

EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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This Issue

Upcoming Grants

Infrastructure Law Workshop

Placemaking Competition

Quote of the Quarter

Cows to Carbon Workshop

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Deadline August 1st, 2022

Planning grants are available to eligible counties, cities, and towns. Local governments may apply on behalf of special purpose districts, unincorporated areas, or on behalf of non-profit organizations.

<https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Program/Planning-Activities>

Tourism Grant Program- Deadline September 2022

Tourism grant funds are awarded through the annual application cycle to projects that develop and enhance tourism and recreation products in Montana that have the potential to increase out-of-area visitation and increase expenditures in the community.

<https://brand.mt.gov/Programs/Office-Of-Tourism/Tourism-Grant-Program>

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF)

Deadline September 14, 2022

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 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/>



Infrastructure Law Workshop

On June 24th EPEDC hosted the Eastern Montana Infrastructure Workshop in Glendive at Dawson Community College, in collaboration with Southeast Montana Economic Development Corporation, Great Northern Development Corporation and Richland County Economic Development. Approximately 45 people were in attendance including local government, broadband providers, engineering firms and other economic development professionals. The workshop covered different funding opportunities being released due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL). The BIL passed in November of 2021 with the intent to fund Transportation, Broadband and Utility infrastructure needs.

Craig Erickson with Great West Engineering discussed some of the BIL content in regard to transportation, funding opportunities, and the benefit of collaborating regionally on projects. Autumn Coleman with DNRC discussed the water and sewer infrastructure funds available and currently allocated through ARPA. She also took time to familiarize attendees with the State ARPA website and its different features. Erin Lutz with Mid-Rivers spoke about the telecommunication cooperatives plans to expand broadband and fiber access over the course of the next 10-15 years. Geoff Feiss with the Montana Telecommunications Association shared about broadband access throughout the State of Montana and provided the Broadband Glossary as a resource for all attendees. Peter Hawkes presented on USDA's various Rural Broadband Programs including the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program, Community Connect Grant Program, Distance Learning & Telemedicine and the ReConnect Program.

Cows to Carbon Workshop

The Eastern MT Food and Agriculture Development Center hosted an informational workshop in Wolf Point on how to partner with NATIVE and Western Sustainability Exchange to get the most out of your land and capture carbon credits while doing so. The workshop speakers discussed soil health, grazing management, carbon sequestration, and carbon markets. We also were joined by Jennifer Gallus an Agronomist with NRCS for a demonstration on how various farming practices uses rain water the most efficiently.

The group had great discussion on how these practices can benefit their own operation or a client they work with. If you are interested in learning more about the workshop, contact Alissa Miller.



"Failure is only the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

~ Henry Ford

Placemaking in Eastern Montana

EPEDC wants to empower local individuals and organizations to create places in their community that they can be proud of. While some projects are large and take the course of years to complete, placemaking allows communities to utilize spaces that otherwise may go overlooked. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, in hopes of creating public spaces that promote health, happiness, and well-being. Placemaking can be done in a park, outside of someone's store, or an unused space that could benefit from art, lighting, seating or any other beneficial use for the space.

The Eastern Plains Placemaking Challenge is a creative placemaking grant competition open to residents within the EPEDC region so that they can make an underutilized and ugly space into something vibrant, exciting and attractive. We want to support our residents through the grant competition to showcase and improve what they find valuable in their small town. All placemaking projects will take place in areas that are available to the public for the benefit for all!

Thanks to funding from the MT Community Foundation and the Red Ants Pants Foundation we are able to make this happen!

**Next Board Meeting
October 19, 2022**

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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.