

OVERVIEW

Chief Economic Development Officer: Mark Blasdel (Appointed by Governor per 2-15-218(2), MCA)

OFFICE DESCRIPTION/RESPONSIBILITIES

2-15-218, MCA

- Targets business retention and recruitment, workforce development, technology development, infrastructure improvement, and permitting/regulatory processes.
- May contract with or employ policy specialists to carry out program goals or assist business development officer.
- May accept loans, grants, or gifts for stated purposes.
- Works to strengthen base for state's business environment and diversity and to expand existing economic endeavors.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER DUTIES

2-15-219, MCA

- Helps provide, along with the office, a vision and direction through the development of strategies and initiatives to ensure orderly, effective development of the state's economy.
- Advises the governor on policy issues related to economic development.
- Leads the state's business recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts.
- Coordinates the development and distribution of a statewide strategic development plan.
- Coordinates office functions/programs.
- Serves as the state's primary liaison with federal, state, and local agencies, Montana tribal governments, private, nonprofit economic development organizations, and the private sector.
- Serves (or appoints someone in office to serve) on the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission ([90-1-131, MCA](#)).
 - *Note: The STEDC website does not list a representative from the GOED the commission, so it appears this position is currently vacant.*

LEGISLATIVE AUDITS

No legislative audits since 2004. A Performance Audit in 2004 recommended for the Legislature to eliminate or reorganize the office; however, no action was taken on the recommendation, and no further audit of this office has been conducted.

GOED - BIENNIUM BUDGET FOR FY 2024 AND FY 2025

	FTE	House Bill 2 for FY 2024 General Fund	House Bill 2 for FY 2025 General Fund	Total: All Sources Biennium
FY 2025 Biennium Total	5.00	\$575,058	\$577,295	\$7,205,745

EAIC POTENTIAL AREAS OF INTEREST

RELATED LEGISLATION PASSED IN 2023

- HB 199** Revises laws related to the Governor’s Office of Economic Development; renames the Chief Business Development Officer to Chief Economic Development Officer; revises duties of the office.

- HB 819** Appropriated \$6 million to the office of economic development for the biennium to allocate funds to applying and qualifying counties within community reinvestment organizations proportionally to the average number of state inmates or behavioral health patients in that state-owned facility in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, and the number of employees in that county that work in the state-owned facilities that serve those inmates or patients.