



## NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2014

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[REVIEW THE 2013 BEAR TEAM REPORT](#)

### MEDA WEB PORTAL – MEETINGS SET TO BEGIN PHASE 1

The contract between MEDA and Golden Shovel has been signed; the contract between Beartooth RC&D and MDOC/BSTF has been signed which means the MEDA Web Portal Project may now begin Phase 1. President Tracy McIntyre sent an email to MEDA's Membership requesting match support in the amount of \$5,000 for the project; to date \$5,600 has been raised. The project is made possible thanks to support from our members, a Big Sky Trust Fund Grant and support from NorthWestern Energy.

Phase 1 work includes a Feasibility Study that contains a Marketing and Communications Plan, Stakeholder Interviews, MEDA Brand Development and Implementation Plan, and Prototypical Web Portal Outline and Initial Design. John Marshall, Golden Shovel, will conduct face-to-face meetings in Missoula, Helena, Malta, Billings and Miles City. These meetings will last 2 - 4 hours and provide MEDA Members the opportunity to give input on their ideas/needs/purpose of the MEDA Web Portal. The Web Portal Working Group includes: Chris Mehus, Rick Edwards, Brigitta Freer, Jim Davison, Tracy McIntyre, Jim Atchison, Martin DeWitt, John Rogers, McCall Flynn, Anne Boothe, Sarah Converse, Karyl Tobel and Nancy Faroni.

Please join us – and [RSVP](#)

**February 18th: Missoula;** 10:00am - Noon

Location: WGM Group Building, 1111 E. Broadway, Missoula

Coordinator: Gloria with Brent Campbell, WGM

**February 19th: Helena;** Noon - 2:00pm

Location: Helena Chamber, bottom floor; 6th and Cruse Ave.

Coordinator: Dr. Chris Shove, MBAC

**February 20th: Malta;** 9:00am - 11:00am

Location: Great Northern (GN) Hotel & Restaurant Lodge Room. Corner of 1st Street and Central Ave.

Coordinator: Anne Booth, Triangle Communications

### SPRING CONFERENCE UPDATE

The date has been set for the MEDA Spring Conference, at MSU Northern, in Havre. Program training and Professional Development training will begin at 8:00am on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, with the conference beginning at Noon and concluding at 2pm on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Agenda Committee includes: Paul Tuss, Chair; Michelle Burchard, Jason Rittal, Karyl Tobel, Tracy McIntyre, Jim Davison and Kellie Danielson. The focus of the conference will be to address the needs of Main Street as indicated in the Main Street Project report

outcomes. Programs and tools used by economic developers to provide for business success will be showcased. More information will be available soon!

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE TO MEET**

Something new! The membership committee will be charged with the tasks to work with the Board in reviewing current MEDA membership benefits, making suggestions on improving, changing, and/or adding benefits, listserv information, conference fees, as well as promoting MEDA and recruiting new members. President Tracy McIntyre sent out a request for volunteers to serve on this committee which includes: Alyssa Hudders, Roger Hopkins, Tracy McIntyre, Marie Mahugh, Julie Foster, Jim Smitham, Stuart Leidner and Martin DeWitt. The committee will meet via conference call on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm and will make recommendations to the board at the May board meeting. Any and all MEDA Members are welcome to join the work of the committee.

### **MEDA WORKING GROUPS**

MEDA CRDC/EDD Working Group – The next conference call for the CRDC/EDD Working Group is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. The group will meet with Jodi Duncan, EDA, to review EDA reporting issues. The CRDC/EDD webpage is: <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/crdcedd/>

MEDA BEAR Working Group – The 2014 MEDA BEAR Roundup will tentatively take place toward the end of the MEDA Spring Conference. A luncheon will be held with Montana BEAR Teams to discuss all things BEAR, including a roundtable with MT Dept. of Commerce program officials. Time will also be set aside for training on Montana Dept. of Labor programs that are a fit with economic development projects. The BEAR website for the working is: <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/bear/>

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, February 11th, 10:00am – 11:30am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commission Room, 2701 Prospect Ave., Helena.

MEDA Brownfields Working Group – Katharine Thompson, City of Kalispell, facilitated the first conference call for this group. Minutes are available at <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/brownfields-environmental/> The next call is set for March 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 11:00am. All are welcome to participate; dial in using 712.432.0175 pin 217279.

### **NEW MEDA MEMBERS**

MEDA gained three new members in January: Allison Mouch, MDOC/CTAP; Toni Pedersen, Great Northern Development Corp.; and Kim Falcon, MT Dept. of Agriculture. MEDA's membership stands at 207.

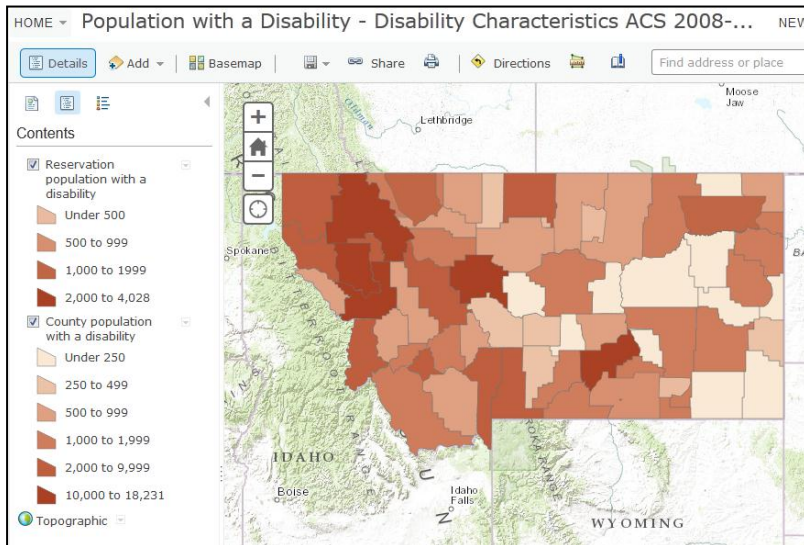
### **BOARD TO MEET**

The MEDA Board will meet the evening of May 5<sup>th</sup>, in Havre, prior to the MEDA Conference. All MEDA members and partners are welcome to attend. Details will be available when MEDA conference registration opens.

**DID YOU SAVE THE DATE? MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE  
MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> \* MSU-NORTHERN \* HAVRE, MT**

**Maps Show Latest U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) Data for Montana on Health Insurance Coverage and Disability (2008-2012 ACS 5-Year Estimate)**

CEIC’s GIS Coordinator Leslie Zolman has created two maps with important data for public policy - one showing the latest numbers of Montanan’s with disabilities and the second the percentage of Montana residents with insurance coverage.

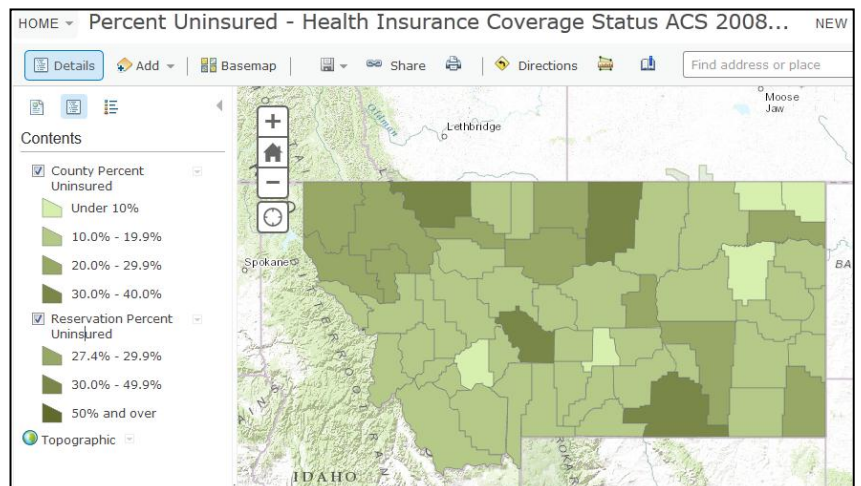


Statewide, the ACS data shows that 13% of the population reported some type of disability. The likelihood of having a disability varied significantly by age - from 5 percent of people 5 to 17 years old, 11 percent of people 18 to 64 years old, and 37 percent of those over 65.

Counties with the highest estimated **number** of residents with a disability were Yellowstone (18,231 residents or 12.5% of the county population), Missoula (12,317 residents or 11.3% of the county population), Cascade (11,900 residents or 15.4% of the county population), and Flathead (10,212 residents or 11.3% of the county population.)

Counties with the highest estimated **percentage** of residents with disabilities were Meagher (580 residents or 22.9% of the county population), Deer Lodge (1,598 residents or 21.8% of the county population), Mineral (819 residents or 21.8% of the county population), and Sanders (2,956 residents or 21.2% of the county population). Counties reporting the lowest estimated percentage of residents with disabilities were Gallatin (12,708 residents or 7.7% of the county population) and Petroleum (148 residents or 7.2% of the county population). Nationally, 12% or over 36 million Americans are estimated to have some type of disability.

With regard to the important issue of health coverage, the data shows that 17% of Montana’s population reported having no health insurance coverage. Counties with the highest estimated levels of uninsured residents were Big Horn (40.0%), Blaine (35.4%) and Glacier (35.0%). Counties with the lowest estimated percentage of uninsured were Sheridan (7.7%), McCone (8.5%) and Golden Valley (8.6%).



Nationally, 14.9% of U.S. residents are uninsured. Seven states have a statistically higher percentage of uninsured residents than Montana: Texas (23.0%) , Nevada (21.6%), Florida (20.5 %), New Mexico (19.6%) , Alaska (19.5%), Georgia (18.8%), and Oklahoma (18.6%).

The Disability and Health Insurance maps can be accessed on the Governor’s Interactive Map Gallery site <http://montana.gov/mediagallery.aspx?activeTab=2>

For more information, contact CEIC staff at [ceic@mt.gov](mailto: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.
- The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology is accepting proposals for funding. Proposals are due March 3, 2014. The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT website at <http://businessresources.mt.gov/content/MBRCT/FY2015Guidelines.pdf>. If you have any questions regarding the RFP, please contact Dave Desch, Executive Director [\(406\) 841-2760](tel:4068412760).

**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.

- **GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING CLASS, FEBRUARY 11 & 12, 2014-8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M**  
About the Instructor — Janet Cornish has been presenting proposal writing seminars for more than twenty years. She is an independent community development consultant and has been on the adjunct faculty at Montana Tech since 1991. [Registration Link](#). Fee \$110.00 for 2 day class and materials. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held at 65 E. Broadway, Butte MT.
- **BBER Outlook Seminars** <https://www.bber-secure.umt.edu/register2014.asp>
  - Billings – Tuesday, Feb. 4, Crowne Plaza
  - Bozeman – Wednesday, Feb. 5, Best Western GranTree
  - Butte – Thursday, Feb. 6, La Quinta Inn
  - Kalispell – Friday, Feb. 14, Hilton Garden Inn
  - Lewistown – Tuesday, March 11, Central Montana Education Center
  - Havre – Wednesday, March 12, Montana State University-Northern, Hensler Auditorium.

This half-day seminar and luncheon will highlight economic trends for local, state and national economies. UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Polzin will present economic forecasts for each seminar city, and industry experts will provide the outlook for Montana's important sectors: energy, nonresident travel, health care, agriculture, real estate, manufacturing and forest products.

The seminar runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration costs \$80, which includes lunch, BBER's forecast publication, a bound copy of the presentations, and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER's award-winning business journal.

- **W2ASACT Workshops**  
The Community Development Division programs will be participating in the upcoming Funding Workshop carried out through Water, Wastewater And Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT). The W2ASACT participating agencies will collaboratively hold this workshop in Great Falls at the Best Western Heritage Inn on February 19, 2014. If you would like to find out more information about the workshop please visit: <http://comdev.mt.gov/WorkshopsandWebinars/workshopsandwebinars.mcpX>



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

[REVIEW THE 2013 BEAR TEAM REPORT](#) and learn how the Montana BEAR Program impacted businesses in 2013.

Montana BEAR Teams started the year great: there were 22 Retention Visits held in January! Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 11, Missoula - 6, Lake - 3, Park – 1 (Action Item) and Yellowstone - 2 .

**January Outreach Specialist Visits:**

Mike Jackson - 10	Mora McCarthy - 5	Bill Silverman – 4	Lynn Lagerquist - 3
Brigitta Miranda-Freer - 2	Deborah Derrick Gass - 1	Mike Williams - 2	Todd Erickson - 2
Chad Moore – 2	Lindsey Simpson - 2	Michael Morrison - 1	Angie McDonald – 1
Vida Wilkinson - 1	Courtney Hartman - 1	Sarah Stewart - 1	

**MY TURN: Your Ideas Needed**

Do your best to attend one of the MEDA Web Portal meetings with John Marshall and crew of Golden Shovel. Golden Shovel is opening an office in Montana – right next door to the MEDA office. John will be visiting with MEDA folks in Missoula, Helena, and Malta (please see first article) February 18, 19' 20; Billings and Miles City will be visit locations in early March. Your input, feedback, and ideas are essential to make the MEDA Web Portal a success. When this project is completed, it will be historic as no other state in the union has one web portal to access economic development entities across the entire state.