



STATE-TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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 Department of Commerce.

Among other things, the commission is tasked with:

- Helping 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 state Coordinator 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 elsewhere;
- Works with tribal governments and the State of Montana to support, develop, and grow tribal government-owned businesses on Montana Indian reservations and elsewhere;
- 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

Reservation Economic Analysis Project (REAP)

In collaboration with STEDC, the Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC) is currently working on a comprehensive assessment of each reservation's economic activities and contributions to the larger state economy. This multiple-phase initiative is in the latter stages of its lifecycle having already captured expenditure receipts from each of the tribal nations in Montana for the time period between 2003 and 2009. The private sector on reservations is currently being surveyed to better understand the flow of revenue in and out of reservation communities. The report will be available to the public in October 2014.

Montana Indian Language Preservation Pilot Program

During the 2013 legislative session, Senate Bill 342 established the Montana Indian Language Preservation Pilot (MILP). The pilot program was created to help preserve the eroding Native languages that are traditionally spoken in the state. Each of the eight tribal nations received \$250,000 to produce preservation products that will help memorialize their languages while at the same help to perpetuate language usage. The STED Commission created the administrative rules and guidelines for MILP and is the administrative/project management arm working with each local community on producing deliverables and reporting budgetary and activity updates. The pilot program closes in September 2014 and deliverables will be available to the public through the Montana Historical Society.

Main Street Montana Project

In May 2013, Governor Bullock initiated the Main Street Montana Project (MSMP) to develop a business plan by Montanans, for Montanans. STEDC has formally supported MSMP's prioritization of working in Indian Country. Commissioners participated in forums, online surveys and conference presentations helping to gather data to inform the core objectives and tasks for tribal participation. STEDC staff traveled to each reservation and to the Little Shell Tribes to outline the key activities for each tribal nation. Follow-up efforts are underway and will be consistently measured against tribal MSMP plans.

Strengthening State Tribal Economic Development Networks

Developing new and deepening old relationships is critical to successful economic development in Indian Country. As such, STED Commissioners attended and participated in the 2013 Native American Development Corporation conference in Billings. Several commissioners also attended MEDA events and economic development events outside of Montana. STEDC staff have traveled 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.

STEDC Strategic Plan

In October 2013, STED Commissioners traveled to Browning to participate in a two day strategic planning session facilitated by Kobotie Consulting. Past successes and obstacles were discussed along with new strategies to enhance economic development and boost employment opportunities for tribal members throughout the state. As a result of the planning session, STEDC is currently analyzing past outcomes of projects that were managed by either STEDC or

the Department of Commerce's Indian Country Economic Development program. This analysis will influence messaging on the value-add that the STEDC and Indian economic development program bring to tribal nations and to Montana. Additionally, the Commission is compiling a compendium of economic development tools and programs that tribes can access to improve their development activities.

Policy/Program Recommendations

The STED Commission has actively participated in and made recommendations on the program framework and budget for the Indian Country Economic Development program having recently made recommendations to increase funding of the ICED program to \$1 million annually. Commissioners carried key conversations articulating the vision of the MILP project during its infancy as well as offering recommendations throughout the life of the pilot program. A consistent focus for the commissioners is addressing the barriers of accessing capital for tribal and individually owned tribal member businesses. The STEDC has brainstormed creating a program that will assist tribal members in garnering consumer business loans.

Board Membership

The commission is comprised of one member from each of the seven federally recognized tribes in Montana and one member from the Little Shell band of Chippewa Indians. 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. Governor Bullock has appointed the following Board members:

Shawn Real Bird, Chairman (*Crow*)

Alternate: Yolanda Good Voice

Richard Sangrey, Vice Chairman (*Rocky Boy*)

Terry Pitts, (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)

Alternate: Leonard Gray

Gerald Gray (Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana)

Alternate: Clarence Silversten

Tracy Robinson (Northern Cheyenne)

Alternate: Jennie Small Lafrainer

Roger Running Crane (Blackfeet)

Alternate: Cheryl Reevis

Garrett Bigleggins (Fort Peck)

Alternate: Bill Whitehead

Mike Fox (Fort Belknap)

Alternate: Delina Cuts the Rope

Jason Smith (Governor's Office of Indian Affairs)

Montana Coordinator of Indian Affairs

John Rogers (Governor's Office of Economic Development)
Chief Business Development Officer

Meg O'Leary (Montana Department of Commerce)
Director

Funding Recommendations to the Department of Commerce for Indian Country Economic Development Funding

In House Bill 2, the Legislature appropriated \$800,000 each year of the biennium to the Indian Country Economic Development Program to promote economic development activities in tribal communities.

The STED Commission and the Montana Department of Commerce have approached economic development in Indian Country as a 3-legged stool. Each part of the economic development stool is critical to promoting balanced a sustainable economic development in the tribal communities in Montana. For the 2017 Biennium, the STED Commission has made recommendations to enhance funding by \$200,000 annually equaling \$1 million/year. The recommendations are as follows:

- 1) Tribal Government Priority Economic Development Projects (\$600,000)**
 - \$75,000 per tribe
 - Minimum 1:1 match
 - Governing body of the tribe is the eligible applicant; a tribal resolution is required
 - Application and detailed proposal are due no later than March 31st of the fiscal year

- 2) Montana Indian Equity Fund (\$126,000)**
 - Up to \$14,000 per successful applicant
 - Minimum 1:1 match
 - Enrolled Native-owned business owner is the eligible applicant
 - \$14,000 in awards to each of the 8 tribal nation communities
 - Applications are due at the beginning of December of the fiscal year

- 3) Indianpreneur Training (\$24,000)**
 - \$3,000 stipend per reservation served
 - Training conducted locally on each reservation

- 4) Native American Business Technical Assistance (\$112,500)**
 - Lending best practices workshops
 - Business Coaching/Consultation
 - Loan Processing/Native consultant

The remaining funds are used for administration, and marketing assistance designed to provide marketing consultations, technical assistance, and wholesale marketing opportunities to Native American owned businesses.