

EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF)

Deadline March 15, 2023

The program's overall objective is to aid in the development of good paying jobs for residents and to promote long-term, stable economic growth in Montana. There are two distinct methods to achieve this goal: Planning and Job Creation.

<https://business.mt.gov/Business-Assistance/Big-Sky-Economic-Development-Trust-Fund-Program/>

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Deadline March 31, 2023

The program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Agricultural producers may also apply for new energy efficient equipment and new system loans for agricultural production and processing.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/>

Transportation Alternatives Program- Deadline

April 12, 2023

The Program provides funding for a variety of generally smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities; construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas; community improvements such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trails; safe routes to school projects; and vulnerable road user safety assessments.

https://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/cdb/transportation_alternatives/TA_DESCRIPTION.pdf

Meet the Staff

EPEDC hired two new staff members and are excited to welcome Terra Burman and Lizzy Robertson to the team!

Terra Burman will serve as the Community and Agriculture Development Specialist working out of the Glendive office. Her role will include partnering with the Eastern Montana Food and Agriculture Development Center to support and resource the agriculture industry and producers throughout the region. Terra has lived in Glendive for 7 years and although she didn't grow up here, her family has long agricultural roots in Dawson County. Prior to Glendive, Terra lived in the Bay Area of California working as a Sales and Training Manager, Merchandising and General Manager for major retailers. She returned to Montana after her second child was born and was able to help with the family ranch day to day duties. She returned to the workforce as the Executive Director for the Glendive Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Although she enjoyed that position, she was excited to have the opportunity for as the Community and Agriculture Development Specialist. This position will combine her two passions of Agriculture and helping our local entrepreneurs' grow.

Lizzy Robertson will work as our Community Development Specialist out of Terry. In her role she will provide critical support to businesses as they look to grow and expand, as well as providing resources for local communities and organizations. After graduation from high school, Lizzy explored degrees in both Business Management and Marketing. Her entrepreneurial heart has taken her into many industries since then including being a mother to four boys, working in the family shop and running her own marketing and design business. Living in Terry, her passion is supporting and promoting the growth and economic health of the eastern Montana.

Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation is thrilled to have both Terra and Lizzy as advocates for the region. They bring a unique set of skills to the table and will be able to add great value to the organization.

Eastern Montana Tourism Initiative

The Montana Office of Tourism is partnering with communities across eastern Montana through the Eastern Montana Tourism Initiative to strengthen and diversify local and regional economies, in part by raising awareness of eastern Montana as a tourism destination.

Because of the success of the program in 2018-2019, Brand MT has brought the program back! EPEDC staff assisted with two applications to the Eastern Montana Tourism Initiative. Makoshika Wellness applied for marketing funds for their new Kayak Rentals to promote recreation on the Yellowstone River in Glendive. SMART applied for funding to renovate a vacant building in downtown Baker into a Visitor Center that showcases the community and the regional tourism opportunities.



MEDA Impact Awards

EPEDC received three Montana Economic Developers Association Impact Awards for work done in the region. These projects include the Ekalaka School Childcare Project, G.R.O.W. Building Campaign and the Plains to Porch Food Subscription Box.

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.
R. Collier

Montana Main Street Impact Grant

For the first time ever, the Montana Main Street Program launched the Montana Main Street Impact Grant. The Impact Grants will support Montana Main Street Program member community efforts to implement high impact projects that activate spaces and execute concrete ideas for downtown revitalization. Impact grant funds can be used to activate public spaces, downtown retail spaces, and upstairs housing among other efforts.

The Town of Terry applied for funding to create a Makers' Space called the Faded Rose Community Art Project. This project will to create a "Do It Yourself" studio or maker's space for all ages to come and explore a variety of artistic and creative mediums in one accessible space in the heart of Terry.

SMART in Baker applied for funding for the "World's Best Pocket Park". Instead of an empty, week covered lot in the downtown corridor, SMART plans to activate this place by creating a greenspace, event stage and community park adjacent to the Baker State Bank Building that they have spent the last two years renovating. Both these project represent the creativity and opportunities housed in our small towns.

Next Board Meeting
April 19, 2023

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Visit epedc.com for more information

The EPEDC serves the following counties and municipalities: Carter County, Dawson County, Fallon County, Prairie County and Wibaux County, as well as the Town of Ekalaka, the City of Baker, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna, the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry and the Town of Wibaux.