MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR JANUARY 2013

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IMPACT – Partnerships that Work; ROTUNDA DAY JANUARY 15TH
The Rotunda Day Committee has held several meetings to plan this special event. The theme is “IMPACT – Partnerships that Work” which will showcase Montana’s economic development programs and the agencies that use these programs. The day will consist of displays, a success story slide show, and a luncheon for legislators as well as participants. Serving on the committee: Rick Edwards, Andy Poole, Anne Boothe, Jim Davison, Janice Wannebo, Karyl Tobel, Martin DeWitt, Paul Tuss and Christine Bell. Be watching your email inbox for an invitation to send to your legislators.

FOUR COMMITTEE WEBINAR HELD DECEMBER 10TH
Four MEDA committees have been working independently with overlapping issues. Tracy McIntyre organized a webinar to bring the groups together to share information and identify points of collaboration. The committees included the MEDA Board, MEDA Legislative Committee, CRDC/EDD Working Group including the Online Economic Gateway Subcommittee, and the EDA Working Group. Meeting Minutes.

MEDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
The MEDA Legislative Committee hit the New Year running with a 7:00am call on January 2nd. The calls will continue on a weekly basis throughout the session. Two reports have been compiled reflecting the success of the so-called 2019 Programs and the One-Time-Only programs that serve as key economic development tools for economic developers. One report is in final draft that combines both 2019’s and OTO’s and includes success stories as well. The reports website is http://www.medamembers.org/members/legislature/

BEAR Highlights:
See Monthly Report Here
- BEAR Team Success Stories (slide show format) sought for 2013 Legislative Session.
- Nine business visits were held in December; 14 referrals were generated with six closed.
- Tutorials for Version 6 ExecutivePulse are available; a webinar to review the basics is pending.
Using the EASY STATS tool to get detailed Montana Community Estimates

In December, the U.S. Census Bureau released estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) for the combined years from 2007 to 2011, providing the only statistics down to the neighborhood level on school enrollment, jobs, housing and many other measures. As part of this release the Census Bureau also created a new tool for community level searches. Named “EASY STATS”, the tool can be accessed from the Census Bureau’s website at http://www.census.gov/easy-stats. The user first chooses a state; then picks either a county or place within that state. The site also allows you to embed the table into a web page if you choose.

Here is an example showing estimated Per Capita Income in 2011 dollars for Sidney, Montana.

Five topics areas are available (Financial, Jobs, Housing, People, and Education) and each topic area includes a number of table choices. Not all the tables are available at the smaller populated place levels, but data is available for each of Montana’s counties and larger cities. All the tables can be downloaded in Excel Format for further analysis or printing.

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

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

CRDC/EDD – Montana Online Economic Gateway Subcommittee

This group continues to pursue the building of an online presence for Montana’s economic development efforts. An informational webinar was held for four working committees to learn more about the project on December 19th. Chris Mehus serves as Subcommittee Chair.

RLF

The Revolving Loan Fund Working Group met on December 11th to discuss the LINC Reporting System. Minutes of the December call are now available. The next meeting will take place on January 16th, 10:00am and will be a webinar for training on the LINC System. Christin Hileman serves as Chair.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
This working group met on December 4th to discuss training opportunities for MEDA in 2013. This committee strives to find a balance between trainers coming to Montana and using our own professionals for training. Kellie Danielson serves as Chair.

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants** [Extension Community Resources Program weblink](http://www.extension.montana.edu/communityresources/). 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](http://www.montanawestern.edu/ce/crb/downloads/2012grants.pdf) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements.

- The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology is accepting proposals for funding. Proposals are due March 1, 2013. The Request for Proposals can be found on the MBRCT website at [http://businessresources.mt.gov/content/MBRCT/2014Guidelines.pdf](http://businessresources.mt.gov/content/MBRCT/2014Guidelines.pdf). If you have any questions about the RFP, please contact Dave Desch, Executive Director, [406] 841-2760

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.

2. **Community Builder's Summit**: Today's economy has communities and local government looking for creative ways to attract and maintain jobs, spur quality development, increase fiscal solvency and do more with fewer resources. In this post-recession environment, evidence of evolving consumer preferences and new residential and commercial markets are appearing. The Community Builders Summit – to be held January 30 & 31 in Bozeman – offers the opportunity to explore these trends and learn about approaches to capturing this emerging market demand.

   - **Highlights of the day will include**: Insight from local and national experts on market and economic trends affecting our region; · Discussion of creative and practical tools that communities can use to align economic development and planning efforts; · Explore the opportunities, trends and resources available to assist businesses and communities in better positioning themselves for development and growth. For more information and conference details visit the website at [http://www.sonoraninstitute.org/where-we-work/northern-rockies/community-builders-summit.html](http://www.sonoraninstitute.org/where-we-work/northern-rockies/community-builders-summit.html)

3. Steve Arveschoug, Chad Moore and Big Sky EDA compiled the summaries which compare Montana's business rankings with our neighboring state's business rankings. One summary contains data from Forbes and the other CNBC. Check out these very interesting comparisons. [http://www.medamembers.org/mission/resource/](http://www.medamembers.org/mission/resource/)

4. The Montana Department of Commerce is pleased to announce a new feature to its website, the “**Funded Project Search Utility**” button. Look for the yellow resource buttons in the middle of the website to find this link [http://businessresources.mt.gov](http://businessresources.mt.gov). The link will take you to a public database of Montana Department of Commerce, Business Resources Division funded projects. You can search by program, award year, applicant or other search criteria. If you have specific questions about a project, please contact that program’s staff for further information. Other yellow buttons include links to the current division newsletter and brochure.

5. Beginning Jan. 1, Apple iPhone and iPad users can find the $1.99 app by searching for “Montana Legislature” in the [App Store](http://appstore.com). Android device users can find that app, also $1.99, by searching for “Montana Legislature” in the Google PlayStore, also beginning Jan. 1. The hard copy edition will continue to be made available at the Capitol and at the MECA office in Great Falls beginning Jan. 7.
MEDA 2013 SPRING AND FALL CONFERENCES
While dates have not been set, locations for MEDA’s 2013 conferences have been decided. The spring conference will be hosted by RCEDA the first week in May; the fall conference will be held in Sidney hosted by the Eastern Montana Coalition. Whitefish expressed interest in hosting a conference as well as Opportunity Link.

MY TURN: Two “S” Words – Session and Sweaters
Let the excitement begin! It is almost time for Montana’s 63rd Legislative Session. Since the 59th session, MEDA has played a key role in keeping our membership informed of legislative direction that affects key economic development programs and priorities. This session will be no different: the rotunda event is planned, reports are ready, powerpoints in place, handouts available, conference calls scheduled – all in place to be prepared for what may be needed. Please do depend on MEDA for legislative updates and information on specific bills. The website for all things legislative for MEDA is http://www.medamembers.org/members/legislature/

What, might you ask, does the word “Sweaters” have to do with “Session:?” Nothing, nothing at all. But as an incentive for all MEDA members and partners to visit our Facebook page, I encourage you to “like” our page and enjoy seeing a MEDA member and his wife as winners of the Ugly Sweater Contest. You will be glad you did.

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