



## Online News



July 16-17: Poplar Phase 2 Community Review  
July 17: Lean Workshop, Missoula [Registration](#)  
July 20: NADO [Awards Deadline](#)  
July 25-25 Grant Writing USA [Training](#), Billings

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



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

**Save the Date: September 20 – 21**  
**MEDA Fall Conference**  
**Hosted by: Missoula Economic Partnership**

### **SAVE THE DATE: MEDA FALL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 20 - 21**

The MEDA Fall Conference will be held immediately following the MACo Conference, September 20-21, in Missoula. Missoula Economic Partnership will host; save the date and plan to spend some time in Missoula networking and learning with your colleagues!

### **MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

MEDA gained three new members in June: Julia Bryant, Can-Do Ideas, Helena; Karen Kallestad, Lake County Community Development Corp., and Brent Moore, Interstate Engineering, Red Lodge. Welcome to MEDA!

### **DON'T MISS THE 2018 INNOVATE MONTANA SYMPOSIUM!**



*ONE DAY. TWO TRACKS.*  
*HUNDREDS OF MONTANA STARTUPS*  
*DRIVING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.*

## 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.



### SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15th

Congratulations to Adam Vauthier, Anaconda Local Development, for being awarded the MEDA Scholarship for the second quarter round. Adam will attend IEDC training on business expansion and retention. The MEDA Rick Jones Memorial Scholarship third quarter deadline is September 15th. [Application](#)



Adam Vauthier

### MEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Awards Committee:** Kathie Bailey, Awards Committee Chair, Brett Doney, Tori Matejovsky, and Becky Bey met to kick off the 2018 MEDA Awards. Everyone is strongly encouraged to submit innovative projects for consideration and/or your colleague who has gone the extra mile(s) for Montana.
- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Chris Cerquone, Chair. This committee has met several times in June and will meet again in early July. The committee has broken into subcommittees to make marketing recommendations to the board as well as ideas for restructuring the MEDA board.

## POPLAR PHASE 2 – MONTANA COMMUNITY REVIEW

Are you curious as to what takes place during Phase 1 of a Community Review? Check out the Poplar Town Hall Meeting [Presentation](#) that provides an overview of all that took place. The Phase 2 Team is almost complete with the following sharing their expertise: Martin DeWitt, Liz Ching, Gus Byrom, Sue Taylor, Tim Guardipee, Ryan Kopp, Debra Madison, and Gloria O'Rourke. Main Topics for the return team to address with the people of Poplar: Governance, Economic Development, Community Clean Up, Education, Housing, Infrastructure, Culture and Health; and Downtown Revitalization.



## CHOTEAU PHASE 3 – STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING; REPORT PENDING

The Choteau Community Review Visiting Team is compiling reports and will submit the final report to Choteau in the next week. A Steering Committee update meeting was held; progress is being made by the people of Choteau.

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



## MDOC: TOURISM GRANT PROGRAM OPENS

- Good news! Applications for the Tourism Grant Program opened **Sunday, July 1**. Nonresident visitors to Montana spent \$3.4 billion across the state last year. 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](http://MarketMT.com/Grants)

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am. Tiffany Melby, Bear Paw Development, coordinates the working group.
- **MEDA Resource Team Assessment Working Group** – This group will meet Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 9am, to provide input on the new Montana Community Review process.

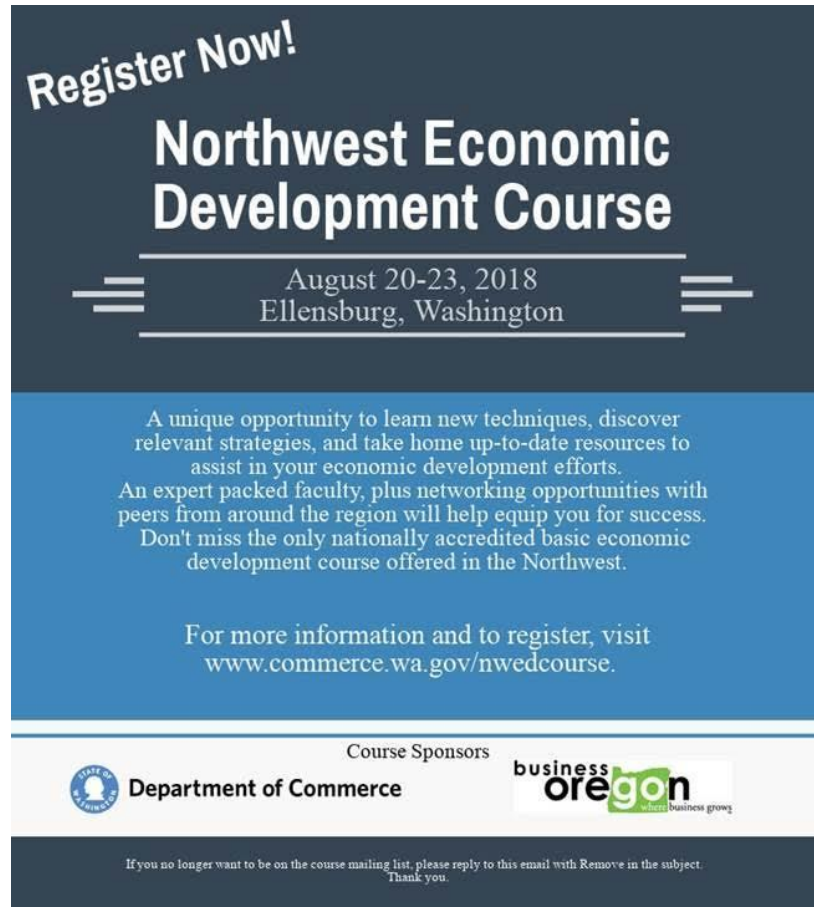
## MEDA BOARD UPDATE

The MEDA Board will hold its annual retreat July 9 – 10, in Helena, after making public comment to the Interim Economic Affairs Committee. The board has 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.



**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](http://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.
- ⇒ Last year StatsAmerica launched its [CEDS Resource Library](#), which allows all CEDS to be accessed in one place via an interactive map and through a search function. Anyone can find "exemplars" by CEDS categories (i.e. Participation, SWOT Analysis, Strategic Direction and Action Plan, etc.), search for regions similar to their own based on demographics, per capita personal income growth, and other characteristics, discover best practices and resources for your CEDS, and look up CEDS for a specific Economic Development District.

This is a tremendous opportunity for EDDs to learn from each other and share best practices about the CEDS and regional economic development. However, this resource is only valuable if the information remains up-to-date and relevant. Through the *CEDS Upload tool*, EDDs will be able to upload their most current CEDS documents to the site once they have been approved by their EDA Regional Office.

**If you have not done so already, as soon as possible email Bernadette Grafton at [bgrafton1@eda.gov](mailto:bgrafton1@eda.gov) with 1 to 2 points of contact for EDD staff who will be responsible for uploading your district's CEDS materials and maintaining your account.**

- ⇒ [Grant Writing USA Training](#), July 25 – 26, in Billings.
- ⇒ **Latest Coal Communities Economic Diversification Newsletter Now Available**  
The latest installment of "[Growing Stronger Economies in Our Nation's Coal Communities](#)" is now available.

- ⇒ Every year, the [National Association of Development Organizations](#) recognizes member organizations that demonstrate innovative approaches to regional economic and community development through our [Innovation Awards program](#). Previous award-winning projects have showcased innovative efforts in a variety of program areas including business and economic development, community health initiatives, emergency planning, brownfields, sustainability, technology, transportation, workforce development, others. Deadline: July 20<sup>th</sup>; Questions? Contact Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org) or Laurie Thompson at [lthompson@nado.org](mailto:lthompson@nado.org). [Click here to learn more details and apply!](#)
- ⇒ One day “Essentials of Lean Workshop” in Missoula, July 17, 8:30am – 4:30pm, Missoula College Room 122, 1205 E. Broadway Street. [Registration](#)

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ Check out the updated website from MSU Extension and their great list of grants! <http://msucommunityresources.org/GrantOpportunities.html>
- ⇒ 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](http://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](mailto:gloria) if you would like the username and password.