

## Montana Chauffeur

Bozeman, MT



“Julie at the SBDC played a pivotal role in the creation and start up of my business. Without the assistance provided by the SBDCs knowledge and willingness to help I could not have opened my business successfully, on time. The SBDC was available to handle all of my questions with punctuality and delicacy. In addition to teaching me all the nuances of starting a small business, they provided resources that I otherwise would not have known about that were a crucial part of my success.”

**Austin Kasper, Owner**

Austin Kasper was born in Michigan but has been a proud Montana resident for the last 10 years. After moving to Montana Austin began working at the Big Sky Resort. Eventually, Austin found himself in the transportation industry and realized that he was passionate about sharing his love for Montana and teaching people about the state. His passion soon led him to Yellowstone National Park tours, which furthered his appetite for the history and science of Montana. After 7 years in the industry, Austin knew it was time to branch out on his own. He turned to the Bozeman SBDC for guidance.

While the Bozeman SBDC was in transition to its new host organization, Prospera Business Network, Butte SBDC Regional Director Julie Jaksha stepped in to help. Austin approached Julie with the idea to provide a luxury transportation service that offers guests an experience leaving them with a love and appreciation for the state of Montana. Julie and her team provided the assistance that allowed Austin to navigate the process of starting a business, including market research and financial analysis.

The financial projections that Austin was able to create alongside his business plan allowed him to find investors to help fund his startup. Austin launched Montana Chauffeur in November 2020 and has been providing luxury transportation to the Bozeman area since. Montana Chauffeur has allowed Austin to provide customers with a much more personal and intimate encounter that leaves customers excited about the area and fosters a love for our beautiful state.