



MEDA NEWS FOR MAY 2014

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Were you in a cowboy hat in Miles City for the 2010 MEDA Spring Conference? A new group picture will be taken at the 2014 Spring Conference in Havre. Just one more reason to be in Havre next week!

SEE YOU IN HAVRE! MEDA SPRING CONFERENCE May 6th and 7th [Online Registration](#) is closing Friday at 5:00pm. Thanks to the hard work of our host, Bear Paw Development Corporation, and the MEDA Agenda Committee, the [2014 Spring Conference](#) is power-packed. Attendees will contribute to high level discussions with Governor Bullock and his administrative leadership to dig in to the Montana Business Plan, explore solutions and recognize current assets. MSU President Waded Cruzado will speak on “Higher Education and Economic Development: A Winning Combination for Montana”, in-depth program training will be provided by USDA/RD just prior to the conference, followed by professional development training. Everyone is invited to stay for the post-conference BEAR Roundup which is featuring MDOC, SBA and MDLI program training. USDA/RD Program Training and Professional Development training will begin at 8:30am on Tuesday, May 6th, with the conference beginning at Noon and concluding at 2pm on May 7th. The Agenda Committee includes: Paul Tuss, Chair; Michelle Burchard, Jason Rittal, Karyl Tobel, Tracy McIntyre, Jim Davison and Kellie Danielson.

MEDA SPRING SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Anne Boothe, Scholarship Committee Chair, recently announced the spring winners of the [Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship](#) awards: John Winegart, Lake County Community Development, \$1,200 for NDC ED201 Credit Analysis; Brigitta Freer, Missoula Economic Partnership, \$600 for ED in Indian Country and Renewable Project Development Finance; Joseph Willauer, Headwaters RC&D, \$1,200 for NDC ED 201 Credit Analysis. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide in-depth training to enhance the knowledge of those working in the field of economic development. Congratulations!

MEDA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE IS BUSY!

The MEDA Membership Committee is hard at work and held its third meeting on April 23rd. The committee is charged with 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. Jim Smitham recently sent a memo to all MEDA Members asking them to submit names of colleagues that would be a good fit to join the MEDA Team. Any and all MEDA Members are welcome to join the work of the committee. Next meeting: May 20th at 10:00am. Jim

Smitham is serving as Chair and joined by Alyssa Townsend-Hudders, Roger Hopkins, Tracy McIntyre, Marie Mahugh, Julie Foster, Jim Smitham, Stuart Leidner and Martin DeWitt.

MEDA WORKING GROUPS

MEDA CRDC/EDD Working Group – The CRDC/EDD Working Group met on April 30th at 10:30am to discuss items of importance to EDD's and their partnership with EDA. Jodi Duncan, EDA, reviewed several key points of information; minutes are available at <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/crdcedd/>

MEDA BEAR Working Group – The 2014 MEDA BEAR Roundup will take place immediately following lunch on May 7th as part 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 – As a result of a meeting held in February, action items have been completed and resources are posted on the Transportation Working Group site [here](#). Kathie Bailey, Chair, has set the next meeting for Thursday, August 14, 2014 10:00am - 11:30am; 2nd Floor Commission Room, MT Dept. of Transportation, Helena.

MEDA Brownfields Working Group –Katharine Thompson, City of Kalispell, has set the next meeting for this working group on May 13th, 10:00am – 11:00am. All are welcome to participate. Minutes are available at <http://www.medamembers.org/groups/brownfields-environmental/>

MEDA ECONOMIC GATEWAY/WEB PORTAL PROJECT UPDATE

MEDA Conference attendees will be treated to the first peek of the framework for the online Montana Economic Gateway. John Marshall, Golden Shovel Agency, will present during the MEDA Annual Meeting on May 6th and take the audience through the site basics. The Web Portal Working Group includes: Chris Mehus, Luke Walawander, 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.

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

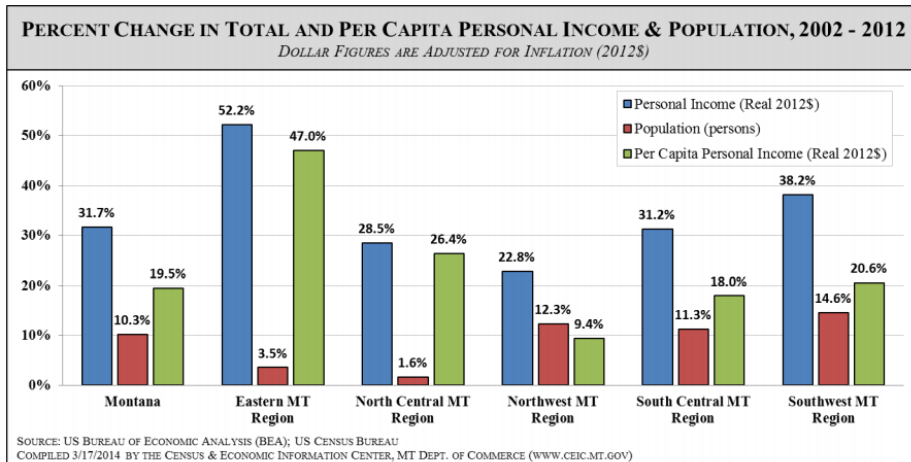
- [Check these out! New Community Friendly Grants](#) *Extension Community Resources Program weblink.* Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.
- **GRANTSTATION:** [Click here to read the entire newsletter](#) or click on the section headings for specific grant opportunities and important announcements. Email [MEDA](#) for the username and password.
- **USDA Rural Development MT Availability of 2014 REAP Funds, Rural Energy for America (REAP)** A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is anticipated for publication the week of May 5th – The REAP program is designed to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and energy consumption by providing Renewable Energy Systems (RES) and Energy Efficient Improvement (EEI) Grants and Guaranteed Loans.

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.

- *[The Community Reinvestment Act for Community-Based Organizations \(CRA for CBOs\), Wednesday, May 21, Northern Hotel, Billings.](#)* This training is designed for organizations that are interested in learning about the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and how this law can benefit the people and communities they serve. The training will provide concrete information about the

nuts and bolts of CRA and explore ways to work constructively and effectively with banks to improve conditions for low- and moderate-income individuals and families and within low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Both the training workshop and the Listening Session are being offered *free of charge*. A separate registration is required for each event. **Please click [here](#) to register for the CRA for CBOs training workshop. Please click [here](#) to register for the CRA Listening Session.**

- [Governor Bullock Looking for Industry Leaders for Main Street Montana Project Key Industry Networks](#)
- To establish the goals in the Consolidated Plan, we encourage you to complete the **Housing and Community Development online survey**. Comments gathered during this survey will be used to create narratives for inclusion in the Consolidated Plan. Your individual comments will remain anonymous and will be compiled with all other responses by an outside vendor. **Please complete the survey at your earliest convenience. It is located at this link:**
<https://www.research.net/s/2014MontanaHousingandCommunityDevelopmentSurvey>



Check out the slides from a presentation titled [Indicators of Economic Growth in Montana](#).

Graphic left: Just a small sampling of the many resources available to you on the CEIC website:

CEIC.mt.gov



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

MONTANA BEAR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **IWT:** IWT funds are almost gone for this Fiscal Year. Chris Wilhelm just sent the following information; numbers do not include applications that have come to Chris as of yesterday via ePass.

Funding Not Granted	\$74,934.27
Pipeline Applications	-\$48,152.38
AVAILABLE FUNDING	\$26,781.89

As IWT will run out of funding before the end of the year the Queue will be used. The Queue will be maintained centrally, so all applications submitted after funding is gone must be forwarded to Chris. Chris will be compiling accrual lists beginning next week. To be accrued, a contract must be in place and training must begin by June 30th. Grant payments that cannot be made by June 15th will

need to be accrued and Central Office will handle the reimbursement. Contact Chris at 406-444-3351 or ChrisWilhelm@mt.gov

- **Helena Visits Bozeman BEAR:** A meeting was held with members of the Helena BEAR Team to learn first hand of the great work being done by the Bozeman Team. Thanks, Bozeman, for sharing your expertise.
- **ExecutivePulse Data Highlights**
 - There were 25 Retention Visits held in April.
 - Action Items Created: 37 with Gallatin County leading the way with 31 Action Items created and 30 closed. Wow! Flathead County had four action items with Deer Lodge County with two.
 - Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 7, Gallatin – 9, Missoula – 4, Butte/Silver-Bow – 1, Sweet Grass County – 1, and Yellowstone County – 2.
- **April Outreach Specialist Visits – Thank you!**

Bill Silverman - 1	Jim Smitham - 1	Mike Jackson - 7
Brigitta Miranda-Freer - 1	Jodie Rasmussen - 1	Mike Williams - 2
Chad Moore - 2	Joel Bertolino - 1	Mora McCarthy - 2
Deborah Derrick Gass - 1	JR Strand - 2	Rick Edwards - 1
Dena Johnson - 2	Kiki Huls - 1	Warren Vaughan - 9
Denise Rabe-Kimerly - 1	Marissa Hauge - 1	

See you in Havre!