



Online News



Aug 8: [Pre-Symposium](#) MT Ambassador Awards
Aug 9: [Innovate Montana Symposium](#)
Aug 22-23: [NW Economic Development Course](#)
Aug 27: [MEDA AWARD APPLICATIONS DUE!](#)

[August 2018 Economic Update Series](#)



Sept 6: Interim Economic Affairs Committee meets
Sept 13: MEDA RTA Working Group 9am
Sept 15: MEDA Scholarship Deadline
Sept 18: MEDA RLF Working Group 10am
Sept 19: [MEDA Professional Development 2 – 5pm](#)
Sept 20 – 21: [MEDA Unconference!](#)
Sept 22: [Minnow Tank Finale](#)

[SBDC Training Calendar](#)
[MNA Training Calendar](#)



The Unconference
Unconventionally Inspiring Collaboration

un·con·fer·ence

/ˈɛnkɒnf(ə)rəns/

noun

a loosely structured conference emphasizing the informal exchange of information and ideas between participants, rather than following a conventionally structured program of events.
"at this unconference, attendees created sessions on the spot, making for an energizing and freewheeling exchange"

AGENDA

REGISTRATION

Unlike traditional conferences, the MEDA Fall Unconference is a participant-oriented meeting where the attendees decide on discussion topics and flow. The informal and flexible program allows participants to suggest topics of their own interest and choose sessions accordingly. The format provides an excellent opportunity for attendees to work collaboratively on topics of common interest. The overarching goal for most unconferences is to prioritize conversation over presentation. In other words, the content for a session does not come from a select number of individuals at the front of the room, but is generated by all the attendees within the room, and, as such, every participant has an important role.



Check out the [agenda updates](#);
See you in Billings August 8 – 9!

Ticket winners:
Darren Varley and Dean Vig

MEDA AWARDS: SHOWCASE YOUR PROJECT AND/OR HONOR A COLLEAGUE

The MEDA Awards Committee is excited to announce that nominations for the 2018 MEDA Innovation Award and the Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development Award are now open and awaiting your applications! **Deadline: August 27th**
[Criteria and Application](#)

The Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) Innovation Award

This award recognizes an innovative project significantly impacting a Montana community and its citizens. The award is intended to recognize participants involved in a Montana innovative economic development project and to highlight best practices. Nominations are made by MEDA members and should include a list of all organizations, individuals, agencies, or participants involved in the successful project. This may be a self-nominating application; but is intended to celebrate the partnerships, innovative aspects and economic development impact of a project.



The Anthony J. Preite Champion of Economic Development Award

This award recognizes a Montana Economic Developer Association member in honor of Anthony J. Preite, a native Montanan who devoted 50 years to local, state and federal development agencies in leadership roles, and is credited with significantly Montana communities and her citizens. This award is intended for a Montanan who has practiced economic development full-time who has significantly contributed to the profession, to the association, their economic development organization, and to the communities as a whole.



REMINDER FOR MEDA MEMBERS

The MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship third quarter deadline is September 15th. [Application](#)

MEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Chris Cerquone, Chair. This committee is very busy! The committee has broken into subcommittees to make marketing recommendations to the board as well as ideas for restructuring the MEDA board. A special meeting will be held the morning of September 21st for MEDA members to vote on the pending new board structure.

POPLAR PHASE 2 – MONTANA COMMUNITY REVIEW



The Phase 2 Team spent July 16th and 17th in Poplar: Martin DeWitt, Liz Ching, Gus Byrom, Sue Taylor, Tim Guardipee, Ryan Kopp, Kev Campbell, Debra Madison, Paul Lachapelle, Tori Matejovsky, Ashleigh Weeks, and Gloria O'Rourke. The team provided resources and information on the following topics and facilitated small working group sessions: Governance, Economic Development, Community Clean Up, Education, Housing, Infrastructure, Culture and Health; and Downtown Revitalization. [Read the Phase 1 Report.](#)

CHOTEAU REPORT COMPLETED

The Choteau Community Review Visiting Team [compiled its report](#). Choteau is now off and running with new projects and energy.

To learn more about Montana Community Reviews check out our [newly-developed website](#) and [Assessment Map](#)

MEDA WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

- **MEDA RLF Working Group**– This group is all about working with Revolving Loan Funds and learning from each other how to improve day-to-day tasks with RLFs. The next quarterly RLF meeting is set for September 18th, 10:00am. Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, coordinates the working group.
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This group will meet Thursday, September 13th, at 9am, to provide input on the new Montana Community Review process.

MEDA BOARD UPDATE

The MEDA Board met in Helena, July 9 – 10, for its annual planning meeting. The board had a challenging agenda for its meeting including Legislative strategies, potential restructuring of the MEDA board, and committee reports.

TOOLS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

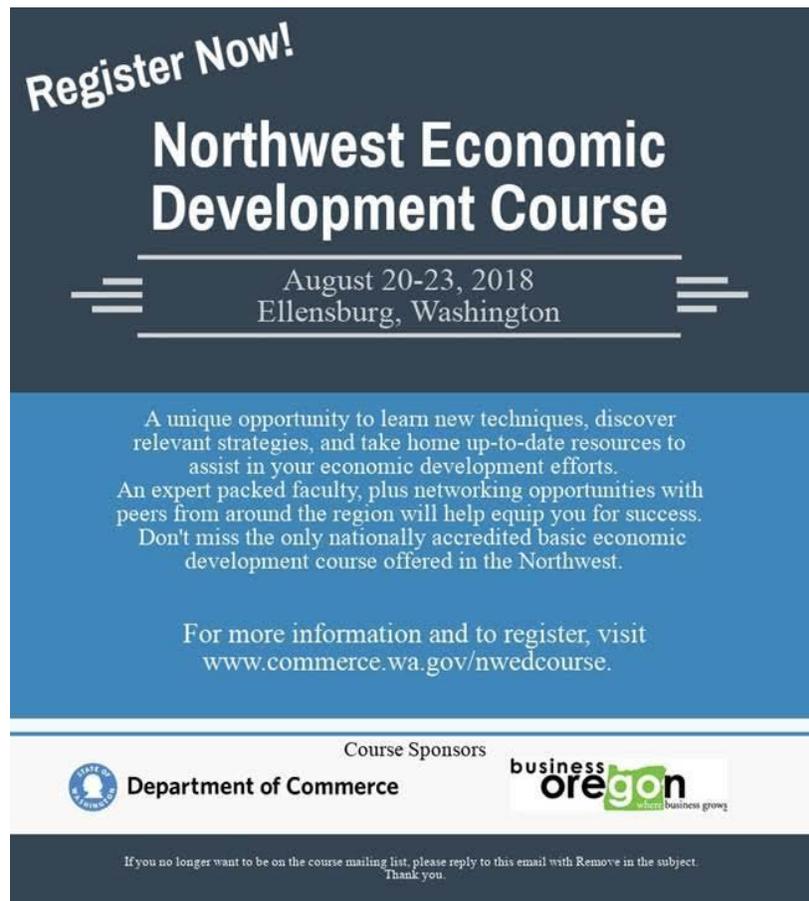
Check out the information below to learn of new tools and opportunities for you as you work in the field of Economic Development.

- IEDC Conference: We know we'll see many of you in Atlanta September 30-October 3 for [IEDC's Annual Conference](#), the largest yearly gathering of economic development professionals.
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- [Information About Applying for Funding on Grants.gov](#) If you're thinking of applying for a grant from [grants.gov](#) but don't know where to get started, consider reviewing the posts on the [grants.gov community blog](#). Their grant writing basics section has information about Demystifying Funding Announcements, Understanding the Funder and Avoiding Last Minute Problems. For more information, the [grants.gov homepage](#) has introductory videos about applying for grants.

- **Understanding Communities: Online course offers tools for community development**

Would you like to understand how communities work? Are you curious about why good ideas sometimes fall flat? Do you watch groups struggle to make decisions without adequate data? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions we invite you to register for *Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics*, a unique online course presented jointly by the four Regional Rural Development Centers (this includes the Western Rural Development Center) and a team of nationally recognized Community Development professionals. Register now at <https://catalog.extension.org/product?catalog=UnderstandComm>



Register Now!

Northwest Economic Development Course

August 20-23, 2018
Ellensburg, Washington

A unique opportunity to learn new techniques, discover relevant strategies, and take home up-to-date resources to assist in your economic development efforts. An expert packed faculty, plus networking opportunities with peers from around the region will help equip you for success. Don't miss the only nationally accredited basic economic development course offered in the Northwest.

For more information and to register, visit www.commerce.wa.gov/nwedcourse.

Course Sponsors

 Department of Commerce 

If you no longer want to be on the course mailing list, please reply to this email with Remove in the subject. Thank you.

⇒ [CEDS Central](#) – a website for all things CEDS.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants! <http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>

⇒ SBA - [Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative Services](#) – 2018

⇒ The Montana Solar Community Project (MSCP) is issuing a request for applications for the funding of community-scale solar projects in Montana. MSCP is making at least **\$110,000** available for communities, non-profits organizations, and electricity providers interested in organizing and developing a community-scale solar project. MSCP is looking to provide up to **\$15,000 per project** in to cover project planning, outreach, engineering, and administration expenses. For more information about the request for applications and how you can apply today, go to www.mtsolarcommunity.com/solar-grant. First round funding applications are due August 10, 2018. Garrett Martin 406-444-6582

⇒ [USDA Community Development Grants](#)

⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email [gloria](#) if you would like the username and password.

⇒ Apply for the Tourism Grant Program. By investing in destination development, you'll be positioned to bring a larger share of this economic impact into your community—and tourism grants can help. If you represent a Montana nonprofit organization, city or county government, or tribal government, your project to support the development or promotion of tourism and recreation in your community may be eligible to receive a grant. Up to \$750,000 will be awarded this grant cycle. Applications will be accepted until **Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.** Learn more and apply online at: MarketMT.com/Grants

