



# Department of Commerce

## Overview

**Elected Official:** Scott Osterman (Appointed by Governor and confirmed by the Senate)

## Duties/Responsibilities

### Research/Marketing Promotion

- ◆ Establishes and maintains a central depository of Montana census and economic information, including synthesis of economic and social studies data related to planning and economic development for the state and regional groups/planners.
- ◆ Has state responsibility to educate about decennial census.
- ◆ Promotes and markets Montana as a travel and film destination, which includes coordinating with tribal governments and Governor's Office of Indian Affairs for Indian Country tourism and economic development.
- ◆ Studies and promotes market expansion of Montana products, including training and assistance to manufactures of local products.
- ◆ Provides housing data and information on available governmental housing assistance programs.

### Business and Community Assistance

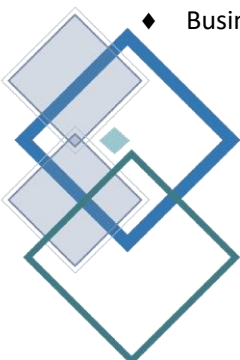
- ◆ Supports business through business planning, industry and market research, financial assistance, access to capital, tradeshow assistance, and export trade assistance.
- ◆ Supports entrepreneurs in new economic enterprises in partnership with state and local business development groups and tribal governments.
- ◆ Supports communities through the development of public infrastructure, including water, wastewater, bridges, and Main Street revitalization.
- ◆ Recruits businesses to relocate or expand to Montana.
- ◆ Advises and assists Montana business/labor and local/tribal communities in economic development, including compiling and maintaining some information on development sites and preservation of historical sites.
- ◆ Provides rental assistance programs to local landlords to assist renters in making monthly rent they can afford.

### Grantmaking

- ◆ Administers economic and community development grant programs, including:
  - ◆ Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP), formerly TSEP – Title 90, ch. 6, part 7, MCA;
  - ◆ Community development block grants (CDBG) under general authority in 90-1-103, MCA;
  - ◆ Housing grants (HOME Investment Partnership Program and the Housing Trust Fund);
  - ◆ Historic preservation grants;
  - ◆ Tourism, film, and Mainstreet MT program grants;
  - ◆ Coal and hard-rock mining impact grants;
  - ◆ Indian Country grants; and
  - ◆ Business grants under the Big Sky Economic Development Fund and workforce training. (2-15-1814, MCA)

### Advisory Oversight (staffed by Commerce)

- ◆ Board of Horseracing (2-15-1809, MCA)
- ◆ Board of Housing (2-15-1814, MCA)
- ◆ Coal Board (2-15-1821, MCA)
- ◆ Hard-Rock Mining Impact Board (2-15-1822, MCA)
- ◆ State Tribal Economic Development Commission (90-1-131, MCA)
- ◆ Tourism Advisory Council (2-15-1816, MCA)



## Oversight (with board itself overseeing personnel)

- ◆ Board of Investments (2-15-1808, MCA)
- ◆ Montana Facility Finance Authority (2-15-1815, MCA)
- ◆ Montana Heritage Preservation & Development Commission (22-3-1002, MCA)

## Loan Programs

- ◆ Administers loan programs, including:
  - ◆ Microbusiness and other business development loan programs and provides technical assistance and training;
  - ◆ Homeownership loan programs;
  - ◆ Veterans home loan programs;
  - ◆ Multifamily Coal Trust Homes program;
  - ◆ Multifamily loan programs; and
  - ◆ Revolving loan programs.
- ◆ Works with the Department of Agriculture on Growth through Agriculture grants and loans.

## Legislative Audits

- ◆ 2021 Montana Facility Finance Authority Financial Compliance Audit ([20-12](#)), 1 recommendation
- ◆ 2019 Financial Compliance Audit ([19-16](#)), no recommendations
- ◆ 2019 Tourism Marketing and Promotion Performance Audit ([18P-03](#)), 4 recommendations; Follow-up ([21SP-09](#)), 3 recommendations implemented, 1 in-process.

## Department of Commerce – Biennium Budget for FY 2022 and FY 2023

Divisions	FTE	General Fund	House Bill 2 State Special Revenue	Federal Special Revenue	Proprietary/ Off-Budget	Total: All Sources Biennium
Department of Commerce	212.38	\$9,148,566	\$20,323,806	\$41,892,415	\$145,165,138	\$322,058,222
Director's Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Legal Affairs</li> <li>• Office of Accounting &amp; Budget</li> <li>• Office of Information Technology</li> <li>• Research &amp; Information Services</li> </ul>	24.50	\$1,419,704	\$17,950	\$1,200,000	\$4,818,175	\$7,480,829
Business MT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Development</li> <li>• Promotions &amp; Trade</li> <li>• Big Sky Trust Fund</li> <li>• Distressed Wood Products</li> </ul>	25.35	\$5,836,257	\$5,063,905	\$1,718,409		\$27,698,323
Brand MT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of Tourism</li> <li>• Office of Public Information</li> </ul>	31.50		\$643,486			\$76,069,335
Community MT	21.45	\$1,892,605	\$9,656,004	\$16,304,379		\$37,281,296
• Community Development Block Grant	8.75	\$952,436		\$16,304,379		\$17,256,815
• MT Coal Endowment Program	7.17		\$1,635,979			\$4,805,430
• Community Technical Assistance (CTAP)	2.18	\$940,169				\$940,169
• Coal Board	1.18		\$7,306,516			\$7,306,516
• Hard Rock Mining Impact Board	1.17		\$495,465			\$1,264,201
• Historic Preservation Grants	1.00		\$218,044			\$5,708,165
Housing MT	64.33			\$22,669,627	\$122,897,667	\$145,567,294
• HOME	4.00			\$16,673,589		\$16,673,589
• Housing Trust Fund Program	2.00			\$5,996,038		\$5,996,038