



MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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2019 Biennium Goals & Objectives

Department of Commerce:

The Department of Commerce strives to enhance the economic prosperity for all Montanans. The Department works with our customers (economic and community development organizations, businesses, communities, governmental entities, elected officials, and the public) to diversify and expand the state's economic base through business creation, expansion, and retention and improvement of our infrastructure, housing and facilities.

The Department is composed of four major operational divisions, and four administratively attached entities as follows:

Major Operational Divisions:

Office of Tourism and Business Development Division

- Budget & Operations Bureau
- Marketing Bureau
- Sales & Constituent Services Bureau
- Finance Assistance Bureau
- Business Technical Assistance Bureau
- Research & Information Services Bureau

Community Development Division

- Community Development Block Grant Program
- Community Technical Assistance Program
- HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)
- Quality Schools Grant Program
- Treasure State Endowment Program
- Coal Board
- Hard Rock Mining Impact Board

Housing Division

- Board of Housing
- Housing Assistance Bureau

Director's Office

- Offices of Accounting and Budget; Legal Affairs, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Public Information
- Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities

Administratively Attached Entities:

Montana Facility Finance Authority

Board of Investments

Board of Horse Racing

Montana Heritage Commission

The Department is mandated in 2-15-18, MCA.

Mission:

The Department of Commerce through its employees, community partners, public outreach, and media contacts enhances economic prosperity in Montana; fosters community lead diversification and sustainability of a growing economy; maintains and improves our infrastructure, housing and facilities; and promotes and enhances Montana's positive national and international image.

"The Department of Commerce will enhance and sustain a healthy economy so Montana businesses, communities, and people can prosper."

Goals and Objectives:

- Work to improve the state's economy through business creation, expansion, retention, and diversification of the state's economic base.
- Provide direct technical assistance and training for Montana's entrepreneurs, businesses, and their employees in partnership with communities, counties, and local and regional development groups.
- Enhance the growth of the Montana economy through the promotion of tourism development, promoting and protecting historic sites, and the marketing of Montana as a travel and filmmaking destination.
- Promote access to new markets, both foreign and domestic, for Montana goods and services.
- Provide financing for homeownership and rental assistance opportunities for Montana families.
- Develop and improve public infrastructure and housing opportunities for the state's citizens by providing grants and technical assistance to Montana communities and counties.
- Prudently manage the investments of state and local government funds.
- Provide fair and equal treatment of our fellow employees and our customers.

Website: <http://commerce.mt.gov/>

Office of Tourism and Business Development Division:

The Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development (MOTBD) markets Montana's spectacular unspoiled nature, vibrant and charming small towns, breathtaking experiences, relaxing hospitality, and competitive business climate to promote the state as a place to visit and do business. Its goal is to sustain and enhance the quality of life for all Montanans and their communities by strengthening the economy through job creation and business development. In conjunction with other divisions of the Montana Department of Commerce and partners around the state, MOTBD's programs aim to support businesses through technical assistance, research, and access to grants and loans while inspiring visitation to maximize the economic impact of tourism, encourage private sector investment and ensure that Montana is a great place to live, work and play today and for future generations.

The Office of Tourism and Business Development Division responsibilities are mandated primarily in Title 15, Chapter 35, Section 108; Title 17, Chapter 6, Part 4; Title 39, Chapter 11; Title 90, Chapters 1 and 3, Title 15, Chapter 65, and Title 2, Chapter 15, MCA.

Funded projects can be reviewed at <http://commerce.mt.gov/About/FundedProjects>.

Mission:

The mission of the Office of Tourism and Business Development Division is to provide the tools to create good jobs, build strong communities, and grow Montana's economy.

Three bureaus are funded by the statutorily appropriated lodging facility use tax:

- Budget and Operations Bureau
- Marketing Bureau
- Sales and Constituent Services Bureau

Three bureaus are funded by House Bill 2 and statutory appropriations:

- Finance Assistance Bureau
- Business Technical Assistance Bureau
- Research and Information Services Bureau

Website: <http://marketmt.com>

Budget and Operations Bureau:

The Budget and Operations Bureau manages the division's House Bill 2 and various statutorily appropriated budgets, oversees customer relationship management, fulfills orders of division publications, and provides internal administrative support.

Operations supports the mission by providing front desk services to all programs, direct customer service, financial oversight, and fulfillment of the inquiries received via marketing efforts with publications, emails and customer interaction via a call center. The front desk also processes direct requests for commercial publication orders, and tracks visitation numbers to popular sites. Our fulfillment process utilizes a contact center and provides mailroom services to distribute our publications expeditiously

Goals and Objectives:

- To provide the highest degree of support to agency services and visitor inquiries through the call center through superior call center management

Marketing Bureau:

The Marketing Bureau is tasked with inspiring out-of-state residents to visit Montana through domestic and international campaigns that seek to build Montana as a world-class tourism destination.

Tourism is one of Montana's leading industries and primary revenue drivers. In 2015, Montana hosted 11.7 million nonresident visitors who spent more than \$3.6 billion in the state.

Tourism in Montana is an industry of small businesses from a variety of sectors, including lodging accommodations, restaurants and bars, outfitters and guides, ski areas and private attractions, museums and cultural facilities, farmers and ranchers, gas stations and convenience store owners, and retail shops. The industry also counts various state and federal agencies as critical partners.

The Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development funds its travel and tourism marketing programs through a statewide selective sales tax assessed on the rate charged for lodging at Montana's hotels, motels, B&Bs, guest ranches, campgrounds, and other lodging facilities. This tax, currently at 7%, breaks down into two categories: a 3% selective sales and use tax going into the State's General Fund and a 4% tax, the Montana Lodging Facility Use Tax, or "bed tax", which finances a number of tourism-related programs, including the Montana Office of Tourism.

Currently, 64.9% of the bed tax collected is used for the Montana Department of Commerce's Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development and Montana Film Office programs. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015 (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015), 64% of this money was budgeted to Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development marketing programs including consumer advertising, public relations, digital marketing, social media, and publications.

Montana is fortunate to have a stable, dedicated source of funds for tourism promotion and Development. The existence of this funding, and the invaluable promotional efforts it affords, are essential to maintaining and increasing tourism growth into the future.

Goals and Objectives:

- Create increased demand for Montana as a premiere global travel destination through engaging and provocative communications that inspire, delight, and guide our audience.
- Increase internal and external collaboration to convert travel interest to action, focusing on the optimal audience that will increase revenue for the state while ensuring the health and vitality of our natural and cultural treasures into the future.
- Capture first-time and repeat visitors, effectively stabilizing visitation growth to Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, influencing visitors to explore lesser-traveled parts and lesser-traveled seasons of the state.
- Through effective marketing and partner relationships, contribute to 4 percent increase in tourism-related revenue YOY. This includes traditional tourism partners as well as strengthening relationships with the air transportation industry, supporting increased air service to the state.
- Increase marketing fiscal year campaign Return on Investment (ROI) by an additional \$2.00 per \$1.00 spent YOY.
- Through third party research, define and confirm optimal target audience and strategies for tourism marketing campaigns, while reaffirming that current brand provides best competitive advantage.
- Strive for maximum efficiency and effectiveness of marketing dollars and marketing staff.
- Through effective marketing and partner relationships, contribute to 4 percent increase in tourism-related revenue YOY. This includes traditional tourism partners as well as strengthening relationships with the air transportation industry, supporting increased air service to the state.

- Promotes the state as a location for feature films, commercials, documentaries, television programs and other multimedia projects by providing information, grants, and support services to the motion picture industry.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Support guaranteed flight marketing to Montana airports and air transport committee. (Measured by # of airport campaigns)	0	2	5	6	6 airports, with two self-sustaining flights achieved and two new guarantees
Increase marketing fiscal year campaign Return on Investment (ROI) by an additional \$2.00 per \$1.00 spent YOY (N/A due to new methodology)	N/A	\$83:1 (for winter only. Did not use methodology for warm)	TBD since we have not established an annual baseline yet	TBD	TBD
Develop and execute brand and audience research	N/A	N/A	Complete Research	Launch campaign incorporating research	2 percent growth of Montana's awareness/visitation in the most valuable audiences identified in the research

Sales and Constituent Services Bureau:

Coordinate and align industry opportunities to grow the Montana economy by improving the visitor experience, visitor spending, and increasing industry capacity through workshops, trainings, public relations, programs, and grants.

Goals and Objectives:

- Strive for maximum efficiency and effectiveness of tax dollars and bureau staff
- Connect tourism industry stakeholders to marketing campaign initiatives and objectives to coordinate marketing efforts across the state of Montana
- Manage the Department of Commerce's lodging facility use tax finance and accounting controls including 22.5% that contributes to the region and CVB marketing plans
- Facilitate Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) meetings for approval of region and CVB marketing plans and other TAC responsibilities pursuant to statute
- Keep the public and stakeholders informed of travel and visitor trends
- Increase value added production across Montana supporting the Made in Montana program
- Annually convene tourism industry stakeholders at the Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation
- Through the tourism grant program, incentivize investment into tourism infrastructure and marketing across Montana

- Provide trainings to rural and underserved regions in Montana to enhance the visitor experience and grow the tourism economy

The following programs support the bureau's mission:

- Outreach
- Constituent Services
- Communications
- Events
- Made in Montana
- Tourism Grants
- Cultural Tourism

Outreach

The outreach program organizes workshops and other training opportunities for tourism and economic development constituents to learn more about the Montana Brand, business and marketing practices, and resources available at the Department of Commerce and other state agencies. It also interfaces with various organizations and boards around the state to remain actively engaged in the industry and to make presentations as needed and requested.

Constituent Services

Constituent Services supports Montana's nonprofit tourism region organizations and convention and visitor bureaus (CVB) by overseeing the distribution of lodging facility use tax revenue, participating in the marketing plan development process, and ensuring compliance with lodging facility use tax regulations.

Communications

The communications program oversees all information distributed through the division's various channels (collateral, e-mail distribution, press releases, social media, website, etc.) to industry partners and the in-state public to ensure consistency and quality.

Events

The Bureau organizes two major events each fiscal year. The Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation is where the state's tourism industry gathers for education, networking, and strategic planning. The Made in Montana Trade Show offers members of the Made in Montana program the opportunity to exhibit their products to wholesale buyers and the public.

Made in Montana

Made in Montana (MIM) is a multi-faceted marketing program that provides a unique branding effort for authentic made, grown, or value-added products in the state. Included is access to an online products directory, marketing and educational opportunities, and use of a trademarked logo.

Website: <http://www.madeinmontanausa.com>

Tourism Grants

The Tourism Grant Program awards funds to projects that strengthen Montana's economy through the development and enhancement of the state's tourism industry. The program offers funding in three categories: digital development, infrastructure, and event paid media advertising.

Cultural Tourism

Facilitates the creation of cultural and sustainable tourism products through planning, promotion, and cooperative partnerships.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Made in Montana					
Increase total number of active registered participants	2,500	3,374	3,500	3,800	4,200
Increase # of Grown in Montana members	-	270	350	400	450
Increase # of Native American Made in Montana members	30	36	75	100	150
Tourism Grant Program					
Grant applications	115	60	66	73	73
Grant funds requested	\$3,922,022	\$3,070,576	\$2,750,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

Finance Assistance Bureau:

The Finance Assistance Bureau (FAB) works closely with Montana businesses, local and regional economic development organizations, communities, counties, and tribal governments to provide financing for economic development projects for companies to grow their employment base in Montana. The financial resources provided through the bureau are intended to fill gaps in financing packages that either prevents economic development and job creation projects from getting off the ground or, to fill gaps that delay or impede development from occurring.

Goals and Objectives:

- Assist with the creation and/or retention of up to 200 jobs;
- Provide technical assistance to up to 200 businesses;
- Provide financing to up to 150 businesses or local governments for economic development projects.
- Create good-paying jobs for Montana residents;
- Promote long-term, stable economic growth in Montana;
- Retain or expand existing businesses;
- Encourage a regional approach to economic development facilitating the efficient delivery of economic development programs by supporting regional capacity building;
- Create partnerships between the state, local governments, tribal governments, and local economic development organizations that are interested in pursuing these same economic development goals;

- Provide a better life for future generations through greater economic growth and prosperity in Montana;
- Cultivate effective working relationships between MBDC staff and other resources, to assist
- Montana businesses in obtaining financing;
- Within the wood products industry, focus to assist with the retention of existing businesses, restoring lost jobs, and helping to create additional jobs through expanded product lines and developments;
- Encourage the creation and retention of good-paying jobs in primary sector businesses;
- Provide a predictable and stable source of funding for research and commercialization projects; and
- Provide a summary of online information for the most significant financing resources available from state, federal, and local institutions.

The following programs support the bureau's mission:

- Montana Finance Information Center
- Certified Regional Development Corporations
- MicroBusiness Finance Program
- Montana Distressed Wood Products Revolving Loan Fund Programs
- Montana State Small Business Credit Initiative
- Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant Program
- Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program
- Montana Board of Research Commercialization Technology

Montana Finance Information Center

The Montana Finance Information Center provides summary information for the most significant financing resources available from state, federal, and local institutions. The Center is a one-stop resource with current links for private and public entities that are actively involved in economic and community development projects.

Website: <http://www.mtfinanceonline.com>

Certified Regional Development Corporations

This program provides statutory funding for up to 12 regional economic development organizations called Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDCs) on a matching grant basis of \$1 state dollar for every local \$1. CRDCs encourage a regional approach to economic development, provide resources for local development, offer technical assistance and counseling, and manage regional revolving loan funds. The bureau works with all counties in the state including those not included in a CRDC region.

Website: <http://CRDC.mt.gov>

Montana MicroBusiness Finance Program

Montana's MicroBusiness Development Corporations (MBDCs) provide financing and technical assistance to help businesses get started or expand. The Montana Department of Commerce loans money to the MBDCs who in turn loan the money at a slightly higher interest rate. The MBDCs make loans up to \$100,000 for working capital, equipment, or other fixed assets for qualified micro-businesses. A qualified micro-business must be a Montana-based business that has ten or fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees and less than \$1,000,000 in gross annual revenues. To qualify for a loan the businesses need to meet local lending criteria. Since the intent of the program is to finance business projects that would not otherwise be able to obtain financing from sources such as their local banks, the interest rates charged on the loans are slightly higher than bank rates.

Website: <http://MBFP.mt.gov>

Montana Distressed Wood Products Revolving Loan Fund Programs

The Montana Distressed Wood Products Revolving Loan Fund (MT WP RLF) established in 2009, is comprised of three different funding sources that were used to implement the distressed wood products loan program with the intent to keep a viable timber and wood products industry in Montana. Loans are made to wood and timber related businesses that have suffered a hardship that need to retain or create jobs. The fund was originally comprised of \$7.5 million in state funds, \$2.7 million from the Montana Department of Commerce by the Economic Development Administration, and \$1.5 million from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Website: <http://wprlf.mt.gov>

Montana State Small Business Credit Initiative

The Montana State Small Business Credit Initiative (MT SSBCI) Program was created in State Fiscal Year 2012 using funds received from the U.S. Treasury Department as part of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (the "Act"). The Act created the State Small Business Credit Initiative to strengthen state programs that support lending to small businesses and small manufacturers.

Montana used \$12.2 million to create a new loan participation program with the intent to generate at least \$10 in new small business lending for every \$1 received in Federal funds. The MT SSBCI funds have assisted new Montana businesses entering the market and those existing businesses that need additional borrowings to expand or stabilize their business. Lender loans eligible for MT SSBCI participation include, but were not limited to, real estate, equipment, working capital, lines of credit, and non- speculative new businesses.

Website: <http://mtssbci.mt.gov>

Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant Program (One Time Only Funding)

In 2005, the Montana Legislature passed the **Primary Sector Business Workforce Training Grant Act** to encourage the creation and retention of good-paying jobs in primary sector businesses. The program provides an incentive for out-of-state companies to locate to Montana and for Montana companies to expand their operations. The program provides training for Montana citizens enabling them to increase their skills and standard of living. Companies with 50% or more of their sales from outside Montana are eligible to apply for the program and they must pay each eligible worker a wage that meets or exceeds the lesser of 170% of Montana's current minimum wage or the current average weekly wage of the county in which the business is located (wages can include provided benefits).

Website: <http://wtg.mt.gov>

Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund

The legislative purpose of the Big Sky Economic Development Fund is to:

- Create good-paying jobs for Montana residents,
- Promote long-term, stable economic growth in Montana,
- Encourage local economic development organizations,
- Create partnerships between the state, local governments, tribal governments, and local economic development organizations that are interested in pursuing these same economic development goals,
- Retain or expand existing businesses,
- Provide a better life for future generations through greater economic growth and prosperity in Montana, and
- Encourage workforce development, including workforce training and job creation, in High-Poverty Counties by providing targeted assistance.

The Big Sky Economic Development Fund is a sub-trust fund within the Coal Severance Tax Trust Fund. Investment earnings (interest only; not principal) from the Big Sky Economic Development Fund are statutorily appropriated to the Montana Department of Commerce to provide financial assistance to local and tribal governments and economic development organizations to support job creation and economic development planning.

Website: <http://bstf.mt.gov>

Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology

The Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology (MBRCT) was created by the 1999 Montana Legislature to provide a predictable and stable source of funding for research and commercialization projects.

The board has the statutory authority to make grants to research and commercialization centers if the projects to be funded:

- Have potential to diversify or add value to a traditional basic industry of the state economy.
- Show promise for enhancing technology-based sectors or commercial development of discoveries.
- Employ or take advantage of existing research and commercialization strengths.
- Have a realistic and achievable project design.
- Employ an innovative technology.
- Are located in the state.
- Have a qualified research team.
- Have scientific merit based on peer review.
- Include research opportunities for students.

Website: <http://MBRCT.mt.gov>

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
CRDC Program					
Certified CRDCs	11	11	11	11	11
Counties Served	51	51	51	51	51
MBFP Program					
Dollar Amount of Outstanding Loans to MBDCs	\$4,208,252	\$4,688,252	\$4,688,252	\$4,688,252	\$4,688,252
Jobs Created and Retained by Businesses Receiving Loans from MBDCs	73	100	110	120	125
EDA WP RLF Performance					
Number of EDA WP RLF Loans Funded	0	2	2	3	2

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Amount of EDA WP RLF Loans Funded	0	\$1,400,000	\$600,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
Amount of EDA WP RLF Loan Repayments	\$571,048	\$591,024	\$618,769	\$636,286	\$634,801
State WP RLF Performance					
Number of State WP RLF Loans Funded	0	3	1	2	2
Amount of State WP RLF Loans Funded	0	\$1,975,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
Amount of State WP RLF Loan Repayments	\$253,620	\$341,331	\$377,650	\$391,834	\$384,020
EDA and State WP RLF Performance					
Number of Jobs Retained	0	25	15	20	25
Number of Jobs Created with WP RLF Funds	0	20	30	35	20
Amount of Private/Public Leveraged Funds	0	\$6,200,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,800,000	\$1,400,000
Montana Board of Research and Commercialization					
Total MBRCT state funds awarded (includes HB611 Food & Ag development program \$195,000/year effective July 1, 2011)	\$41M	\$41.6M	\$42.4M	\$43.1M	\$43.8M
Matching funds leveraged by MBRCT state funds	\$46.7M	\$47.1M	\$47.9M	\$49M	\$50.1M
Additional follow-on funding generated by Montana projects receiving MBRCT grants after the award	\$352M	\$359M	\$366M	\$373M	\$380M
Montana SBIR/STTR Matching Funds Program					

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Total MSMFP Stage 1 applications funded	2	7	8	N/A	N/A
Total MSMFP Stage 2 applications funded	1	2	8	N/A	N/A
Total Funds Awarded	90,000	270,000	480,000	N/A	N/A
Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant Program					
Jobs projected to be provided training	25	215**	80*	80*	80*
Awards provided to Montana businesses	\$125,481	\$862,860**	\$397,500*	\$397,500*	\$397,500*
Funds leveraged from other sources	\$1,879,534	\$11,627,776**	\$1,500,000*	\$1,500,000*	\$1,500,000*
Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund					
\$ Awarded for Economic Development Projects	\$ 2,341,633	\$ 2,800,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$3,000,000
\$ Awarded for Economic Development Planning Projects	\$ 625,384	\$ 700,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	\$900,000
Projected New Jobs Created	360	400	500	500	500
Funds leveraged***	\$397,921,097*	\$30,000,000	\$35,000,000	\$ 35,000,000	\$35,000,000

* Based on \$1.2 million request in funding for the biennium.

** Received \$400,000 in reversion funds during the fiscal year.

*** Calumet Refining \$393,075,000 FY 2015

Business Technical Assistance Bureau:

The Business & Technical Assistance Bureau connects entrepreneurs and companies, big and small, with responsive technical assistance through a comprehensive portfolio of success driven business trainings and one-on-one counseling. It assists in identifying new market and business opportunities within the state and beyond our borders. Additionally, the bureau leverages a diverse set of funding programs to grow the economy and create and retain jobs.

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide comprehensive business counseling services to over 4,000 businesses, entrepreneurs and clients
- Create and/or retain over 350 Montana jobs
- Provide business technical assistance to over 1,000 businesses and production companies
- Increase film production in the State of Montana
- Attract out of state travelers to Montana to stay and spend money in the state
- Grow capacity and the local economy in tribal and reservation based communities
- Assist Montana companies in entering new domestic and foreign markets
- Strengthen and maintain diplomatic relationships with leaders in key countries
- Promote technology commercialization for Montana-based start-up businesses and innovations

The following programs support the bureau's mission:

- Small Business Development Center
- Montana Technology Innovation Partnership
- Indian Country Economic Development Program
- State Tribal Economic Development Commission
- Montana Indian Language Program
- Native American Collateral Support Program
- State Trade and Export Promotion Program
- Export and Marketing Technical Assistance
- Diplomacy and International Relations

Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Helps start-up and existing businesses prosper by providing information and assistance through no-cost, confidential, quality, one-on-one counseling, and training. The program is funded by a grant under a Cooperative Agreement with the Small Business Administration (SBA) and is matched with state and local funds. The Montana Small Business Development Center delivery system is designed to reach the state's entire population with its services and programs. The administrative office is located in the Business & Technical Assistance Bureau in Helena and ten service centers are based strategically located Montana communities hosted by local economic development organizations.

Website: <http://sbdc.mt.gov>

Montana Technology Innovation Partnership (MTIP)

The Montana Technology Innovation Partnership Program is a Montana Department of Commerce initiative created to promote technology commercialization as a viable economic development strategy for the State of Montana. Its mission is to build the short-term benefits of technology research and development into the long-term rewards of commercialization. MTIP works in collaboration with industry consultants to prepare Montana innovators for large, highly competitive commercialization grants through the federal government and other funding streams.

Website: <http://mtip.mt.gov>

Indian Country Economic Development Program (ICED)

For the past ten years the ICED program has led efforts in assisting tribal governments and Native entrepreneurs to initiate tribal priority projects, grow the small business sector and provide business counseling to reservation based communities. Through direct grants to tribal governments, the ICED program funds business and feasibility planning to support tribes in launching tribal enterprises or expanding revenue-producing activities. Small business grants are awarded to Native entrepreneurs to support business expansion and to build equity to increase the potential of accessing commercial capital. Additionally, the program has developed partnerships with economic development offices and

organizations within each tribal community to provide one-on-one business counseling services to community members.

Website: <http://businessresources.mt.gov/indiancountry>

State Tribal Economic Development Commission (STED)

The State Tribal Economic Development Commission (STEDC) is charged with assisting, promoting, encouraging, developing, and advancing economic prosperity and employment on Indian reservations in Montana. Representation on the Commission comes from each of the seven federally recognized tribal governments and from the state recognized Little Shell Tribe, the Director of Indian Affairs, the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Montana Department of Commerce. Commissioners are central in identifying policy barriers, commissioning economic demographic studies, highlighting economic barriers and providing potential solutions to grow tribal economies.

Website: <http://tribal.mt.gov>

Montana Indian Language Program (MILP)

Managed by the STED Commission at the Montana Department of Commerce, MILP perpetuates Native languages in Montana by providing funding to the 8 tribal nations in the state. Resources are leveraged to develop and implement language perpetuation strategies, to develop audio/video language recordings, and to create reference materials and curricula. The program is assisting in preserving the 12 Native languages that have been affected by rapid language loss over the last century.

Website: <http://businessresources.mt.gov/MILP>

Native American Collateral Support Program (NACS)

The NACS program is designed to assist in accelerating the number of commercial loans to Native American business owners. The program leverages a total of \$500,000 to provide CDs to commercial lenders to cover the collateral shortfall of Native American business owners that have all the C's of credit except for insufficient collateral. NACS is critical to reversing the chronic issue in Indian Country of accessing commercial capital for business development and expansion.

Website: <http://NACS.mt.gov>

Office of Trade and International Relations

The office provides information, technical and marketing assistance to help Montanans pursue business opportunities, both domestically and worldwide. Export trade and marketing specialists provide consultation and training for companies to successfully compete in new markets. The program also serves as the protocol and international liaison for the Governor's Office and the Department of Commerce.

Website: <http://MIMAP.mt.gov>

State Trade and Export Promotion Program (STEP)

The highly successful STEP program provides grants for Montana eligible small businesses to enter or expand into international markets. Funding is provided jointly by the US Small Business Administration and the Montana Department of Commerce. Grants are available for international trade show attendance, translation projects, research, and other assistance from the US Commercial Service. Funds are also used for projects that enhance the bureau's ability to deliver export and marketing technical services including trade missions, industry outreach, and special projects.

Website: <http://www.exportmontana.com>

Export and Marketing Technical Assistance

Technical export assistance and marketing analysis is provided to Montana companies through the Office of Trade and International Relations. Export officers provide Montana companies with information and training to address issues such as export regulation and compliance, methods of shipment, methods of payment, market research, response to trade leads, and follow-up communication with overseas clients. Assistance provides valuable expertise for Montana companies to pursue new export markets and to prioritize new market penetration.

Diplomacy and International Relations

The Office of Trade and International Relations provides coordination services for diplomacy related opportunities with state agencies and organizations that focus on strengthening government to government relationships with countries outside the United States. It assists in setting up meetings with Consul Generals, executing in-bound and out-bound trade/diplomacy missions and is central in matching diplomats and foreign businesses with state and business leaders.

Performance Indicators:

Small Business Development Center Network:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Projected FY 2017	Projected FY 2018	Projected FY 2019
SBDC - Businesses Started	78	57	55	60	65
SBDC – unique clients provided counseling	978	1,020	1,025	1,030	1,050
SBDC - counseling hours provided to small businesses	5,166	5,848	6,000	6,250	6,500
SBDC – Training Participants	1,021	1,343	1,350	1,400	1,450
SBDC - # jobs created by businesses receiving counseling	231	250	275	300	325
SBDC - # jobs retained by businesses receiving counseling	34	111	120	125	130
SBDC - \$\$ borrowed by small businesses from lenders after counseling	\$33,121,857	\$23,309,338	\$23,400,000	\$23,450,000	\$24,000,000

Montana Technology Innovation Partnership:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Projected FY 2017	Projected FY 2018	Projected FY 2019
Counseling sessions	225	105	174	174	174
New SBIR/STTR clients	61	49	55	55	55

Counseling hours	169.509	149.518	159.51	159.51	159.51
Phase I awards MTIP clients	4	4	4	4	4
Phase II awards MTIP clients	4	3	3	3	3

Trade and International Relations:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Projected FY 2017	Projected FY 2018	Projected FY 2019
Total annual Montana exports	\$1.545 Billion	\$1.404 Billion	\$1.625 Billion	\$1.65 Billion	\$1.7 Billion
Businesses supported through grants, consultations, and trainings	122	202	216	230	235
Funding provided for market development activities (trade shows, etc.)	\$226,136	\$299,322	\$362,250	\$380,000	\$400,000
Sales from market development activities (trade shows, etc.)	\$31.2 million	\$27 million	\$32 million	\$35 million	\$37 million
Jobs retained or created from market development activities (trade shows, etc.)	Data not captured	212	220	230	235

Indian Country Programs:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Projected FY 2017	Projected FY 2018	Projected FY 2019
Funding provided to Indian Nations	\$1,420,2000	\$1,428,000	\$1,428,000	\$1,428,000	\$1,428,000
Jobs created, retained, or trained	44	112	115	120	125
Business development planning	3	8	8	8	8
Number of applicants	61	95	100	110	115
Amount of Matching Funds	\$1,040,254	\$1,945,778	\$1,600,000	2,000,000	2,250,000
Number of Indian entrepreneurs attended training	183	1,220	1250	1275	1300
Businesses supported	34	82	85	100	110

Research & Information Services Bureau

The Research and Information Services Bureau provides Montana businesses, communities, and government access and use of the right information for decision-making and facilitates processes related

to siting, permitting, workforce and financing all to grow the Montana economy, create jobs and improve communities. The three pillars of RIS are information, analysis and design, and facilitation.

Goals and Objectives:

- Education and Training in the U.S. Census Bureau's Programs
- Participation in U.S. Census Bureau Programs
- Enhance network of RIS partners
- Provide assistance and technical support to local stakeholders
- Encourage local stakeholders to use/participate in Census Bureau offerings and product/tool development.
- Participate in the SDC annual meeting, steering committee meetings, and at least one alternative format meeting (webinar, conference call, Ideal scale etc.) monthly.
- Collaborate and share best practices within the SDC network and complete the SDC annual report documenting activities.
- Enhance the RIS website to provide access to federal and state commerce, business, and population data.
- Prepare value added products specific to Montana geography from the Census Bureau data as necessary and appropriate.
- Develop Analysis and Publications for Program Administration for the Department of Commerce.
- Maintain the RIS Website
- Provide Other Data Products and Outreach
- Provide Client Research Services
- Provide key information and analysis to support Montana's leading industries and economic development organizations to foster economic development in the state
- Facilitate project development in Montana's leading industries.
- Promote Montana as a business worthy environment to attract future investment capital to the state.
- Tracking industry developments
- Provide Workshops and Training
- Process 400 customer data requests
- Conduct presentations and educational/training events for 200 people
- Develop and publish 1,000 value added products and informational reports
- Engage in 20 initiatives and activities including survey programs and product and tool development

Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC) Website: <http://ceic.mt.gov>

Industry Development Website: <http://businessresources.mt.gov/IDP>

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Projected FY 2016	Plan FY 2017	Plan FY 2018	Plan FY 2019
RIS - Customer data requests processed	531	400	400	400	400
RIS - Number of persons attending presentations, educational and training events conducted by RIS staff	420	200	200	200	200

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2015	Projected FY 2016	Plan FY 2017	Plan FY 2018	Plan FY 2019
RIS- value added products and informational reports developed and published.	800	1000	1000	1000	1000
RIS- initiatives and activities including survey programs, product and tool development	40	20	20	20	20

RIS metrics are cyclical in nature with peaks every 10 years.

Community Development Division:

The missions of the Community Development Division (CDD) are set forth in Title 90, Chapters 1 and 6, MCA. CDD is funded primarily through federal funds and state-special revenue account grant programs with additional direct appropriations provided in HB 2. CDD administers six programs directly:

- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG);
- Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP);
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME);
- Montana Main Street Program;
- Quality Schools Grant Program; and
- Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP).

Two citizen boards, appointed by the Governor, are attached to CDD for administrative purposes. The division provides office facilities, staff, and administrative support for the:

- Montana Coal Board; and
- Montana Hard Rock Mining Impact Board.

Each of the eight programs has a specific mission and goals and objectives, based on its legislative history, as described below. To meet the mission, goals, and objectives of the programs, Division, and Department, and to support the Governor’s overarching mission and long-term agenda, Division staff always strive to meet the following mission pillars:

- Help build resilient communities through planning and financial resources;
- Empower local leaders by providing technical and financial resources;
- Provide awareness and training on planning best practices;
- Make the cost of facilities more affordable and within easier reach of Montana communities;
- Support those communities in all stages of planning, implementation, and long-term maintenance of resources;
- Facilitate a comprehensive sense of place for communities and help them adopt a process to accomplish those goals; and
- Promote local community self-sufficiency in the distribution of grants.

Community Development Block Grant Program:

Montana’s Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is a federally-funded competitive grant program designed to help communities of less than 50,000 in population with their greatest community

development needs. The program was established by the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Department of Commerce administers Montana's state CDBG program and is authorized to adopt implementing administrative rules (Section 90-1-103(1)(e), MCA). All projects funded by CDBG must principally benefit persons of low to moderate income (LMI). Five categories of CDBG grants are administered by CDD:

- 1) Planning. CDBG helps local governments prepare or update land use planning documents such as growth policies, zoning ordinances, housing plans, or capital improvements plans, as well as the preliminary engineering or architectural studies necessary for a particular project. These planning documents help communities identify, prioritize, finance, and successfully complete their infrastructure, housing, community service, and economic development projects.
- 2) Community and Public Facilities. Through a competitive application process, CDBG directly funds public infrastructure projects, such as water, sewer, and solid waste systems, in communities where a majority of the residents are LMI. If a majority of the residents are not LMI, CDBG helps the community pay hook-up fees for LMI households. CDBG can also fund community facilities designed to principally serve persons of LMI, such as food banks, Head Start centers, mental health centers, senior centers, group homes for abused children, and hospitals or nursing homes.
- 3) Large-scale Multi-Family Housing Development and Rehabilitation. Through a competitive application process, CDBG funds multi-family housing projects with more than four units for rent or sale to persons of LMI. Eligible activities include acquiring land and structures; demolishing existing substandard housing or non-residential structures; constructing new housing units; rehabilitating existing substandard housing; converting existing non-housing structures into housing units; and related site improvements.
- 4) Small-scale Housing Development and Rehabilitation. CDBG provides funds to communities seeking to build new or rehabilitate existing substandard single-family homes or multi-family housing projects with four or fewer units for rent or sale to persons of LMI. Eligible activities include acquiring land and structures; demolishing existing substandard housing or non-residential structures; constructing new housing units; rehabilitating existing substandard housing; converting existing non-housing structures into housing units; and related site improvements.
- 5) Economic Development. CDBG helps stimulate economic development activities that create or retain jobs in Montana communities. More than half of the awarded funds must benefit persons of LMI. The program assists businesses by providing grants and flexible interest rates and loan terms to complement conventional bank financing and other federal and state finance programs.

CDD currently conducts two formal CDBG grant competitions annually: one for large-scale housing development and community and public facilities grants, and one for planning projects. Small-scale housing development and economic development applications are taken on an on-going basis. CDD staff scores each application under the criteria adopted for each category, and recommends awards to the Department Director.

In addition, technical assistance funds from CDBG continue to leverage the state-funded Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP), providing expanded training and additional templates for community planning efforts in Montana communities.

Mission:

Under federal law, the primary objective of the CDBG program is “the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.” Under state law, CDD is charged with administering the Montana CDBG Program and adopting implementing rules.

Goals and Objectives:

Under federal law, CDBG program funds are for the support of community development activities that are directed towards the following specific objectives:

- The elimination of slums and blight and the prevention of blighting influences and the deterioration of property and neighborhood and community facilities of importance to the welfare of the community, principally persons of low and moderate income;
- The elimination of conditions that are detrimental to health, safety, and public welfare, through code enforcement, demolition, interim rehabilitation assistance, and related activities;
- The conservation and expansion of the nation's housing stock in order to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for all persons, but principally those of low and moderate income;
- The expansion and improvement of the quantity and quality of community services, principally for persons of low and moderate income, which are essential for sound community development and for the development of viable urban communities;
- A more rational utilization of land and other natural resources and the better arrangement of residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and other needed activity centers;
- The reduction of the isolation of income groups within communities and geographical areas and the promotion of an increase in the diversity and vitality of neighborhoods through the spatial de-concentration of housing opportunities for persons of lower income and the revitalization of deteriorating or deteriorated neighborhoods;
- The restoration and preservation of properties of special value for historic, architectural, or esthetic reasons;
- The alleviation of physical and economic distress through the stimulation of private investment and community revitalization in areas with population outmigration or a stagnating or declining tax base; and
- The conservation of the Nation's scarce energy resources, improvement of energy efficiency, and the provision of alternative and renewable energy sources of supply.

Through the CDBG Program, the State of Montana supports existing Montana communities, invests in vital public infrastructure, enhances Montana’s economic competitiveness, promotes equitable, affordable housing, and reduces homelessness.

Funding Source:

The Montana CDBG program is funded with federal funds allocated annually through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) based on a statutory formula and the amount budgeted by Congress. State general funds provide the federally required share of the administrative costs for CDBG, equal to three percent of the annual federal CDBG allocation. For FFY 2016, the State of Montana will receive an allocation of \$5,791,383 for its CDBG programs.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2014	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Planning Applications Reviewed	21	36	25	25	28	32
Community and Public Facilities Applications Reviewed	7	7	15	10	15	10
Housing Applications Reviewed	4	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Large-Scale Multi-family Housing Applications Reviewed	N/A	N/A	0	2	3	3
Small-Scale Housing Applications Reviewed	N/A	1	2	2	2	2
Economic Development Applications Reviewed	8	5	7	7	7	7
Planning Grants Awarded	26	28	25	30	27	31
Community and Public Facilities Grants Awarded	5	6	9	5	9	5
Housing Grants Awarded	2	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Large-Scale Multi-family Housing Grants Awarded	N/A	N/A	0	1	2	2
Small-Scale Housing Grants Awarded	N/A	2	2	2	2	2
Economic Development Grants Awarded	8	5	5	5	5	5
Active CDBG Grants	56	75	89	75	75	75

Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG>

Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP):

CTAP provides technical assistance to encourage the planning and sustainable development of Montana communities by working with local governments, planning departments, private developers, non-profit organizations and the public. CTAP brings a statewide and national problem-solving perspective to every community by staying abreast of how other local governments, the private sector, and state and federal courts are handling specific planning issues. CTAP enjoys broad support from the Legislature's Education and Local Government Interim Committee, the Montana Association of Counties, the League of Cities and Towns, the Montana Association of Planners, the Montana Association of Realtors, the Montana Building Industry Association, the Montana Economic Developers Association, and the Montana Smart Growth Coalition. CTAP staff includes two certified professional planners and a land use attorney.

CTAP shares professional knowledge, conducts training and workshops, provides “model” documents, and maintains a library of planning publications and research materials. Some of the more common topics that CTAP provides technical assistance on include:

- Growth policy development and implementation;
- Subdivision regulations development and administration;
- Exemptions from subdivision review and the use of Certificates of Survey and deeds;
- Zoning regulations development and administration;
- Annexation and extension of services;
- Making defensible, legally sound legislative and quasi-judicial decisions regarding land use; and
- Other planning tools available to local communities, including capital improvements planning, downtown master plans, housing plans, active transportation planning, and more.

During the 2017 biennium, CTAP staff continued to provide technical assistance to Eastern Montana communities experiencing rapid oil and gas development. CTAP has continued to utilize planning consultants to assist communities in Eastern Montana with training workshops on subdivision and exemption review, interim zoning and conditional use permit ordinance preparation and adoption, public meeting and public notice requirements, annexation policies, water and sanitation review, buildings for lease or rent, and other topics as requested. CTAP anticipates a continued and growing need for its technical assistance across the state, beyond what is currently able to be provided with limited staff; as a result, CTAP has contracted for continued professional planning and engineering services to provide the necessary level of assistance.

Mission:

Sections 90-1-102 and 103, MCA, set out the community technical assistance functions of the Department of Commerce:

- Serve as the consultative, coordinating, and advisory agency for state departments, officials, and agencies in state planning and for encouraging and aiding local planning bodies, either directly or by securing planning assistance, consulting services, and technical aid, which may include land use, demographic, and economic studies and surveys and comprehensive plans;
- Cooperate with and provide technical assistance to county and municipal governments and similar agencies created for the purposes of aiding and encouraging the orderly, productive, and coordinated development of the communities of the state;
- Assist the governor in coordinating the activities of state agencies that have an impact on the solution of community development problems and implementation of community plans;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information, data, and other materials that may be helpful or necessary to local governments to discharge their responsibilities and provide information on available federal and state financial and technical assistance; and
- Carry out studies and analyses of the problems faced by communities within the state and develop those recommendations for administrative or legislative action as appear necessary, paying particular attention to the planning and financing of public facilities and to the problems of metropolitan, suburban, and other areas in which economic and population factors are rapidly changing.

Goals and Objectives:

- Meet needs and priorities of clients by monitoring trends and periodically surveying clientele to determine their priorities for technical assistance;
- Maintain a quality level of service in providing basic assistance to clients, i.e. prompt and thorough responses to phone calls and e-mails, either directly through staff or through use of consultants;
- Expand and enhance educational outreach to clients by providing more opportunities for training and workshops to be conducted throughout the state;

- Sponsor and attend local and regional workshops throughout the state in an effort to provide education and training opportunities to a broad range of clients;
- Conduct site-specific workshops to provide education and training for entities such as county commissions and municipal councils, planning board members, professional planning staff, realtors, developers, and interested citizens;
- Maintain and enhance the CTAP digital library in order to cost effectively provide training to clients through electronic media such as webinars and online publications. Continue to grow and promote the CTAP traditional resource library to provide expanded resource options available to clients;
- Assist with the coordination of statewide planning initiatives, legislative studies related to land use planning, and other related tasks, as directed;
- Enhance the CTAP website to provide clients access to more “self-service” educational information and resources, such as model documents and topic-specific training materials;
- Encourage and assist local governments in the use of geographic information system (GIS) mapping capabilities to produce maps for documents, such as local growth policies and capital facilities plans. Utilize *CommunityViz* and *Esri* software in the creation of maps, data analysis, and resource documents for local governments;
- Expand outreach and assistance to tribal governments and tribal planning organizations in Montana;
- Update CTAP publications to ensure they comply with statutory changes and provide guidance on the best practices available;
- Continue to log and respond to client contacts and specific requests for assistance.
- Develop and publish land use statute books, model subdivision regulations, annexation policies, capital improvements plans, and other planning document templates as technical assistance for local governments, private sector, and local and state officials.

Funding Source:

CTAP is funded with state general funds.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2014	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Requests for Technical Assistance	785	883	842	900	955	1,000
Training Workshops & Presentations	17	18	20	25	25	27
Publications Printed	1600	200	2000	300	2000	300
Clients Utilizing Training Library	5	17	35	37	40	43
Clients for GIS Mapping	8	7	13	17	20	22

Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CTAP>

HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME):

The HOME Program provides federal grant funds to eligible local government entities who apply directly or on behalf of Public Housing Authorities, Community Housing Development Organizations, and other non-profit organizations to help finance the new construction or rehabilitation of individual homes or rental units and other eligible activities for Montanans of low to very low income. Eligible applicants can obtain funds for homebuyer assistance on a noncompetitive basis; other eligible activities are distributed using a competitive application process.

Mission:

As set forth in Subpart A, Title III of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, the purpose of the HOME Program is to increase the number of families served with decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing and expand the long-term supply of affordable housing. This mission fits within the Department’s statutory functions to survey and investigate housing needs in Montana, maintain and disseminate information on housing assistance programs, and promote research and development in matters relating to, or affecting the provision of decent, safe, and sanitary housing in a suitable living environment. (Section 90-1-106, MCA.)

Goals and Objectives:

- Continue restructuring and streamlining HOME Program grant application and administration policies and procedures to expand program accessibility for Montana’s communities;
- Continuously improve HOME project screening, technical assistance efforts, and project monitoring to ensure that high quality, long lasting affordable housing investments are made in Montana;
- Continue to provide technical assistance to rural portions of the state by HOME Program personnel and through technical assistance contracts;
- Continue cooperation with other federal, state and local affordable housing programs in the state to ensure the efficient use of scarce resources; and
- Provide on-going training for grantees, property management, and developers.

Funding Source:

The HOME program is funded with federal funds allocated annually through HUD based on a statutory formula and the amount budgeted by Congress. For FFY 2016, the State of Montana will receive an allocation of \$ \$3,023,400 for its HOME program.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2014	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Applications Reviewed (Units Provided)						
Multifamily Construction and Rehab	38	38	75	40	40	40
Down Payment Assistance	40	33	37	40	40	40
Grants Awarded (Units Provided)						
Multifamily Construction and Rehab	38	38	75	40	40	40

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2014	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Down Payment Assistance	40	33	37	40	40	40

Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/HOME>

Montana Main Street Program:

The Montana Main Street program serves as a coordinating resource for communities seeking to revitalize their historic downtowns and to provide technical assistance and expertise to communities of all sizes, based on their individual needs. Montana Main Street provides technical assistance training in the areas of downtown development and historic preservation to communities of all sizes and capacity. In addition, the Montana program sponsors regional workshops and an annual conference for all downtown revitalization organizations in Montana.

During the 2017 biennium, the Montana Main Street program provided grant funds for a façade improvement design program in Miles City, streetscape infrastructure improvements in Sheridan, preparation of downtown master plans for Thompson Falls and Dillon, and a preliminary architectural report for the reuse of a historic hotel in downtown Deer Lodge and historic Phoenix Building in Butte.

The Department is statutorily authorized to administer the Montana Main Street program and adopt rules to implement the program. (Section 90-1-151, MCA.) The Program currently provides technical assistance to 26 designated and affiliate Main Street communities across Montana.

Mission:

As set forth in Section 90-1-151, MCA, the purpose of the Montana Main Street program is to:

- Assist communities in restoring and retaining the historic character of their downtown areas and historic commercial districts;
- Stimulate business investment, assist in retaining existing small businesses, and promote new businesses in those areas;
- Strengthen the local tax base;
- Create employment opportunities in community downtown areas and historic districts; and
- Generally enhance the economic viability of downtown areas and historic districts.

Goals and Objectives:

- Serve as a coordinating resource, provide networking opportunities, and advocate for communities interested in downtown renewal, economic development, and historic preservation;
- Assist designated and affiliate communities in the organization and administration of their Main Street programs, providing technical assistance and training;
- Host regional workshops on downtown renewal, economic development, and historic preservation;
- Participate in the annual Montana Downtown Conference as well as other state and regional conferences and workshops focused on economic development and revitalization;
- Provide grant funding to communities who apply for assistance in the completion of projects related to economic growth and development, downtown revitalization, and historic preservation;
- Actively promote opportunities for communities to combine funding sources in the completion of long range planning and economic development related projects;
- Maintain and enhance the Main Street resource library in order to cost-effectively provide training and resources to Main Street communities;
- Actively grow and develop the Main Street program statewide commensurate with the availability of resources to provide services to all members;

- Enable small business owners to succeed by creating vibrant and healthy downtown districts.

Funding Source:

Main Street is funded with lodging facility tax funds through a collaborative effort between CDD and the Office of Tourism and Business Development Division in the Department.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual FY 2014	Actual FY 2015	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated FY 2018	Estimated FY 2019
Participating Communities	2 Designated 22 Affiliate	2 Dsg. 23 Aff.	3 Dsg. 24 Aff.	6 Dsg. 25 Aff.	8 Dsg. 25 Aff.	10 Dsg. 26 Aff.
Projects Awarded	5	5	7	10	10	10
Funds Allocated	\$50,200	\$51,000	\$49,925	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Net new jobs	288	228	149*	250	260	270
Net new businesses	44	81	47*	50	55	60
Annual Conference Attendees	26**	106	85**	125	125	125
Presentations & Trainings	57	63	71	75	80	85

*Data compiled through third FY quarter

**Annual conference was formatted as a one-day workshop

Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet>

Quality Schools Grants Program:

The Quality Schools Grant Program is a competitive grant program created to provide infrastructure grants, matching planning grants, and emergency grants to public school districts in Montana for the construction of a school facility, major repairs or deferred maintenance to an existing school facility, major improvements or enhancements to an existing school facility; or information technology infrastructure, including installations, upgrades, or improvements to an existing school facility or facilities. The Program receives applications for school facility projects the summer prior to each legislative session. The Department received 53 applications for school facility projects for the 2017 biennium; no projects were awarded grants by the Legislature. The Department has received 51 applications for the 2019 biennium and is currently in the process of reviewing and ranking those applications for recommended funding by the 2017 Legislature.

The Quality Schools Program also provides grants for planning school facility projects, and emergency grant funds to address immediate public health and safety problems at school facilities.

Mission:

As set forth in Section 90-6-802, MCA, the purpose of the Quality Schools Grant Program is to enhance the quality of life and protect the health, safety, and welfare of Montana's public school students; ensure

the successful delivery of an educational system that meets the accreditation standards provided for in Section 20-7-111, MCA; extend the life of Montana's existing public school facilities; promote energy conservation and reduction; integrate technology into Montana's education framework to support student educational needs for the 21st century; and promote fiscal responsibility by considering both long-term and short-term needs of the public school district, the local community, and the state.

Goals & Objectives:

Under state law, the principal objectives of Quality Schools, in order of priority, are to:

- Solve urgent and serious public health or safety problems, or enable public school districts to meet state or federal health or safety standards;
- Address deferred maintenance by repairing or replacing existing building components that are inoperable or difficult to service or that lack minimum integrity;
- Enhance public school districts' ability to offer specific services related to the requirements of the accreditation standards provided for in Section 20-7-111, MCA;
- Provide long-term cost-effective benefits through energy-efficient design;
- Incorporate long-term, cost-effective benefits to school facilities, including the technology needs of school facilities; and
- Enhance educational opportunities for students.

In ranking the project applications, the Department is statutorily directed to give preference to school facility projects involving repairs to existing facilities over projects involving construction of new facilities.

Funding Source:

In the past, the Quality Schools Program was funded with state special revenues consisting of timber harvest on common school trust lands, (an amount equal to the income attributable to the difference between the average sale value of 18 million board feet and the total income produced from the annual timber harvest on common school trust lands during the fiscal year (§ 20-9-516, MCA) and riverbed rental payments (95% of the rental income received from these leases goes into the account; the remaining 5% goes into the school permanent fund). No funding was appropriated for Program grants in the 2017 biennium.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual 2015 Biennium	Actual 2017 Biennium	Estimated 2019 Biennium
Project Applications Reviewed	53	51	55
Planning Applications Reviewed	47	0	45
Emergency Applications Reviewed	2	0	5
Project Grants Awarded	30	0	36
Planning Grants Awarded	44	0	40

PERFORMANCE	Actual 2015 Biennium	Actual 2017 Biennium	Estimated 2019 Biennium
Emergency Grants Awarded	1	0	8
Active Grants	106	35	84

Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/QualitySchools>

Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP):

TSEP is a state-funded grant program created to help local governments fund infrastructure projects, including water, wastewater, sewer or storm sewer systems, solid waste systems, and bridges. TSEP was authorized by Montana voters through the passage of Legislative Referendum 110 in June 1992 (Sections 90-6-701, *et seq.*, MCA).

TSEP receives applications for infrastructure projects the spring prior to each legislative session. In May 2016, TSEP received 45 infrastructure project and 15 bridge project applications for 2019 biennium funds. The Department is currently in the process of reviewing and ranking those applications for recommended funding by the 2017 Legislature.

TSEP also provides grants for planning for future infrastructure projects, and emergency grant funds to address immediate urgent public health and safety problems.

Mission:

The mission of TSEP is to assist local governments in funding infrastructure projects that will:

- create jobs for Montana residents;
- promote economic growth in Montana by helping to finance the necessary infrastructure;
- encourage local public facility improvements;
- create a partnership between state and local governments to make public projects affordable;
- support long-term, stable economic growth in Montana;
- protect future generations from undue fiscal burdens caused by financing necessary public works;
- coordinate and improve infrastructure financing by federal, state, local government, and private sources; and
- enhance the quality of life and protect the health, safety, and welfare of Montana citizens.

Goals and Objectives:

The statutory objectives of TSEP, in order of priority, are to fund infrastructure projects that:

- solve urgent and serious public health or safety problems, or that enable local governments to meet state or federal health or safety standards;
- reflect greater need for financial assistance than other projects;
- incorporate appropriate, cost-effective technical design and that provide thorough, long-term solutions to community public facility needs;
- reflect substantial past efforts to ensure sound, effective, long-term planning and management of public facilities and that attempt to resolve the infrastructure problem with local resources;
- enable local governments to obtain funds from sources other than the funds provided under this part;
- provide long-term, full-time job opportunities for Montanans, that provide public facilities necessary for the expansion of a business that has a high potential for financial success, or that maintain the

- tax base or that encourage expansion of the tax base; and
- are high local priorities and have strong community support.

Funding Source:

TSEP is funded by state special revenue consisting of interest earnings on the state Treasure State Endowment Fund (TSEF), a sub-fund of the coal tax trust fund. Half of all coal severance tax revenues that flow into the coal tax trust fund are transferred into the TSEF until the end of FY 2016.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual 2015 Biennium	Actual 2017 Biennium	Estimated 2019 Biennium
Project Applications Reviewed	51	60	60
Planning Applications Reviewed	89	114	85
Emergency Applications Reviewed	7	17	22
Project Grants Awarded	64	33	30
Planning Grants Awarded	87	114	85
Emergency Grants Awarded	5	7	7
Active Projects	168	145	150

Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/TSEP>

Coal Board:

The Montana Coal Board provides financial assistance in the form of grants to communities experiencing impacts from coal development activities or major declines in those activities. The Coal Board consists of seven members, appointed by the Governor, and funds applications for grants from cities, towns, counties, or school districts, or any other local or state governmental unit or agency, or the governing body of a federally recognized Indian tribe. CDD staff provides administrative support to the Board.

During the 2017 biennium, projects funded included water and wastewater system improvements, road repairs and equipment, community growth policies, school facility planning and improvements, hospital and health care center renovations and equipment, fire and sheriff department equipment, and preliminary engineering studies.

Mission:

The statutory mission of the Coal Board, as set forth in 90-6-201, MCA, is to assist local governmental units that have been required to expand the provision of public services as a consequence of large-scale development of coal mines and coal-using energy complexes or as a consequence of a major decline in coal mining or in the operation of coal-using energy complexes, to assist in the construction and reconstruction of designated portions of highways that serve the area affected by the large-scale development, to support county land planning, and to support public schools throughout the state.

Goals and Objectives:

The objective of the Coal Board is to award grants that are consistent with five statutory funding criteria:

- need;
- degree of severity of impact from an increase or decrease in coal development or in the consumption of coal by a coal-using energy complex;
- availability of funds;
- degree of local effort in meeting these needs; and
- need for community planning before the full impact is realized, and how the proposed project reasonably fits into an overall plan for the orderly management of the existing or contemplated growth or decline problems.

Funding Source:

The Coal Board is funded from state special revenue consisting of coal severance taxes deposited into the Coal Natural Resource Account.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual 2015 Biennium	Actual FY 2016	Estimated FY 2017	Estimated 2019 Biennium
Applications Received and Reviewed	59	29	35	40
Grants Awarded	38	22	13	30
Active Grants	51	50	40	60
Coal Board Meetings	9	5	4	9

Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Boards/Coal>

Hard Rock Mining Impact Board:

The five-member Hard Rock Mining Impact Board (HRMB), appointed by the Governor and administratively attached to the Department, administers the Hard-Rock Mining Impact Act (HRMI) (Sections 90-6-301, *et seq.*, MCA) and the companion Property Tax Base Sharing Act (PTBS) (Sections 90-6-401, *et seq.*, MCA). Montana law requires mine developers and affected local governments to prepare and implement impact plans intended to ensure that services and facilities are available to impacted communities without imposing additional costs on existing local taxpayers. Mine developers pay new capital and net operating costs through prepaid property taxes with a subsequent tax credit, grants, or facility impact bonds.

The Board and its CDD staff provide technical assistance with metal mines license tax distributions, including analysis, mitigation, and mediation services to local governments and hard rock mine developers where potentially adverse public fiscal impacts from large-scale development are identified. When necessary, the HRMB adjudicates disputes between affected entities and mine developers. During the 2017 Biennium, the Hard Rock Mining Impact Board has been updating the Impact Plan guidelines to better serve communities and mine developers with navigating the Impact Plan process.

Mission:

The mission of the HRMB is to mitigate the local government service, facility, and fiscal impacts from new large-scale hard-rock mineral developments in Montana.

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide technical assistance as hard-rock mining impact plans are being developed;
- Assist local government units in meeting the initial financial impact of large-scale mineral development;
- Mitigate the long-term local government service, facility, and fiscal impacts from new large-scale hard-rock mineral developments in Montana; and
- Adjudicate disputes between affected entities.

Funding Source:

The HRMB is funded by state special revenues consisting of a 2.5% allocation of the state metalliferous mines license tax.

Performance Indicators:

PERFORMANCE	Actual 2015 Biennium	Estimated 2017 Biennium	Estimated 2019 Biennium
Responses to Technical Assistance Requests	10	15	10
Impact Plans Reviewed	0	2	0
Impact Plans Approved	0	1	0
Board Meetings	4	5	4
Disputes Adjudicated	0	1	0

Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/Boards/HRMI>

Housing Division:

The Housing Division includes the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Housing programs, and the Board of Housing and its programs.

Housing Division responsibilities are mandated primarily in Title 2, Chapter 15; Title 90, Chapter 1, and Chapter 6, MCA; 24 CFR 5, 792, 813, 887, 982, and 984; and the Governor's Executive Order 27-81.

Mission:

To provide the tools that enable Montanans to own or rent safe, healthy and affordable housing that is within their financial capability.

Goals and Objectives:

In order to fulfill its mission the Housing Division is committed to achieving the following goals and objectives:

- Lead the coordination of housing activities with other housing providers, both private and governmental, to ensure maximum possible high quality development and maintenance of housing stock within the state, while minimizing use of resources and duplication of services.
- Continue to provide support of Housing Division personnel in the Housing Coordinating Team, a group of organizations statewide interested in housing related matters that meets to discuss issues related to housing and coordination of programs.
- Provide exemplary customer service by resolving questions for our customers and leveraging our relationships with other agencies and partners.

Website: <http://housing.mt.gov>

Board of Housing:

The Montana Housing Act of 1975 created the Montana Board of Housing. The Board is an agency of the State and operates within the Department of Commerce for administrative purposes. The powers of the Board are vested in a seven member Board, appointed by the Governor, subject to the confirmation of the State Senate. The Board provides policy direction to the agency staff, authorizes bond issues, approves development financing and evaluates Board of Housing Programs. These programs include the Regular Bond Homeownership Program, Special Set-Aside Homeownership Program, Multifamily Loan Programs, Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, Housing Montana Fund, Veterans Home Loan and the Reverse Annuity Mortgage (RAM) Program.

The Board of Housing is funded by five enterprise funds with revenues derived from an administrative charge applied to projects and mortgages financed. Under the Montana Housing Act of 1975, the Board does not receive any general fund, and is completely self-supporting.

Goals and Objectives:

- Continue automation of functions to improve operations. Continue to look at new ways of operating to improve efficiency and timeliness.
- Manage the assets of the Board in the most effective manner to enhance the ability to provide housing finance for lower income Montanans. Use any program earnings to re-invest into new mortgages or call bonds.
- Continuously review programs to determine if they are meeting the needs of the population they are intended to serve. Continue to change program requirements based on current conditions.
- Support cooperative efforts to provide homebuyer education and foreclosure prevention counseling to all parts of the state.
- Create opportunities to finance and serve Montanans through conventional loans in partnership with lenders.
- Provide education and outreach to the citizens of Montana and the Board's customers and servicers through public appearances, workshops, print media, and other means as appropriate.
- Provide training to lenders and realtors, as well as work with non-profits to provide rental counseling, homebuyer education, foreclosure prevention and post purchase education.
- Explore methods of financing multifamily rental housing.
- Provide on-going training for property management, owners, and developers
- Provide oversight through compliance site visits and file audits
- Explore avenues for more efficient use of the Housing Credit Program

- Review opportunities for preservation of federally financed housing, and work with HUD and USDA RD on restructuring of multifamily properties when appropriate.
- Explore ways aimed at lowering the cost of housing.
- Explore ways to meet the needs of populations that are not currently being served.
- Promote the use of the funds within the Housing Montana Fund (HMF).
- Dynamic and relevant web presence.
- Timely and Accurate Financial Reporting.
- Timely and Accurate Payments to Bondholders.
- Timely and Substantive Compliance with Bond Indentures and Applicable Laws and Regulations.

Housing Assistance Bureau:

The Housing Assistance Bureau consists primarily of three programs; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Project Based Section 8 Housing Contract Administration (PBS8) program; the HUD Tenant Based Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Moderate Rehabilitation programs Contract Administration (TBS8).

Goals and Objectives:

- Continue cooperation with other federal, state and local affordable housing programs in the state to ensure the efficient use of scarce resources.
- Provide on-going training for grantees, property management, and developers

HUD Section 8 Housing:

Project Based Section 8 Contract Administration (PBS8):

The PBS8 Program is the HUD contract administrator for low-income rental properties throughout the state. The program provides rental assistance to projects at fixed locations. Landlords perform administrative tasks at the local level. The agency performs annual property reviews, oversees property management, and makes rent subsidy payments to owners. The agency earns fees from HUD under a performance-based contract for the tasks performed. The Project Based Program renews rent contracts to project owners as they expire. Contract Managers prepare special damage claims, annual rent increases, respond to emergencies, check compliance for fair housing and waiting lists, on-site management reviews, follow-up to physical inspections, review of management decisions, and budget assistance to local property owners. The program provides approximately 4,200 units of rental housing in 93 projects, for low income and elderly families throughout the state.

Tenant Based Section 8 Contract Administration (TBS8):

TBS8 provides over 3,500 rent assisted units for very low income families (including elderly and disabled) to ensure they have safe and affordable housing, using the HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Moderate Rehabilitation programs. The program operates on a first come, first serve basis statewide, through a network of field agencies the department contracts for administration of local operations in the program. Leases are entered on the open rental market between tenants and private landlords. The program makes a subsidy payment to the property owner on behalf of the tenant. Payments are based on applicable unit rent limits and tenants generally pay 30% of their income towards rent and utilities.

Both Section 8 Housing programs are funded by enterprise funds with revenues derived under HUD performance based Annual Contribution Contracts.

Goals and Objectives:

- Provide housing through various Section 8 Housing programs and improve high quality Section 8 Housing Program services using contracted local field agencies to provide local contact for landlords and tenants enrolled in MDOC Section 8 Housing programs.
- Expand comprehensive centralized field agent training sessions to ensure field agent competency in all matters related to Section 8 Programs, and address problems associated with service delivery. Provide specialized training in areas identified as being high need for field agents and staff.
- Expand field review of local field agent operations to better monitor performance and to provide additional on-site training for field agents related to programmatic requirements, including inspections of rental units occupied by Section 8 tenants.
- Continue contract administration of Section 8 project based contracts currently administered by HUD and explore the possibility of administering other HUD contracts
- Expand the provision of housing opportunities for low income Montanans by applying for additional assistance as it becomes available from federal sources.
- Expand the availability of low income Montanans to enter homeownership using the special provisions of the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership program.
- Connect with local community members across the state to facilitate landlord education, property management education and tools for effective partnerships with field agencies and Section 8 program staff.

Director's Office:

The Director's Office provides overall leadership, communication, and management support to the Department of Commerce staff, programs, bureaus, divisions and administratively attached boards. The office provides executive, administrative, legal, and policy direction along with offering problem-solving guidance. The office keeps abreast of department related issues and acts in a public relations and informational capacity to ensure the public is informed of the important services provided by the Department. The office works closely with economic and community development organizations, businesses, communities, governmental entities, elected official and the public to diversify and expand the state's economic base. The office acts as the liaison with private business, local governments, administratively attached boards, public and private interest groups, the legislature, Indian tribes, individuals, other governmental agencies, and the Governor's Office.

The Director's Office also provides effective and efficient internal support to Department of Commerce staff, programs, bureaus, divisions and administratively attached boards in a positive customer service oriented manner. Services are provided by the Offices of Accounting and Budget, Legal Affairs, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Public Information.

Every division, bureau, and program in the agency uses the support services in the Director's Office in some capacity. Staff act as the administrative contacts for the agency and the "central services" aspect enhances the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the agency by standardizing business processes and employing best practices in as many areas of the agency as possible, while keeping the costs to supported programs as low as possible.

The Director's Office analyzes, with department managers, the statutory, administrative, and programmatic objectives of their programs to develop performance measures where appropriate that maximize the benefits of the services provided to the citizens of Montana while minimizing the resources required achieving those objectives.

The Director's Office responsibilities are mandated primarily in Title 2, Chapter 15 and Title 90, Chapter 1, MCA.

Mission:

To provide leadership in the department's mission of economic and community development and to provide effective, efficient, friendly, and sustainable internal support to the Departments programs and staff.

Goals and Objectives:

The Director's Office is committed to achieving the following goals and objectives:

Providing effective leadership to the State of Montana and its citizens in the areas of economic development and community development.

Provide quality management, communication and leadership support to the department's programs and customers while assuring the legislature, the public, and management that the department is in compliance with applicable laws, rules, policies, and internal controls.

Assist program managers with statutory, administrative, and program objectives and develop measures of success where appropriate that maximize the benefits of the services provided to the citizens of Montana while minimizing the resources required to achieve those objectives.

Encourage a work environment that analyzes, develops, and implements work processes that increases government efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability; including empowering staff to remedy problems at the earliest point.

Promote teamwork by encouraging, assisting, and respecting others.

Website: <http://commerce.mt.gov>

Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities (MCDD):

The Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities is a citizen based advocacy group. Its members, appointed by the Governor, work to provide increased independence, integration and productivity for persons with developmental disabilities.

The Council administers federal funds in three major areas; 1) assistance in the provision of comprehensive services to persons with developmental disabilities; 2) assistance to the state in appropriate planning activities; and 3) contracting with public and private agencies to establish model programs, demonstrate innovative habilitation techniques and to train professional and paraprofessional personnel in providing services to persons with developmental disabilities.

MCDD responsibilities are mandated primarily in Title 53, Chapter 20, MCA.

Website: <http://mtcdd.org>

Facility Finance Authority:

The Facility Finance Authority was created by the 1983 Legislature to assist health care and related facilities contain future health care costs by offering debt financing at low-cost, tax-exempt interest rates for capital construction and improvements. The legislature extended eligible facilities to include community pre-release centers and for-profit manufacturing facilities. Cost savings are shared with consumers in the form of lower fees.

The Facility Finance Authority is funded entirely by proprietary funds (enterprise accounting entities 06012 and 06015) with revenues collected from interest, fees, and charges from participating institutions. There are no direct appropriations provided in HB 2.

The Authority is primarily mandated in Title 90, Chapter 7 and Title 2, Chapter 15, MCA.

Mission:

To develop and maintain statewide financing programs that provide for and maintain access to the broadest range of low-cost capital financings for eligible non-profit private and public institutions as well as for-profit small manufacturing facilities.

Goals and Objectives:

- Maintain and enhance access to the broadest range of financing alternatives for client base
- Work with congressional delegation and national association to preserve tax-exempt bonds
- Increase awareness of financing opportunities for small manufacturing facilities by identifying stakeholders and marketing program
- Continue to streamline internal processes in order to ensure efficiency and sustainability for all operational aspects of the Authority
- Manage the assets of the Authority in the most effective manner to enhance the ability to provide financing for projects at small hospitals
- Keep current with the ever-changing tax-exempt municipal finance arena as well as health care reform and its impacts on tax-exempt financings and profitability of non-profit hospitals

Website: <http://mtfacilityfinance.com>

Board of Investments:

Article VIII, Section 13 of the Montana Constitution created the Unified Investment Program, which includes all state agency funds. The Board of Investments (the “Board”), by law, invests the Unified Investment Program. Local governments may also invest with the Board. To facilitate management of the Unified Investment Program, the Board created seven investment pools, which operate like mutual funds. Investments not managed in pools are included in All Other Funds.

<u>Name of Pool</u>	<u>Eligible Participants</u>
1. Retirement Funds Bond Pool	Retirement systems funds only
2. Trust Funds Investment Pool	Various state trust funds
3. Short Term Investment Pool	Eligible local & state agencies
4. Montana Domestic Equity Pool	Retirement systems funds only
5. Montana International Equity Pool	Retirement systems funds only
6. Montana Private Equity Pool	Retirement systems funds only
7. Montana Real Estate Pool	Retirement systems funds only
8. All Other Funds	Non-pool state agency investments

The Board issues a “consolidated” financial statement for the seven investment pools and All Other Funds that provides a comprehensive view of total pool and All Other Funds assets.

In addition to the Board’s investment responsibilities, it is charged with creating solutions to financial issues facing new and expanding businesses in the state of Montana. To accomplish this goal, the Board administers a number of different loan programs that can be specifically tailored to meet an individual business’s or local government’s needs. The In-State Investment Program consists of commercial loans funded by the Coal Tax Trust and low interest loans for first time home buying Montana Veterans.

The Board also issues tax-exempt bonds and lends the proceeds to Montana state agencies, universities, and local governments for various projects.

The Board of Investments is funded with both enterprise and internal service type proprietary funds, and no direct appropriations are provided in HB 2.

Boards of Investments' responsibilities are mandated primarily in Article VIII, Section 13 of the Montana Constitution, Title 2, Chapter 15, and Title 17, Chapters 5 and 6, MCA.

Goals and Objectives:

To provide prudent investment management of state and local government funds; work with financial institutions, state agencies, and local governments to enhance and expand Montana's economy and assist new and expanding Montana businesses; and to lend low-interest funds to eligible governments for a variety of projects.

To meet these challenges, the Board of Investments is committed to employing proven, long-term investment strategies and finding creative solutions to financial issues facing government entities and new and expanding businesses in the state.

The Board of Investments is also committed to transparency. Its website has been and will continue to be a source of specific and quantifiable information addressing many areas, including:

Board Meetings;
Annual Reports;
Policies;
Program Descriptions;
Performance Measures; and
Portal to Access Programs

Website: <http://www.investmentmt.com>

Montana Board of Horse Racing:

The Board of Horse Racing program is responsible for:

1. Regulating the live, simulcast and advance deposit wagering horse racing industry;
2. Ensuring compliance by approximately 1,200 licensees with state laws and board rules;
3. Licensing all racing personnel, establishing race dates for various communities, and establishing veterinary practices and standards in connection with horse racing meets;
4. Auditing, supervising and conducting investigations related to the pari-mutuel racing system in Montana. The program work is mandated in Title 2, Chapter 15, and Title 23, Chapter 4, MCA.

The Board of Horse Racing is funded with state special revenue derived from a 1 percent tax on gross receipts from pari-mutuel betting. For live racing and simulcast facilities, the tax is the greater of 1 percent of gross betting receipts or the actual cost to the board for regulating the meet.

Mission:

To ensure the integrity of the state's horse racing industry, live, simulcast and advance deposit wagering, through customer oriented regulation and monitoring of compliance with the Montana State Board of Horse Racing Laws and Rules.

Goals and Objectives:

To monitor and regulate the horse racing industry in Montana; to allow the racing industry, live, simulcast and advance deposit wagering, to grow and perform at a level which would be beneficial to all racing interests in the State of Montana while at the same time providing and promoting public confidence. Economic impacts include Montana's agricultural sector, county fairgrounds, and the communities (lodging, meals, supplies, feed, etc.) in which race meets are held as well as the race horse breeding industry.

Website: <http://commerce.mt.gov/horseracing>

Montana Heritage Commission:

The 1997 Montana Legislature established the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission (MHC) to acquire and manage historic properties for the State of Montana. The legislation approved the purchase of the historic sites in Virginia City and Nevada City including 250 buildings, 160 acres of land, hundreds of thousands of artifacts, and a tourist railroad. The Montana Board of Land Commissioners later approved the acquisition of historic Reeder's Alley in Helena on November 19, 2001 via a private donation. The Pioneer Cabin at the base of Reeder's Alley, was also acquired through private donation from the Last Chance Gulch Restoration Association on June 19, 2006. Today, MHC manages these sites to generate revenue for its own operations that includes building leases for private businesses, visitor services, historic preservation, collections management and public education.

Mission:

Montana Heritage Commission preserves and manages historic resources in Virginia City, Nevada City and Reeder's Alley and promotes the appreciation of history through quality visitor experiences.

Goals and Objectives:

- Finalize and implement strategic and business plans to help us achieve economic sustainability for operating costs and to contribute to the promotion and preservation of the areas we have manage.
- Complete the sale of real and personal properties that do not have any significant history to Montana's heritage and to clean up our historic sites, generate revenue and reduce maintenance expenditures.
- Utilize educational outreach programs and internships and interpretation programs to improve the public enjoyment and understanding of our historic sites.
- Improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure to generate revenue, enhance life safety, and allow public use of our properties.
- Improve marketing and promoting the sites to increase visitation to Virginia City, Nevada City and Reeder's Alley.
- Seek additional public and private funding support through grants, donations, and appropriations to further our goals.
- Complete critical historic building stabilization projects, and address urgent life-safety goals with occupied buildings.
- Continue the conservation and care of valuable historic artifacts and make it more visible to the public by entering into electronic database that makes it more visible, organized and viewable to the public.
- Conduct required archaeological research and mitigation for projects effecting state lands.
- Recruit and utilize volunteers to increase efficiency of operations and leverage limited state funding.

- Make strategic investments in the development of our sites, properties and buildings to improve site interpretation, public access, and historic fabric and visitor experiences.
- Work closely with local government and non-profit partners to leverage funding and achieve goals of mutual interest.

Website: <http://montanaheritagecommission.mt.gov/>