

Montana Department of Commerce Budget and Legislative Outcomes



Governor Brian Schweitzer
Anthony J. Preite, Director

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the Montana Department of Commerce website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://recovery.mt.gov/commerce/default.aspx>. The website header includes the "mt.gov" logo and "GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHWEITZER". The main content area features a "Message from Director Anthony J. Preite" with a photo of the director and a welcome message. To the left is a sidebar with various program links such as "Job Vacancies", "Reinvestment Act Programs", "Energy Promotion & Development", "Indian Country Economic Development", "Local Government Grant Program", "Montana Main Street Program", "Montana Quality Schools Quick Start Energy Grant Program", "State Tribal Economic Development", "Treasure State Endowment Program", "Wood Product Industry Recovery and Stabilization Program", and "Workforce Training Grant Program". To the right is a "Recovery.gov" section with "Key Deadlines" for the "Federal Recovery Act" and "Montana Reinvestment Act". A yellow box highlights the URL <http://recovery.mt.gov/commerce>. The footer includes "Contact Commerce" information and "Business Resources Division (BRD)" details.

Funded Statutory Economic Development Programs

For more information contact
Andy Poole

- HB 123 provides level funding for all the economic development programs from June 30, 2010 to June 30, 2019, except for Research Commercialization, Growth through Agriculture which were reduced for the next 3 fiscal years
 - Small Business Development Centers
 - Small Business Innovation Research
 - Export Trade
 - Research and Commercialization
 - Montana Manufacturing Extension Center
 - Certified Regional Development Corporations

Coal Board Grants

For more information
contact Dave Cole

- HB 2 - Increased to \$3 million for biennium
- SB 100 - \$2,736,643 in additional Coal Board funds are included for the biennium as a result of the passage of SB100
- Status - *On June 12, the Coal Board met and approved 19 applicants totaling \$2,676,495*

Approved Coal Board Applications

- Wyola School District
- Town of Bridger
- Lavina School District
- Carbon County
- City of Hardin
- Musselshell County
- Big Horn County
- Powder River County
- Terry School District
- Rosebud County
- Roundup Public Schools

New Worker Training

For more information contact
Andy Poole / Nancy Guccione

- HB 2 - \$1,876,000 per year for new and existing workers
- HB 645 - \$1,311,390 in worker training funds appropriated each fiscal year
- Total funding of \$5,063,390 for the biennium
- SB 89 eliminated the sunset on the New Worker Training program which was scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2009
 - *Status:* Guidelines and application material have been published on the WTG website -
<http://recovery.mt.gov/Commerce/ARRAWTG/default.mcfpx>

Distressed Wood Products Revolving Loan Fund

For more information contact
Tony Preite / Karyl Tobel

- HB 645 - \$7.5 million matched to \$2.7 million EDA grant and an additional \$1.5 million in Community Development Block Grants
 - Status –
 - A loan of \$1 million dollars has been made to the Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation for re-lending to medium and small wood products companies
 - As of June 30, MAEDC has made 10 loans to smaller wood products companies
 - The Department is expecting several larger loan requests
- <http://recovery.mt.gov/commerce/npirs/default.mcp?x>*

Quick Start Energy Grants

For more information contact Kelly Casillas

- HB 645 - \$14,950,000 available for application by school districts for energy audits and energy efficiency improvements
 - Started May 15, 2009 to September 30, 2009 on a reimbursement basis
 - Any remaining funds will be placed into competitive Quality Schools Facility Grant Program (Legacy Program)
 - Status –
 - \$10.2 million have been awarded to 59 applicants for energy efficiency improvements
 - \$2.2 million have been awarded to 105 applicants for energy audits
 - Over 160 school districts have been served by this program
- <http://commerce.mt.gov/QuickStart/>*

School Distribution Grants

For more information contact
Kelly Casillas

- HB 645 - \$20 million for grants to schools throughout Montana for deferred maintenance and energy efficiency improvements
- Distributed by quality educator formula
- Must be expended by September 30, 2010
 - *Status* - Funds will be distributed to schools once they have signed assurances with the Governor's office and executed a contract with the Department

Quality Schools Facility Grants

For more information contact
Kelly Casillas

- HB 152 - Competitive "legacy" grant program with \$12 million appropriated for 2011 biennium
- School districts can apply for projects addressing major deferred maintenance, energy efficiency, critical infrastructure, emergency and critical infrastructure needs
- Creates an ongoing flow of state revenue into the account
 - *Status* – Guidelines, rules, and application are in development

Tribal Government Grants

For more information contact Heather Sobrepena – George / Andy Poole

- HB 645 - Tribal Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency Grants - \$5 million available to Tribal Governments for infrastructure improvements and energy efficiency projects
 - (\$617,937.50 for each of the eight tribal governments)
 - *Status* –
 - On June 9th, the STEDC adopted guidelines for the Tribal Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency Program
 - Application cycle is open now and closes on July 31, 2009
<http://tribal.mt.gov/TIEERP.asp>
- HB 645 - Indian Country Economic Development \$1,596,992 over the biennium
 - *Status* - Guidelines are developed and applications can now be made for funding.
<http://iced.mt.gov/>

Energy Division

For more information contact Andy Poole

- HB 645 - Biomass Energy Study \$475,000
 - *Status* – A grant application was posted on the MDOC website on June 30, 2009 announcing the availability of \$475,000 in grants for biomass energy feasibility studies. A press release was issued the same day. The due date for applying for the funding is July 31.
<http://commerce.mt.gov/energy/BiomassStudy.asp>

Business Resources Division

- HB 2 - Biomedical Grants \$2.5 million
 - *Status* – The Department is currently working on developing guidelines and a grant application for these funds. The Department anticipates issuing a grant application for these funds during July/August.

Community Development Division

For more information contact
Dave Cole

- HB 645 - Local Government Grants \$20 million
 - *Status* –
 - As of July 6th, 14 cities and 10 counties have applied for the local government grant monies
 - 18 contracts have been drafted with local governments
- HB 645 - Historic Preservation Grants \$4 million.
 - Specific awards are made to the Daly Mansion, St. Mary's Mission, Traveler's Rest Historic Site
 - *Status* –
 - The Department is currently working on developing guidelines and a grant application for these funds. The Department anticipates issuing a grant application for these funds during July/August.

Treasure State Endowment

For more information contact
Dave Cole

- Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) \$23 million
 - *Status* –
 - TSEP staff are in the process of preparing contracts for 66 construction grants and 63 preliminary engineering report grants
 - Rulemaking has been progressing on TSEP application guidelines for the 2011 legislature
 - TSEP Project Administration Workshops have been held on May 26 – 27 in Great Falls, May 28 – 29 in Kalispell, June 3 in Billings and June 10 – 11 in Helena

Housing Division

For more information contact
Bruce Brensdal

- Tax Credit Assistance - \$7.818 million to fund financing gaps in rental projects funded by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) projects awarded tax credits in 2007, 2008 and 2009.
 - *Status* - HUD has approved our application and we are currently reviewing eligible applications. The Board will award funding at our July 13, 2009 meeting in Missoula.
- Tax Credit Exchange - \$30.778 million to replace funding the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC) would have provided but due to the turbulence in the financial markets a project is not able attract investors. Projects allocated in 2008 and 2009 are eligible.
 - *Status* - The Board of Housing is set to review project applications at its July 13th board meeting

Contact

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