

State Tribal Economic Development Commission Roles and Responsibilities

Purpose: Assist, promote, encourage, develop and advance economic prosperity and employment on Indian reservations in Montana by fostering the expansion of business, manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and community development programs. Cooperate and act in conjunction with other organizations, public and private, to benefit tribal communities; recruit business enterprises to locate on or invest in enterprises on the reservations; and identify, obtain and coordinate federal, state and private sector gifts, grants, loans and donations to further economic development on the Indian reservations in Montana.

Consensus Vision Statements:

Towards Actualizing Leadership

- Understand every tribe has building blocks in place to engineer their own economic prosperity.
- Gather and use data that is representative, timely, useful and modellable that supports decision making and evaluation.

Towards Economic Independence

- Encourage vibrant programs and policies that continually evolve and support local economic independence and innovation.

Towards Collaboration, Prosperity, and Empowerment

- Engage proactive, comprehensive and visible capacity development to empower Native people.
- Act as a bridge for external resources and opportunities to empower grassroots development and professional development.

Responsibilities of a STED Commission Member:

1. Regularly attends Commission meetings and important related meetings. The STED meets four times a year.
2. Makes serious commitment to participate actively in Commission work.
3. Has a clear understanding of the STED Commission statute duties and responsibilities.
4. Volunteers for and willingly accepts assignments and completes them thoroughly and on time.
5. Stays informed about Commission matters, prepares themselves well for meetings and reviews and comments on minutes and reports.
6. Gets to know other Commission members and builds a collegial working relationship that contributes to consensus.

Objectives for the STED Commission:

1. Determine the availability of federal, state and private sector gifts, grants, loans and donations to tribal governments, tribal enterprises and communities located on Indian reservations in Montana.
2. In cooperation with tribal governments, as allowable, assist tribes in applying for eligible grants which would supply identifiable economic benefits to any and all tribes in Montana.
3. Evaluate the apportionment of current spending of federal funds by state agencies in the areas including but not limited to economic development, housing, community infrastructure, business finance, tourism promotion, transportation and agriculture.
4. Conduct or commission or oversee a comprehensive assessment of the economic development needs and priorities of each tribal government in the state.

5. Notify tribal governments, the governor, the Director of Indian Affairs and the Directors of Commerce, Agriculture and Transportation, of the available of specific federal, state or private sector funding programs or opportunities that would directly benefit Indian communities in Montana.
6. Work cooperatively with tribal government officials, the Director of Indian Affairs, and other appropriate state officials to help foster state-tribal cooperative agreements pursuant to Title 18, chapter 11, part 1 that will enhance economic development on Indian reservations in Montana, and will help the Department of Commerce to fully implement and comply with the provisions of MCA 90-1-105, and
7. Provide to the governor, the legislative council, the legislative auditor and to each of the presiding officers of the tribal governments in Montanan a biennial report that summarizes the activities of the commission.

Commission Board Terms:

The Commission is composed of 11 members, appointed by the governor to three-year staggered terms commencing July 1 of each year of appointment, and include the Director of Indian Affairs, one member from the Department of Commerce, one member from the Governor's Office of Economic Development and one member from each of the eight federally recognized tribes in Montana. The members of the commission shall elect a presiding officer from among the members. Six members of the commission constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of the majority of the members present is sufficient for any action taken by the commission.