

STATE TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

PO Box 200533, Helena, MT 59620

(406) 841-2754 | tribalnations.mt.gov



2021 – 2022

Report to the

Montana Legislature

September 2022



Commission Responsibilities

Launched under the Native American Economic Development Act of 1999 and permanently established by the 2007 Legislature, the State Tribal Economic Development Commission is administratively attached to the Montana Department of Commerce.

The commission is tasked with:

- Assisting to develop business enterprises on reservations;
- Identifying the availability of federal, state, and private sector funds for tribal governments, Indian business enterprises, and communities located on Indian reservations in Montana;
- Conducting a comprehensive assessment of economic conditions on each of the Indian reservations in the state;
- Applying for or assisting tribal governments in applying for grants listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance for which either the commission or the tribe are considered eligible and would supply tangible economic benefits to any or all Indian reservations in Montana; and
- Working cooperatively with tribal government officials, the Director of Indian Affairs, and appropriate state officials to help foster state-tribal cooperative agreements (Title 18, Chapter 11, part 1) that enhance the economic development on Indian reservations and to help the Department of Commerce fully implement and comply with the economic development provisions tasked to the Department of Commerce at MCA 90-1-105.

In carrying out the duties listed above, the Commission actively:

- Works with the tribal governments and the State of Montana to support, develop, and grow Indian-owned private sector businesses on Montana Indian reservations and across the state;
- Provides the Department of Commerce information and advice on investments of economic development funding in Indian Country;
- Consults with each tribal nation of the State Tribal Economic Development Commission and the State of Montana on avenues to improve the economic well-being of Indian citizens and businesses;
- Discusses and shares best practices in economic development that have been implemented by tribal governments in Montana; and
- Provides a venue for Indian people and tribal governments to learn about local, state and federal resources that are available for projects and activities in Indian Country.

Special Commission Projects for the Current Biennium

Montana Indian Language Preservation Program Transferred

During the 2021 legislative session, House Bill 671 transferred this program to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and is no longer under the management of the Office of Indian Country Economic Development (OICED) State Tribal Economic Development (STED) department within the Department of Commerce Business MT Division.

Strengthening State Tribal Economic Development Networks

Annually, the STED program manager and OICED staff travel to each of the reservations multiple times to address tribal councils, discuss projects with tribal staff and Indian businesses, and to share with the tribal communities the various funding and technical assistance opportunities that are offered through the state and beyond. Staff have participated in intra-agency meetings and economic development events including the Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) presentations, hosting regional Community Meetings with business partners from cities that neighbor tribal lands, Montana Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) panels, Governor's Conference on Tourism, and State Tribal Relations Interim Committee (STRIC) meetings.

As of May 20, 2022, the STED program manager position has been vacant, and recruitment of a replacement has been on-going. While this position has been vacant, other staff at OICED have been assisting with elements of the position's responsibilities to carry on STEDC meetings and further fostering of relationships with stakeholders and business partners in Montana's tribal communities.

Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) Funding

The Indian Country Economic Development (ICED) program, created by the 59th Montana State Legislature, is a State-funded program administered by the Montana Department of Commerce. Since October 2005, the State Legislature has made a restricted biennial appropriation of One-Time-Only (OTO) grant funds to be made available to Montana's tribal nations and tribal businesses for business development activities. In the 67th legislative session, \$1.75 M in funding for the ICED program was approved as part of House Bill 2 and signed into law by Governor Gianforte in May 2021.

The grants funded under the ICED program include the Tribal Business Planning Grant (TBPG), Indian Equity Fund Small Business Grant (IEF), Native American Business Advisors Grant (NABA), Tribal Tourism Grant (TTG), a Covid-Era pilot program in 2021, and a Tribal Tourism Digital Business Development Grant (TTDG).

TRIBAL BUSINESS PLANNING GRANT

The Tribal Business Planning Grant assists tribal governments and tribal organizations in deploying comprehensive business planning strategies and activities.

Fiscal year 2021, TBPB awarded \$30,000 each

- Blackfeet: Feasibility study to develop a bottled water company
- Chippewa Cree: Feasibility and regional market study for meat processing facility
- Confederated Salish & Kootenai: Completion of feasibility study to develop former Big Arm Store property
- Crow: Little Big Horn College engineering report
- Fort Peck: Original contract amended to engineering study of renovations to former A & S facility
- Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians: Three business and operations plans under the LSTE umbrella
- Northern Cheyenne: Development of proposed Workforce Training Center with studies in infrastructure planning; engineering, architecture, and environmental assessments
- Fort Belknap: NO GRANT AWARDED THIS CYCLE

Fiscal Year 2022, TBPB awarded \$30,000 each

- Blackfeet: Contractor fees to update land use plans with infrastructure analysis
- Chippewa Cree: Original contract amended to continue grocery store feasibility study
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai: Continuation of consulting on CSKT tribal transaction securities system and draft Universal Construction Codes (UCC)
- Crow: Feasibility study for grocery store with Plenty Doors Development Corporation
- Fort Peck: Tribal business incubator conceptualization and infrastructure study
- Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians: Development of Mobile Medical and Starlink business plans
- Northern Cheyenne: Business survey and plan completion with Peoples Partner for Community Development
- Fort Belknap: Small business incubator environmental assessment and impact study

As of July 2022, the Tribal Business Planning Grant is on hold and undergoing internal review. Preliminary metrics show only 32% of the awarded TBPB's go on to the next phase with fewer projects going on to completion.

INDIAN EQUITY FUND SMALL BUSINESS GRANT

The Indian Equity Fund Small Business Grant (IEF) assists start-up or expanding Native American businesses in Montana. Awards of \$11,000 to \$14,000 help with costs related to land purchases, building, equipment, assets, technology, operational costs, and sometimes working capital.

“The Indian Equity Fund has a proven record of successfully infusing capital into Native-owned small businesses in Montana,” said Department of Commerce Director Scott Osterman. **“In fact, 92 percent of recipients over the past five years are still operating and even expanding further.”**

In fiscal year 2022, IEF awarded a total of \$320,000 to the following 24 businesses:

Blackfeet Tribe

- Casey's RV Park in East Glacier will receive \$14,000 to extend electricity to the office and RV spots and to improve bathroom facilities.
- Glacier Elkhorn Cabins in Babb will receive \$14,000 to purchase lumber and other supplies to upgrade and add decks to the cabins.
- Sparkles Beauty Salon in Browning will receive \$12,000 to improve plumbing, electrical, drywall, flooring, and to add a covering to the porch entrance, as well as purchase signage and advertising.

Chippewa Cree Tribe

- Central Machine in Big Sandy will receive \$13,200 to purchase equipment, including a new hydraulic shear and a large toolbox.
- Double E in Box Elder will receive \$12,800 to help purchase a new mobile food trailer.
- Log Creations in Box Elder will receive \$14,000 to purchase a sawmill with a swing blade.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

- All American Autoworks in Ronan will receive \$12,000 to purchase equipment, including an electric welder, plasma cutter, welding set, and other tools.
- Arrow Rock in Polson will receive \$14,000 to purchase a dump trailer with 10,000-lb capabilities.
- Hair to the Throne in Polson will receive \$14,000 to purchase equipment and supplies.

Crow Tribe

- Juiced Up in Crow Agency will receive \$14,000 to purchase a 16' x 26' trailer for a drive-up café.
- Real Bird Trail Rides in Garryowen will receive \$14,000 to purchase equipment and supplies.
- TruColors P&C in Havre will receive \$12,000 to purchase a new work truck and equipment.

Fort Belknap Tribe

- Crasco & Crasco Construction in Dodson will receive \$13,000 to purchase a side dump trailer.
- Marlin's Heating in Harlem will receive \$14,000 to purchase equipment, including a hydraulic liftgate.
- Rezolution in Harlem will receive \$13,000 to purchase a new camera and equipment.

Fort Peck Tribe

- 365 Design in Wolf Point will receive \$14,000 to purchase a new printer.
- Lien Windshield in Wolf Point will receive \$12,000 to build out a shop expansion to service multiple vehicles.
- RX Carwash in Wolf Point will receive \$14,000 to purchase equipment, supplies, and a new payment system.

Little Shell Tribe

- 406 Custom Auto in Havre will receive \$13,333.34 to purchase equipment and supplies, including a tinting plotter.
- Indian Paintbrush in East Glacier will receive \$13,333.33 to purchase a building and inventory.
- Plains Soul in Hardin will receive \$13,333.33 to purchase a 16' x 26' storefront building.

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

- Bark Park in Billings will receive \$14,000 to purchase and install artificial pet turf for its outdoor area.
- Hot Rock Healing in Lame Deer will receive \$14,000 to purchase a small cabin for services.
- Warrior Trail in Lame Deer will receive \$12,000 to purchase a storage unit for inventory.

In fiscal year 2021, IEF awarded a total of \$350,000 to the following 34 businesses:

Blackfeet Tribe

- Border Package Pick-up (Babb)
- Glacier Drip Mobile Coffee Shop (Babb)
- Paula's All Occasion Gifts (Browning)
- Skunkcap Painting (Cut Bank)
- Sunshine Woman Creations (East Glacier)

Chippewa Cree Tribe

- E and E Tire Repair (Box Elder)
- Nate's Gona Fix It (Havre)
- Rebekah Jarvey (Havre)
- Binary Computer Repair (Pablo)

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

- Cahoon Construction & Fire (Charlo)
- Crash & Burn Auto (Moiese)
- Blue Bay Trading Post (Polson)
- Flathead Raft Company (Polson)
- Total Screen Design Inc. (Polson)

Crow Tribe

- Metal Solutions (Billings)
- Bomb-Cha'achik (Pryor)
- Diamond Hanging 7 Guest Ranch (Pryor)
- River Bend Lodge (St. Xavier)

Fort Belknap Assiniboine and Gros Ventre Tribes

- Against All Odds (Billings)
- KillEagle Construction (Dodson)
- Feters Garage (Fort Belknap Reservation area)
- EH Excavation (Hays)

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

- Redgrave Education Services (Billings)
- Redbyrd Designs (Glasgow)
- Turcotte Food Bus (Wolf Point)
- Whatever Construction (Wolf Point)

Little Shell Chippewa Tribe

- Fry Bread Fusion (Billings)
- McGillis Alignment Repair (Black Eagle)
- TS Cattle Processing Company (East Glacier)
- MJL Properties (Havre)

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

- Roxy's Rockin Coffee Shop (Ashland)
- Rosebud Tipi Campground (Busby)
- Josh Sioux Welding (Lame Deer)
- Mike's Tool Box (Lame Deer)

NATIVE AMERICAN BUSINESS ADVISORS (NABA) GRANT

The Native American Business Advisors Grant is a fund to support the activities of Native American community-based organizations, tribal colleges, and tribal government organizations that support private sector business development on reservations and in tribal communities.

In fiscal years 2021-2022, the NABA grant awarded \$20,000 to each of the following organizations:

- Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana (Little Shell)
- Nakoda-Aaniih Credit Agency (Fork Belknap)
- Bear Paw Development Corporation (Chippewa Cree)
- Great Northern Development Corporation (Fort Peck)
- NACDC Financial Services (Blackfeet)
- People's Partners for Community Development (Northern Cheyenne)
- Plenty Doors Community Development Corporation (Crow)
- Salish & Kootenai Business Services (Confederated Salish & Kootenai)

Tribal Tourism & Development:

Passed by the 65th Montana Legislature and signed into law by Governor Steve Bullock in May 2017, Senate Bill 309 created and funded an Indian tourism region in Montana. Additionally, it mandated the Governor-appointed Tourism Advisory Council (TAC) include at least two tribal members, one to represent tribal government and one to represent Native-owned private business.

Unlike Montana's other tourism regions defined by geography, the Indian tourism region is a statewide, noncontiguous region including all reservations as well as other locations significant to tribes with a modern or historical connection to Montana. The region is funded by 0.5% of the Lodging Facility Use Tax. The State Tribe Economic Development Commission (STEDC) approves the region's budget and activities.

As part of its commitment to tribal tourism, the Department of Commerce, Business MT OICED (formally Office of Tourism and Business Development (MOTBD)) created and separately funded a full-time Tribal Tourism Officer position to develop and implement strategies for tribal tourism development and promotion on behalf of the Indian tourism region.

In 2021, OICED partnered with Montana State Parks (FWP) and the Crow Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer, investing matching funds of \$50,000 from each agency to produce professional short films featuring Chief Plenty Coup State Park and the Pictograph Cave State Park on the Crow Reservation. Hoffman York was contracted to oversee the completion of the project in April 2022, and secured FilmWest for editing services. By late August 2022 the short films and cutdowns were finished and approved. These videos will be uploaded to the websites of Montana's Fish, Wildlife and Parks and VisitMT.com Indian Country Crow Tribe page, and additional promotion through respective social media channels.

Based on priorities identified through a joint meeting between STEDC and TAC in 2017, OICED contracted with Native writers and photographers to produce a tribal tourism guidebook titled "Montana: Explore Indian Country" featuring information about each tribe in Montana as well as three road trip itineraries covering the state. Taking inspiration from the "Seven Lodges Tribal Handbook" published in 2001 by the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance, a new guidebook was created in March 2019 and then updated in March 2022 with new imagery and destinations.

The guidebook is distributed to visitor information centers and other tourism hubs across the state and can be ordered or downloaded from VisitMT.com. Despite production delays in the reprinting of the updated guidebook resulting in a back log of requests, between mid-June 2022 and mid-August 2022, over 11,000 copies had been shipped out to fulfill over 1,100 requests. "Explore Indian Country Guidebook" is the most requested guidebook featured on the VisitMT.com website since 2019.

Additionally, in fiscal year 2022, the OICED Tribal Tourism Office created an Indian Country Summer Events statewide marketing campaign, with the support of matching funds from Brand MT. Creative

content and ad placements were secured by Hoffman York, the contracted marketing agency on record with DOC. With \$160,000 invested from Business MT and Brand MT Divisions, buoyed by excess bed tax collections from 2021, the campaign highlighted at least one premiere event per tribal region for the summer season of 2022.

Ads launched in early June 2022 were featured on billboards and radio across the state, and on Facebook and Instagram, directing customers to VisitMT.com Indian Country pages for more information. Within the first 45 days of the campaign on social media over 9 million impressions were delivered, resulting in over 2 million visits to VisitMT.com Indian Country pages. Additionally, with the assistance of the Department of Commerce's Economic Analysis Department, cellular geo-tracking and card spend data collection points were set to capture additional metrics that will help to inform the economic success of the campaign. Results are anticipated at the end of September 2022.

TRIBAL TOURISM GRANT

The Tribal Tourism Grant (TTG) program has an approximate annual budget of \$118,000 and awards up to \$50,000 with a 50% match requirement to eligible Tribal Government self-identified tourism projects. These projects include destination or product development, infrastructure, marketing, or promotion.

In fiscal year 2022, TTG awarded:

Blackfeet \$50,000

- Restoration of the Race Horse Track and Rodeo Arena

Chippewa Cree Tribes of Rocky Boy's \$50,000

- Tribe Powwow Grounds Enhancement Project

Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians \$18,957

- Hell Creek Recreation Area Website, Booking, and Advertising Campaign

TRIBAL TOURISM DIGITAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The Tribal Tourism Digital Business Development Grant (TTDG) of 2021, a Covid-Era pilot program, was modeled after the Indian Equity Fund Grant program. The program assisted tribal governments and tribal member small business owners with funding for equipment, ecommerce, website development, and digital marketing when in-person tourism was prevented due to the pandemic. It was a competitive grant program to help Native American-owned businesses related to the tourism industry emerge from COVID-19 restrictions better positioned to generate revenue by establishing or strengthening digital distribution or promotion of their products and services. The TTDG was launched in 2021 in lieu of the TTG program. The budget of \$150,000 had a maximum grant award amount of \$5,000 to individuals, and \$18,750 allocated to each tribal government, and a 100% matching requirement.

In fiscal year 2022, TTDG awarded:

Blackfeet Enrolled

- Leaning Tree Café, Babb \$6,250
- Sunshine Woman Creations, East Glacier \$6,250
- DeBoo's Ranch Adventures, Valier \$6,250

Chippewa or Cree Enrolled

- Mel's Diner DBA Krusty Krab Fireworks, LLC, Box Elder \$6,250

Confederated Salish or Kootenai Enrolled

- Flathead Raft Company, Polson \$6,250
- Hardup Land, LLC & Anita Dupuis Enterprises, LLC, Hot Spring \$6,250
- Keepers of the Season, Arlee \$6,250
- Water People's Tours Camp & Kapapa, Elmo \$6,250

Crow Enrolled

- Indian Battle Tours, LLC, Crow Agency \$6,250
- Wellknown Buffalo Café, Garryowen \$5,500

Assiniboine or Gros Ventre Enrolled

- Bishop Guide Service, Malta \$6,250

Assiniboine or Sioux Enrolled

- Redbyrd Designs, Glasgow \$6,250

Northern Cheyenne Enrolled

- Sage & Oats Trading Post, LLC, Helena \$6,250
- Native Country Tourism, Ashland \$6,250

TRIBAL TOURISM ENHANCEMENT GRANT

The Tribal Tourism Enhancement Grant (TTEG) of 2022 is a pilot program funded by 2021 excess Lodging Facility Use Tax collections. The TTEG program is a competitive grant program with no maximum award amount and no matching funds required. It encourages Montana's tribal nations to submit portfolios of tourism projects, a 'wish-list' of their dream ideas to improve, enhance, or create long-term tourism offerings to their nations. The tourism projects must be shovel ready and long lasting. The goal of the program is to continue building upon memorable and safe tribal tourism offerings and to generate revenue through increases in visitor traffic and related purchases within the Tribal Nations of Montana and the neighboring rural communities.

In fiscal year 2022, Portfolio of projects awarded:

Blackfeet \$174,641.94

- 6 projects: Buffalo Calf Interpretive Center; 3 vault toilets to remote campgrounds at Buffalo Calf and Duck Lake; Interpretive-art installation, remote car and boat rental activity for visitors; 5 new Blackfeet style Tipi Lodges available for rent at the campgrounds; and a Buffalo Robe for display at the Center

Chippewa Cree Tribes of Rocky Boy's \$96,000

- 2 projects: CCT Buffalo Tour with spectator transport off-road vehicle CAM-AM purchase, new stadium PA System, electrical and lighting upgrades to the powwow grounds

Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians \$147,550

- 1 project: Hell Creek Recreation Area at Fort Peck near Jordan; heavy equipment and landscape maintenance vehicle purchases; facility repairs and replacements of essential campground amenities; and new fish cleaning station

Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck \$194,484

- 3 projects: "Tatanka Omaskaskan" Buffalo Trail Enhancement Project; Rental Facility "Eco Lodge" at the Buffalo Ranch renovation; and Fort Peck's entrance upgrades with 10 new prominent flag poles and flags

Northern Cheyenne \$203,813.81

- 4 projects: Shade pavilion at Birney powwow grounds; memorial statues art installation; powwow arbor improvements at Muddy and Busby districts; and Crazy Heads Recreation Area improvements to roads, picnic areas, restrooms, and signage

Crow \$90,000

- 1 project: Apsáalooke Tours Expansion – purchase of two shuttle buses with wheelchair capacity or lift equipped, example: 2014 Startrans Senator 18-seater; development of content and printed materials, ticketing, and pamphlets for four tours: Battle Loop, Chief Pretty Eagle Point, Rosebud Battle, and Pictograph Cave & Chief Plenty Coups State Park

Confederated Salish and Kootenai \$200,000

- 3 projects: Elmo's Standing Arrow Pavilion structural and maintenance repairs; Blue Bay Campground dock repairs on Flathead Lake; and Arlee Dance and Games Pavilions recarpeting

Native American Collateral Support Program (NACS)

Following the 2015 legislative session, staff launched the Native American Collateral Support program after researching domestic high-performing collateral support programs. The program addresses a lack of access to capital for Native American owned businesses. The program has assisted with certificates of deposit to support:

- \$18,342 to support a loan of \$80,000 for the purchase of a hunting and fishing lodge for River Bend Lodge, LLC located on the Crow Reservation – 73% repaid
- \$72,000 to support a loan of \$144,000 for relocation costs for the Bloom Montessori School located in Helena, MT – 80% repaid
- \$70,500 to support a line of credit for the Family Health Pharmacy, Inc. of Ronan, MT – 67% repaid
- \$30,000 to support a loan of \$51,012 to purchase inventory for Sage and Oats Trading Post LLC in Helena, MT – 60% repaid
- \$100,000 to support a loan of \$550,000 to purchase the assets, including inventory, rolling stock, equipment, and machinery of Polson Auto Parts, Inc. in Polson, MT – 15% repaid
- \$100,000 to support a loan of \$400,000 for the purchase of CNC equipment for Polson Tile and Stone in Polson, MT – *new*
- \$100,000 to support a loan of \$288,450 to construct a meat processing facility and purchase equipment for Auggie’s Meat Processing located in Browning, MT – *new*

Policy/Program Recommendations

The STED Commission has actively participated in and made recommendations on the program framework and budget for programs housed in the Office of Indian Country Economic Development. A consistent focus for the commissioners is addressing the barriers of accessing capital for tribal and individually owned tribal member businesses and expanding the tribal private sector.

In January 2022 the STED Commission presented a Strategic Plan to the Commission which is meant to guide the Commission in future goals and objectives. A copy of the plan is attached as Appendix A.

STED Commission Board Membership

The commission is comprised of one member from each of the eight federally recognized tribes in Montana. Commission terms are 3 years. Upon expiration of a term a tribal government may advertise for individuals interested in serving on the commission and develop a list of applicants from which it may choose its nominee to recommend to the Governor. In place of choosing from a list of applicants, a tribal government may select an elected tribal official to recommend for membership on the Commission. If a tribal government nominates or otherwise recommends more than one person for membership on the Commission, the Governor shall select one individual from among those recommended persons. The current Board is comprised of the following Board members:

BLACKFEET TRIBE

Primary: Cheryl Reeves.....Term ending June 2024
 Alternate: Rodney Gervais.....Term ending June 2024

CHIPPEWA CREE TRIBE

Primary: Richard Sangrey, STEDC Vice-Chair.....Term ending June 2023
 Alternate: Vacant.....



CONFEDERATED SALISH & KOOTENAI TRIBES

Primary: Jennifer Finley.....Term ending June 2023
Alternate: Len TwoTeeth.....Term ending June 2023

CROW TRIBE

Primary: Shawn Backbone.....Term ending June 2024
Alternate: Vacant.....

FORT BELKNAP TRIBES

Primary: Delina Cuts The Rope.....Term ending June 2024
Alternate: Vacant

FORT PECK TRIBES

Primary: Bryce Kirk.....Term ending June 2024
Alternate: Shannon Martell.....Term ending June 2024

LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

Primary: Gerald Gray, STEDC Chair.....Term ending June 2024
Alternate: Vacant

NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

Primary: Melissa Fisher.....Term ended June 2023
Alternate: Lafe Haugen.....Term ended June 2023

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE

Misty Kuhl, Director of Indian Affairs

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Scott Osterman, Director

Current appointments can be found at: <https://boards.mt.gov>



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APPENDIX A

STED Commission

Strategic Plan

January 2022



Montana State Tribal Economic Development Commission

STRATEGIC PLAN

Plan Name	Overall Plan Champions
2021-2023 STEDC Strategic Plan	Billie LeDeau and Shelly Fyant

Section 1: Our Compass

Mission Statement

To strengthen economic development strategies and opportunities in partnership with the tribal nations in Montana.

Vision Statement

The tribal nations in Montana benefit from stronger economies.

Core Duties and Responsibilities

Per Section 3 of the commission's founding document, the [Native American Economic Development Act of 1999 \(HB-670\)](#), the commission's core duties and responsibilities are:

- **Funding:** Identify, obtain and/or coordinate economic development funding opportunities for Montana's tribes
- **Assessment:** Oversee a comprehensive assessment of the economic development needs and priorities of each Indian reservation in Montana
- **Partnerships:** Establish and maintain a set of economic development-oriented partnerships and alliances with government and private sector organizations

Section 2: Our Actions

Focus Area I: Funding for the Tribes' Economic Development

Focus Area Champion: Brian Adkins

Focus Area Team Members: Billie LeDeau and Maria Valandra

Goal A FUND ACQUISITION STRATEGY: Document and implement a fund acquisition strategy that strengthens the tribes' economic development.

Slow Progress

None

50%

Goal Champion:
None

Goal Key Team Members:
None

Last status update on Mon, 8 Nov 2021 by Billie LeDeau

Action Items

Complete	Details	Due Date	% Complete	Action Item Owner(s)
☐	1. Inventory: Document and communicate the available federal, state, and private sector gifts, grants, loans, and donations. (3.2.a. and 3.2.f.) (Ideally, this information would be organized with basic descriptors of what the funding can be used for, match requirement, link, etc.)	01/02/2022	20%	Billie LeDeau
	Notes Brainstorm federal, state and private grants/funding relevant to economic development (EDA.gov, Grants.gov, CDFA.gov, USA.gov, Montana.grantwatch.com, arpa.mt.gov)			
☐	2. Application Process: Implement a process to ensure that both the commission and the tribes are applying for grants and assistance as indicated in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. (3.2.b., 3.2.c., 3.2.g.)	None	75%	Billie LeDeau
	Notes Report out to STEDC at quarterly meetings Place on the standing Tribal Planner Agenda to discuss grants tribes are applying for at regularly scheduled meetings Signup for newsletters/subscriptions			
☐	3. Evaluate the use of federal funds by state agencies regarding the tribes' economic development. (3.2.d.)	None		Billie LeDeau
	Notes To be determined			
☐	4. Billie send out bi-weekly email on the grant opportunities available by February 1, 2022 and then the 1st and 15th of each month	01/02/2022	25%	Billie LeDeau

Notes

- Billie is researching private grant resources
- Billie waiting for access to GovDelivery
- Billie will subscribe to GrantsStation and Grants.gov (1-6-22)
- Brian will talk to Bidnet to see if they have other services. He currently pays for their service for RFP's (1-6-22)

☒	5. Develop a list of grant writers and share with Tribal Economic Development Directors/Planners	02/12/2021	Brian Adkins
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Notes

- Brian can share names and do the research for more names of potential grant writers
 - Maria shared a list of potential grant writers; Billie added contact information (see documents)
 - Idea - Develop a collaboration to identify grant writers where all the tribes are involved
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Goal B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FORUM: Conduct a forum to present economic development opportunities for the tribes.

Slow Progress

None

50%

Goal Champion:
Billie LeDeau

Goal Key Team Members:
Maria Valandra

Last status update on Mon, 8 Nov 2021 by Billie LeDeau

Action Items

Complete	Details	Due Date	% Complete	Action Item Owner(s)
☒	1. Share information with the Tribal Planners at the regularly scheduled calls	None		Billie LeDeau
☐	2. Future forums with each tribe	None		

Focus Area II: Assessment of Economic Conditions on the Reservations

Focus Area Champions: Cheryl Reevis and Shawn Real Bird

Focus Area Team Members: Billie LeDeau, Maria Valandra, and Daniel Iverson

Goal A ASSESSMENT: Ensure that a comprehensive assessment is conducted of the economic development needs and priorities of each Indian reservation in the state. (4.1-4)

On Track	30/11/2021	75%	Goal Champion: None	Goal Key Team Members: None
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Last status update on Mon, 8 Nov 2021 by Billie LeDeau

Action Items

Complete	Details	Due Date	% Complete	Action Item Owner(s)
☐	1. Review Decennial Report Assessment: Review the current assessment process being conducted by the University of Montana.	14/01/2022	50%	Maria Valandra and Misty Kuhl
Notes 1. The STEDC staff will provide a template to the Commissioners to present to their tribal council to support a tribal resolution to assist BBER in their data collection - The years and categories have been added. As of 11/30/21 this is ready to go. - The Categories need to be defined better so the tribes know exactly what information is needed. i.e. add language to include funding from all the self determination 638 Programs, water compact, trust income (get data from BIA) - Team review the last report dated 2013 (2003-2009) - Tribes can utilize this as a tool for self-assessments - Discussed to have Chairwoman Fyant to present at Tribal Leaders Council about the 2013 report (data from 2003-2009) and give her talking points 2. Billie reach out to Pad McCracken (cc: CR and MV) to find out next steps - Billie reached out on 11/30/21 and Pad said the State Tribal Relations Committee meets again on 1/13/2021 and they want an update on the assessment. 2a. Years need to be defined by the State Tribal Relations Interim Committee - - During the November, 2021 meeting STEDC decided the dates should be 2010 to 2020. 2b. Identify funding resources 3. Invite Mary Craigle, Tino Sonora and Cheryl Reevis to the State Tribal Relations Interim Committee on January 14, 2022. Maria and Misty will be present to answer any questions.				
☐	2. Additional Assessment Needs: Create a strategy for strengthening the current assessment and/or future assessments.	None		Cheryl Reevis
Notes To be discussed at the 2021 November STEDC meeting. Analyze: 1. Housing needs and how many jobs will be created - ask for their housing plans 3. ARPA economic impact 4. American Community Survey-employment status; TANF households, demographics (Census.gov)				
☐	3. 1. Creation of a State-wide CEDS document: Review and determine common themes of the tribes' CEDS.	18/02/2022	40%	Billie LeDeau and Maria Valandra

Notes

STEDC and OICED are partnering with NADC on an EDA Grant to do a Phase 1 comprehensive analysis of the CEDS for tribes; Phase 2 identify funding sources

- NADC-STEDC-OICED MOU signed 1/4/22 - see documents
 - NADC setting up 5 weeks of tribal meetings - see documents
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Focus Area III: Key Partnerships & Alliances

Focus Area Champion: Shelly Fyant

Focus Area Team Members: Billie LeDeau, Maria Valandra, and Daniel Iverson

Goal A INVENTORY: Create a well-organized inventory of the relevant key partnerships and alliances.

On Track

None

75%

Goal Champion:
Shelly Fyant

Goal Key Team Members:
Billie LeDeau

Last status update on Fri, 5 Nov 2021 by Billie LeDeau

Action Items

Complete	Details	Due Date	% Complete	Action Item Owner(s)
☒	1. Review and organize the commission's brainstormed set of key partners and alliances.	None		Billie LeDeau
☒	2. Highlight who will be good partners. Who and Why.	None		Billie LeDeau and Maria Valandra
Notes • Invite key legislators to STEDC meetings • Invite members of the Montana American Indian Caucus • Invite key partners to join focus areas				

Goal B STRATEGY: Create a strategy to create long-term partnerships and alliances with a select set of organizational entities.

Slow Progress

None

50%

Goal Champion:
None

Goal Key Team Members:
None

Last status update on Fri, 5 Nov 2021 by Billie LeDeau

Action Items

Complete	Details	Due Date	% Complete	Action Item Owner(s)
☐	1. Plan and research bringing people together to educate and inform	28/01/2022	50%	Billie LeDeau and Shelly Fyant

Notes

Community Meeting

- March 21, 2022
- Conference room secured at the Kwataqnuq Resort in Polson
- S&K Gaming sponsoring the meeting
- Offer a Zoom option

Invitations

- Send invitations in January w/ RSVP
- STEDC, rural development, MEDA, Eagle and Valley Banks, S&K Business Services, CSKT Economic Development Department, local legislators, Lake County Commissioners, Economic Development Committee, Polson and Ronan Chambers, Mission West, Arlee Community Development Corp., Tourism Committee, CSKT corporations. SKC.

DRAFT Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Welcome - Shelly
 - Polson Mayor
 - City Manager
 - County Commissioner Chair
- Introductions (1-slide to keep focused)
- Purpose of the meeting (Shelly's examples)
- STEDC Introduction
- Break
- Highlight IEF recipients Steve Lozar & Steve Dupuis
- Local TBPG projects (Janet and/or Velda)
- Breakout Sessions
 - Tourism (Dacia Whitworth)
 - Housing (Jody Perez)
 - Infrastructure (Rick Eneas)
 - Land Use/Natural Resources (Clayton Matt)

Focus Area IV: Effective Operations of the Commission

Focus Area Champions: Gerald Gray and Misty Kuhl

Focus Area Team Members: Billie LeDeau and Maria Valandra

Goal A MEMBER NOMINATION AND ORIENTATION PROCESS: Review, refine, and recommit to the commission member nomination and orientation process.

Off Track	None	25%	Goal Champion: None	Goal Key Team Members: None
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Last status update on Mon, 8 Nov 2021 by Billie LeDeau

Action Items

Complete	Details	Due Date	% Complete	Action Item Owner(s)
☒	1. Chairman Gerald Gray will contact Misty Kuhl in the Governor's Office and reach out those tribes whose Commission terms are expired	26/11/2021		
☐	2. Schedule orientation for new Commission members	17/12/2021		Billie LeDeau
	Notes Schedule orientation for new Commission members from Northern Cheyenne, Fort Peck, Fort Belknap and Blackfeet in January 2022			
☐	3. Follow-up with the Governor's Office	07/01/2022		Gerald Gray and Misty Kuhl
	Notes - Misty will visit with Hannah on the new administrative process for boards and councils - Gerald reached out to Crow Chairman White Clay on 12/15/2021. Crow to submit their nominations.			

Goal B STRATEGIC PLANNING: Implement a regular process of updating, measuring, and following through on the STEDC strategic plan.

Slow Progress	None	50%	Goal Champion: None	Goal Key Team Members: None
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Last status update on Mon, 8 Nov 2021 by Billie LeDeau

Action Items

Complete	Details	Due Date	% Complete	Action Item Owner(s)
☐	1. Review Strategic Plan at each quarterly meeting	17/11/2021		Billie LeDeau
	Notes Review Focus Areas: Champions will report out at each STEDC quarterly meeting			
☐	2. Measurements	None		
	Notes Ask the other focus areas on how to measure their success? • Billie will email other focus areas on how will they measure their success in 2022 • Focus Area IV: Fully engaged Commission members from each tribe Survey the Commission after each quarterly meeting			

Goal C STEDC MEETING PROCESS: Document and implement a regular calendar and process for ensuring engaging and effective STEDC Commission meetings.

Completed	None	Goal Champion: None	Goal Key Team Members: None
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Last status update on Mon, 8 Nov 2021 by Billie LeDeau

Action Items

Complete	Details	Due Date	% Complete	Action Item Owner(s)
☒	1. Integrate "team-building" and food-oriented activities into the meeting process to build the team culture.	17/11/2021		Billie LeDeau and Maria Valandra
	Notes Raffles will be held at the November 17, 2021 meeting			
☒	2. Adopt a STEDC meeting calendar	None		
	Notes STEDC meeting calendar was adopted at the August 26, 2021 meeting			

MISSION
— MET