



Online News



June 11-13: [BREI Conference](#)
June 14: Resource Team WG Call 9am
June 15: 2nd Quarter MEDA [Scholarship](#) Deadline
June 15: [TSEP](#) Deadline
June 21- 23: [MT Young Professionals Summit](#), Butte
June 26: [Revitalization Resources Workshop](#)
June 26: MIC Annual Meeting
June 28: [Free Brownfields WS in Butte](#)

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



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

Save the date:
August 9: Innovate Montana

MEDA MEMBERS: STRUT YOUR STUFF

Showcase your economic development efforts! Submit a one page proposal to **host the MEDA FALL CONFERENCE**. Share why your town would be best, theme and tour ideas, amenities, etc. Please [email Gloria](#) your response by June 5th. Note: this meeting could be held in conjunction with another conference in your area.

MEDA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Sara Hudson has new contact information: Hudson Consulting, LLC;
sara.hudson@theprofessionalsconsultant.com. MEDA gained one new member in May: Carla Lott, Tribal Tourism Officer, Indian Country Economic Development Programs. You can reach Carla at Carla.lott@mt.gov. Welcome, Carla!

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE NEARS

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

MEDA COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Awards Committee:** Kathie Bailey, Awards Committee Chair, Brett Doney, Tori Matejovsky, and Becky Bey are meeting soon to kick off the 2018 MEDA Awards. Get a head start; applications are due September 5th. [Applications](#)

- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Chris Cerquone, Chair. This committee is planning a meeting on June 4th to discuss MEDA by-laws, marketing, and all things MEDA.

POPLAR PHASE 1 – MONTANA COMMUNITY REVIEW

An Advance Team traveled to Poplar May 14th and 15th to begin Phase 1 of the new Montana Community Review process. The Home Team and Advance Team are pictured below. While Poplar has many challenges, they also have many assets. 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.



L to R: Gloria O'Rourke, Tori Matejovsky, Paul Lachapelle, Wilfred, Gus Byrom, Martina, Linda, and Ashleigh Weeks.

CHOTEAU PHASE 2 AND 3 ROLLING!

Choteau was Montana's first ever Community Review – and what a success it has been! A team returned to Choteau on 7th and 8th and assisted the Home Team and community in digging deep into issues and projects. A coach was selected (Thank you, Jerry Grebenc) and the first Steering Committee meeting was held.



L to R: Sarah Converse, Peggy Trenk, Paul Lachapelle, Steve Dogiakos, Lea McGibony, Jan Stoddard, Lorie Higgins, Corlene Martin, Gloria O'Rourke, Sue Taylor, Jerry Grebenc, and Gus Byrom. Not pictured: Jolene Schalper.

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

[Assessment Map](#)



MDOC: NEW INDIAN COUNTRY TOURISM INFO ONLINE

- The Department of Commerce is amplifying its efforts to promote tribal tourism with a new marketing campaign designed to inspire potential visitors from out of state to come and experience Indian Country firsthand. “The rich culture and history of tribal nations is an integral part of the Montana experience,” said Commerce Director Pam Haxby-Cote. “Marketing campaigns such as this will encourage visitors to bring the positive economic impacts of tourism into tribal communities and reservations.” [Check it out.](#)
- **A NEW WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH!**
Montana Department of Commerce now has a [LinkedIn](#) page. Visit this page to learn of relevant news stories and job postings. Check it out and keep in touch!

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, June 14th, at 9am, to provide input on the new Montana Community Review process.

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.

- ⇒ [CEDS Central](#) – a website for all things CEDS.
- ⇒ [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 20th; Questions? Contact Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org or Laurie Thompson at 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>
- ⇒ **TSEP** [Applications due](#) June 15th
- ⇒ **USDA Rural Development Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) Applications Being Accepted!** [Fact sheet](#); contact your nearest office for application details.
- ⇒ [USDA Community Development Grants](#)
- ⇒ MEDA is a member of [GrantStation](#). Email gloria if you would like the username and password.
- ⇒ [Small Scale Manufacturing](#) – Next week communities will be able to apply for free technical assistance from [Smart Growth America](#) and [Recast City](#) to help boost their small-scale manufacturing sectors. Small-scale manufacturing can be a powerful tool to revitalize downtowns of all sizes. Through EDA funding, Smart Growth America and Recast City will selected up to six communities to help them jumpstart local efforts to bring small-scale manufacturing into target locations to create vibrant, inclusive places. They will work with each community to implement best practices to unearth the hidden community gems in small-scale manufacturing, expand local business ownership, and promote neighborhood reinvestment. You can apply through Smart Growth America starting on June 5.