gimmick, but it is working for me. I came across an ad that said, “Stand up against sitting.” And another that said, “Sitting is the new smoking.” Since I sit an awful lot of the time (and have realized the weight gain consequences) I investigated. The device advertised was called a Varidesk that allows someone sitting at a desk to pull two levers and in an instant raise his/her monitor and keyboard to a standing height. The reviews of the product were terrific. After checking with Santa, I ordered a single monitor Varidesk. I love it. I know you aren’t supposed to love things that cannot love back but this little device has made such a difference to my work environment. If I am feeling sluggish, I stand. If I need some new brain power infusion, I stand. I find myself standing more than sitting. I am taking a stand against sitting. [Check it out.](#)