MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR JULY 2013

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MEDA WORKING GROUPS – SURVEY RESULTS
Thanks to MEDA Members for taking the Working Group Survey. Here is what the groups now look like. If you would like your name added, just send an email. Three new groups were suggested: Housing, Business Recruitment, and Tech Based Economic Development. Send an email if you are interested in helping to establish these groups.

- BEAR
- Brownfields (Needs Chair)
- Native American Partners
- Transportation (Needs Chair)
- Value Added Ag
- Tourism & Recreation
- Economic Gardening
- Energy
- RLF
- Innovation & Strategic Planning
- Workforce & Education (Needs Chair)

MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
In June:
- Only four business visits were held in June but eight action items were generated with two closed. Visits in each county: Flathead – 1, Gallatin – 1, Yellowstone – 2
- Outreach Specialists in June and number of business visits:
  - Allen Kawasaki - 1
  - Donald Jones - 1
  - Chad Moore - 2
  - John Moberly - 1
  - Mike Jackson - 1
  - Laura Rhodes - 1
  - Warren Vaughan - 2

- IWT – Here we go! Thanks to the hard work of the IWT Working Group and IWT Program Manager Chris Wilhelm, the program is ready to roll out July 1st with new forms, new criteria and tightened accountability measures. Chris held two webinars in June to get everyone familiar with the new forms and criteria. Here is the new website for the general public: http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/service/iwt.asp

- Print the new brochure: http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/service/_iwt/_docs/IWT Brochure 2013.docx

- Thanks to ExecutivePulse
  Our partners at ExecutivePulse stepped up to the plate and within days added a new survey to the BEAR and IWT process. Following each IWT Grant award, partners will report within ExecutivePulse as to whether or not the training goals were met. Please contact Gloria at 406.563.5259 if you need help in finding the survey and/or getting set up within the system. Thank you, ExecutivePulse!

Have a safe fun-filled 4th!
The following table shows the trends in employment by industry based on the Bureau of Economics (BEA) employment statistics. Overall, the estimated change in non-farm full and part-time employment statewide was 13.6% from 528,049 employees in 2001 to 599,874 employees in 2011. For the U.S., the overall change in non-farm, employment for the same period was 6.6%.

As the chart shows, the growth in health care and social assistance outpaced all other industry sectors. Based on available data, this industry growth trend is expected to continue driven by increased demand for services from an aging population. Current projections show the statewide proportion of Montanans 65+ increasing from 13.5% in 2001 to 23.5% of the population by 2040 – an increase of more than 270,000 residents.

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](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/hope6/grants/mainstreet) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email [MEDA](http://www.travelmontana.mt.gov/forms/) for the username and password.

- MT Office of Tourism’s Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program Grants. The updated form is posted [here](http://www.travelmontana.mt.gov/forms/) on Tuesday, July 9, 1:30-2:30 pm. [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/334496633](https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/334496633)

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. Brownfield Grant Workshop being co-hosted by Snowy Mountain Development Corp., TAB at Kansas State, and Montana DEQ in Lewistown, Montana on July 11. This free one-day workshop is designed for communities and their grant writers primarily interested in applying for an EPA Assessment Grant (Community-Wide, Site-Specific or Coalition) or Cleanup Grant. Cost: Free - registration required. (Lunch is provided; there will be a $15 cost payable upon sign-in.) For agenda, location and other information, please go to the workshop webpage at:
   http://www.engg.ksu.edu/chsr/outreach/tab/workshops/20130711BF_LewistownMT.html

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. Participate in the Main Street Project Roundtables: Main Street Montana video created by Montana Ambassador JP Gabriel. Website with details: http://www.mainstreetmontanaproject.com Next up: Kalispell, Flathead Valley Community College, 2:00pm, July 8th

MY TURN: Your MEDA Board at Work

Following the board meeting in May, two board task forces were established: 1. Web Portal Project and, 2. Legislative Strategy Teams. The committees, consisting of board members, have all had at least one meeting; reports are due to the board by July 19th. The MEDA Board will meet for a retreat August 5th and 6th to review the information and set next steps. The RFP for the Web Portal Project should be advertised the first week in July and will begin the process of establishing a unified web presence for economic development organizations in Montana. The Legislative Strategy Teams consist of: Thinking Outside the Box, Research our Neighboring States, Return on Investment and Non-Traditional Tools for Montana. Needless to say, the legislative strategy for the 2015 Legislative Session has begun!

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