

EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

APRIL 14, 2021 NEWSLETTER 48

This Issue

Upcoming Grants

American Rescue Plan for Montana

Baker Branding

Quote of the Quarter

Oilfield Appreciation



Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF)-

Quarterly deadline for job creation and/or planning. June 16, Sept. 15, Dec. 15, 2021 and March 16, 2022.

<https://marketmt.com/BSTF>

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)

Applications accepted year round. Grant funding resource, used to help off-set a portion of skills-based training costs for existing workers employed by MT small businesses and nonprofits. <https://wsd.dli.mt.gov/employers/incumbent-worker-training-program/>

Community Food Projects (CFP) Competitive Grants Program

Application deadline May 2. The National Institute of Food and Ag intends to solicit applications and fund two types of grants (1) Community Food Projects (CFP) and (2) Planning Projects (PP).

<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/community-food-projects-cfp-competitive-grants-program>

Shuttered Venue Operators Grants (SVOG)

Opens April 8th first come first serve. SVOG program was appropriated more than \$16.2 billion for grants For operators of live venues, live performing arts organizations, museums and movie theatres, as well as live venue promoters, theatrical producers and talent representatives to apply for critical economic relief.

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/shuttered-venue-operators-grant#section-header-o>

Transportation Alternatives Program

Applications are due no later than June 4, 2021, there are funds for Capital Improvement projects and Pavement Preservation projects.

https://mdt.mt.gov/mdt/ta_application.shtml

American Rescue Plan (ARP) for Montana

As HB632 works its way through the legislature more information is becoming available on how the ARP funds will be allocated. HB632 will appropriate \$2.1 billion in federal ARP funds, appropriations made through these funds are able to continue through the biennium starting July 1, 2023. Four new commissions with oversight of the funds have been created: Infrastructure Advisory, Communications Advisory, Health Advisory, and the Economic Transformation and Stabilization Advisory Commission.

There are multiple elements of this bill we continue to watch closely. In regard to businesses, there are plans for Economic Transformation and Stabilization grants/loans, with a tentative submission date of July 1, 2021. Health and Human Services will be receiving funds to be used for child care stabilization and block grants. Funds have been preliminarily allocated for communication related to broadband, cell towers and public safety, with local government or private entities being allowed to apply for these funds. Finally, funds available for infrastructure being provided to local governments.

These funds can do a lot of good for our region and their economies. It will be important to be timely and on top of the funds that will soon be available for local governments and private entities.

Baker Branding

In Fall of 2020, EPEDC hosted one of the many virtual Re-Imagining Rural workshops throughout the state. At the conclusion of this workshop grant funds could be applied for by participating communities. Baker was awarded these funds creating the Baker Branding Project. Beth organized a committee of community members to work on giving Baker a new brand and logo. With the help of a local graphic designer, the committee is in the final stages of launching the brand and logo. We will do this by purchasing banners to put up in town and also some stickers to get the word out on how to get a hold of merchandise with the new brand or logo.

“Life doesn’t get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger and more resilient.”
— Steve Maraboli



Photo of the banner on a vacant downtown building in Baker.

Oilfield Appreciation

The economy of Baker has fluctuated throughout the years due to whether or not its oilfields are thriving. When Baker found natural gas in 1915 the town rapidly grew, but by the 1960-1970 oil production in the county made the population “boom” to 4,000 people. Recently the EPEDC Downtown Development Specialist, Melissa Higbee, reached out to the oilfield services in Fallon County to check on how their businesses were doing. A few oilfield services expressed their concerns about their industry not being appreciated by the community. With this knowledge, the EPEDC team collaborated on ideas for how to show support and appreciation to our oilfield services. The oilfield has impacted our community in many positive ways; such as keeping the community thriving with workers who have moved into the area permanently or even for a little while. The EPEDC team decided to reach out to local businesses to see if there would be interest in contributing to the purchase and installation of banners to be placed downtown for an appreciation of our Oilfield Services and Workers. The businesses and community members were happy to help with this project to show appreciation for our oilfield services in the community.

Next Board Meeting
July 21, 2021
Richey, MT

Contact Information

Beth Epley
Executive Director
eepley@epedc.com
(406) 853-6471

Alissa Miller
Food and Ag Development Assistant
fada@epedc.com
(406) 852-3735

Melissa Higbee
Downtown Development Specialist
dds@epedc.com
(307)620-5612

Dara Deines
Community Development Specialist
cds@epedc.com
(406) 939-3864

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 City of Baker, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna, the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry and the Town of Wibaux.