

# EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## *Upcoming Grant Opportunities*

### **MT Historic Preservation Grant Program**

**Deadline- February 28, 2022**

The MHPG Program is designed to support public or private entities with the preservation of historic sites, historical societies, or history museums through grant funding.

<https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Montana-Historic-Preservation-Grant>

### **Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF)-**

Quarterly deadline for job creation and/or planning.

**Deadline March 16, 2022.**

<https://marketmt.com/BSTF>

### **Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)**

**Deadline March 30 & November 1, 2022**

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/>

### **Value Added Producer Grant-Deadline Spring 2022**

The Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and marketing of new products. The goals of this program are to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities and increase producer income.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/value-added-producer-grants>

## EPEDC 2021 Recap

As we look back on 2021, a year full of new challenges, Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation continued to serve the people of Carter, Dawson, Fallon, Prairie and Wibaux Counties with renewed resolve to grow our economy. Our staff of economic and community development practitioners continued to assist local governments and organizations with infrastructure and funding and entrepreneurs with the business growth and start up needs. In 2021, EPEDC's grant writing resulted in \$1,050,095 of new grant funding for our communities. Some of the grants that we wrote and administrated this year included funding for the Swimming Pool Park in Wibaux, support for Friends of Makoshika for an outdoor projector system and a CBDG Planning Grant to update the City of Baker's Zoning Regulations.

In addition to the new grant funding that EPEDC secured for our cities, counties, businesses and nonprofits, we also worked tirelessly on providing grant administration for projects that had received grant funding previously. Some of the projects that we administrated this year included the Montana Avenue Water Main Replacement Project in Baker, a Preliminary Engineering Report and Feasibility Study for Irrigation in the Fallon Flats and the new Dahl Memorial Healthcare Facility. EPEDC administrated \$5,972,145 of grant funds, which represents \$26,352,253 total project costs that EPEDC managed.

We hosted 11 different trainings throughout the five counties and via Zoom. Many of these trainings were co-hosted with other community partners and showed just how important collaboration is for small business success.

EPEDC provides free and confidential counseling regarding all aspects of business start-up and business expansion, including planning and troubleshooting. Providing Technical Assistance to businesses and nonprofits is a big part of what we do. In 2021, we assisted 146 businesses and nonprofits.

We look forward to what 2022 has to hold for us and for the region that we serve.

**“You can get excited about the future.  
The past won't mind.”**  
— Hillary Depiano

## 2022 Training Lineup

In 2021 we hosted 11 trainings and had over 200 participants throughout the year! We hosted and co-hosted trainings from Excel to Social Media to Growth through Ag pre-application trainings and much more. EPEDC is on track to host just as many trainings in 2022, with different topics and some of the same.

Join us February 8th for Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and Value Added Producer Grant training (VAPG), this training will focus on energy efficiency/renewable energy improvements that businesses can make and what the VAPG application will entail.

Attend the series of Digital Packages training all done via Zoom, (February 16, 23, 28 and March 2) presented by the Montana Nonprofit Association (MNA). While these trainings are geared towards nonprofits businesses are welcome to participate, they will be going over mass email services, website options, content design services and more.

During their eastern tour of the state MNA will once again be providing different workshops while in the region. Previous trainings have been Board Governance and Next Gen Leadership. We are working on dates for these training and possibly others through MNA. We will once again be hosting two Excel Trainings one beginner and one intermediate class, both via Zoom. Look for those dates later this year! More trainings will be scheduled throughout the year. To stay on top of what is being offered take a look at our Training registration page at [epedc.com](http://epedc.com).

## Local Meat Market & Processing Workshop

Between virtual and in-person attendees, 65 individuals joined the educational & networking event hosted in Circle, MT on November 3, 2021. Speakers that joined the event came from Montana State University Livestock Extension, USDA Rural Development, MT Department of Agriculture, MT Beef Council, & MT Beef Quality Assurance. It was great to see everyone come together around the joined interest in keeping our meat products local! We had great interest in another workshop like this one to expand on our speaker list as well.



Next Board Meeting  
April 20 , 2022

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Visit [epedc.com](http://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.