

EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ASK ME ABOUT SSBCI



Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Fertilizer Production Expansion Program (FPEP)

Deadline Nov. 14 & Dec. 29 2022

The FPEP provides grants to help eligible applicants increase or otherwise expand the manufacturing and processing of fertilizer and nutrient alternatives and their availability in the United States.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/fertilizer-production-expansion-program>

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF)

Deadline December 14, 2022 and March 15, 2023

The programs'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/>

MT Main Street Grant- Deadline Nov. 23 & 30 2022

Funds can be used for planning or brick-and-mortar projects that support downtown revitalization efforts. Grant funding is available to communities actively working on downtown revitalization, economic development, and historic preservation.

<https://comdev.mt.gov/Programs-and-Boards/Montana-Main-Street-Program/>

Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) came the reauthorization of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). The SSBCI program is authorized to run through September 2030, through the Department of Commerce, replicating the program from the previous initiative in 2010.

The State of Montana has been allocated \$60 million to administer through the SSBCI program. The MT SSBCI Loan Program is designed to assist existing Montana businesses in need of additional funds to stabilize, pivot, expand or event restart their business. Additionally, the program can be utilized by new Montana businesses looking to start up.

SSBCI funds will be used in combination with your primary lender, which then partners with your approved local or regional economic development organization to provide the business with the loan. The program is structured to participate directly in a lender loan at a maximum participation rate of 50%. Through this combination of resources businesses receive a blended interest rate, fixed for the term of the loan.

This combination of funds can be used for the purchase of equipment, real estate, construction/renovation and more? To learn more about SSBCI and how to apply reach out to us at EPEDC or your regions economic development organization.

Placemaking Grant Awardees

Congratulations to SMART in Fallon County and the Prairie County Fair Board! SMART received \$4,000 and will be working to establish the Wild Roots Community Food Forest in a lot adjacent to Baker Lake. The Prairie County Fair Board received \$2,000 to do beautification work at the fairgrounds entrance and create a decorative archway. We look forward to seeing these projects completed in the near future. Thank you to Red Ants Pants Foundation and MT Community Foundation for the funding to have this competition.

Re-Imagining Rural in Eastern MT

For the third year MSU Extension has provided the ability to gather virtually through the ReImagining Rural forum. This year Glendive, Terry and Wibaux participated in the gatherings to learn and discuss different topics. Session one was primarily about the concept of 'brain drain' vs. 'brain gain' in our rural communities and the study done by MSU to look into this concept from the lens of Montana. Session two we heard from Deb Brown with SaveYour.Town on how to take practical steps to help you shape a brighter future for your small town or rural community, no matter how small.

This final session will include speakers from across MT and their different projects, an outdoor concert series in Havre, a real estate investment co-op in Baker and a new skatepark in Townsend.

At the end of the ReImagining rural sessions there is an opportunity for the participating communities to apply for a grant from the Montana Community Foundation. Previous years the funds have been used for signage, murals, and more to make small changes in our communities.

Pictured: Terry gathering on night two of ReImagining Rural

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.~ J.F.K.



Eastern Montana Ag Summit

Hosted by EPEDC, Great Northern Development Corporation and the Food and Ag Development Center the Eastern Montana Ag Summit will be held in **Circle at the McCone County Fairgrounds October 26th, 9 a.m. -3:30 p.m.** This summit is a chance for producers to learn about a variety of topics and resources to further their operations. The event is come and go as you need, take a look at the schedule to see what may be of interest to you.

- 9 a.m.- Farm Service Agency Program Overview
- 9:45 a.m.- Estate & Succession Planning for Your Operation
- 10:45 a.m.- Dept. of Ag Programs & Value-added Ag Marketing
- 11:15 a.m- Growing Camelina & Biofuels, Yield10
- 12 p.m.- Free Lunch & Networking
- 1 p.m.- Beef Quality Assurance, Cattle Working Demo
- 2 p.m.- Strengthen the Relationship with your Ag Lender
- 2:45 p.m.- Commodity Marketing, Cattle & Grain Assessment

To register go to emtagsummit.eventbrite.com

Next Board Meeting
January 18, 2022

Contact Information

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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.