

MDT Civil Rights Bureau Directory

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DBE Program
Civil Rights Bureau
Montana Department of Transportation
PO Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001



NEWSLETTER

Please welcome Shannon Hahn as our new DBE Supportive Services Coordinator! Shannon joined our team in early January after working eight years for the Montana Department of Transportation as both an accountant and trainer.

Shannon comes to us with a wealth of knowledge in a broad range of areas and shares an enthusiasm for helping connect people with the resources to help them. In order to better serve those of you in our DBE Community, Shannon recently earned her certification for Fast Trac training for Business Entrepreneurship which is designed to help you create, manage, and grow a successful business.

In the few short months she's been with us, Shannon has worked tirelessly to expand the number of resources the DBE companies have at their fingertips. She has recently developed formal partnership agreements with the Browning Community Development Corporation, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, National Center for American Indian Economic Development, War Shield Development Corporation, and S & K Holding Company to assist firms with applications, business plans, and marketing.

Shannon's energy and passion for creating more opportunities for businesses in Montana combined with her outdoor spirit make her a great match for the MDT DBE Program. She is looking forward to the opportunity to get to know all of you and your specific needs to better connect you with the resources you need to succeed!



Welcome Shannon!

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Management Training Reimbursement Program for Montana DBE Companies

- ✓ As a Montana business certified in the Montana Department of Transportation DBE Program as **highway related**, you are eligible to receive management training reimbursement funds totaling \$600 during the Federal Fiscal Year October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008. Eligibility for out-of-state DBE firms are determined on a case-by-case basis.
- ✓ Training funds are available for key personnel or owners only. Training may include: supervisory, management, business, specific industry, or other training.
- ✓ Training registration fees are reimbursed at 100% of eligible expense up to the maximum \$600 and travel to workshops is reimbursed at 75% of expenses using state travel per diem rates.

“The Shortest Distance Between You and the Answers You Want...”



What is FastTrac®?

FastTrac® is a comprehensive entrepreneurship-educational program that provides entrepreneurs with business insights, leadership skills and professional networking connections so they are prepared to create a new business or expand an existing enterprise. The FastTrac program includes practical, hands-on business development programs and workshops for existing entrepreneurs, aspiring entrepreneurs, as well as entrepreneurship curriculum for college students. For more information on the nine various FastTrac programs, go to "[What are the FastTrac Programs?](#)"

FastTrac is designed to help entrepreneurs hone the skills needed to create, manage and/or grow successful businesses. Participants don't just learn about business, they live it! They work on their own business ideas or ventures throughout the program - moving their venture to reality or new levels of growth.

FastTrac programs are resources for entrepreneurs that have been developed by and with hundreds of successful entrepreneurs who have shared their knowledge, insights, and stories so that others might learn from them. In 1998 FastTrac won the Small Business Administration's Model of Excellence Award for Entrepreneurial Education. Simply put, FastTrac is one of America's leading entrepreneurial training programs and remains on the cutting edge by providing programs that are written by entrepreneurs...taught by entrepreneurs...for entrepreneurs.

FastTrac programs are currently provided by over 300 organizations in 50 states. FastTrac programs are also being offered outside the U.S. in Australia and Russia. More than 200,000 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs have been reached through FastTrac programs in the United States since 1993. For more information on FastTrac in your area, go to "[Where are FastTrac Programs Offered?](#)"



“The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence; it is to act with yesterday’s logic.”

Peter Drucker



Welcome to the Newly Certified DBE Firms

Archambault & Company	Browning	MT	RSHAMBO30@HOTMAIL.COM
Chippewa Cree Construction Corp	Box Elder	MT	TBELCOURT@HOTMAIL.COM
D Wilson Consulting Group LLC	Jacksonville	FL	DDKYLE@COMCAST.NET
Dewzy Trucking	Wolf Point	MT	N/A
Fagan Law Office Pc	Missoula	MT	FAGAN_LYNN@YAHOO.COM
Grizzly Fence - MSLA	Missoula	MT	GRIZZLYFENCE@MONTANA.COM
K B Environmental Sciences Inc	St. Petersburg	FL	CBRYANT@KBENV.COM
L H & Associates	Missoula	MT	LHELLEGAARD@MSN.COM
Marathon Enterprises LLC	Helena	MT	MARATHONE@BRESNAN.NET
Railroad Industries Incorporated	Reno	NV	AAS@RAILROADINDUSTRIES.COM
Refill Tech Services Inc	Rockville	MD	ALICEWU0503@HOTMAIL.COM
Rocky Mountain Power Services Inc	Whitefish	MT	BRIDGET@RMPSINC.COM
S W Equipment Company	Cherry Hill	NJ	FATSANS@VERIZON.NET
Superelevation Inc	Portland	OR	JOBS@SUPERELEVATION.COM
West River Striping	Glen Ullin	ND	WRS@WESTRIV.COM
Wharton Asphalt	Billings	MT	WHARTONASPHALT@NETZERO.COM
White Shield Inc	Kennewick	WA	SFRICKE@WHITESHIELD.COM

Montana Department of Transportation 's DBE Program Race/Gender Neutral Status

Since January 2006, The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has had an entirely race/gender-neutral DBE Program, per FHWA guidance in response to the 9th District Court Ruling on *Western States Paving v. Washington DOT*. **Montana's DBE Program will remain race/gender-neutral pending the outcome of the DBE Disparity Study scheduled to be completed in April 2008.**

As we are currently operating under a race/gender neutral program, MDT has been using numerous tools in order to determine what barriers DBEs are facing to participating in federal-aid highway construction projects, and what types of services would best increase their participation. We have interviewed the following to help assist us in making these determinations:

- DBEs certified in the State of Montana
- MDT Staff and other Montana federal-highway recipients
- Non-DBE Prime Contractors and Prime Consultants working on MDT highway projects
- Small Business and Minority Advocacy agencies, non-profits and other organizations

In addition to the Needs Assessments Surveys, feedback was solicited throughout the year on DBE strengths and deficiencies, contract performance, training needs, etc., from the DBEs themselves (during on-site visits, telephone conversations and e-mails), non-DBE contractors and consultants, and MDT staff.

This feedback, combined with the results from the Needs Assessments Surveys, confirmed that DBEs are still facing barriers on federal-aid jobs, either through inexperience with government contracting, prompt payment issues and weak or non-existent relationships with primes.

While performing the overall needs assessment, the DBE Supportive Services Coordinator also factored in the skills and qualifications required for performing contracts and subcontracts on future MDT projects, and the types of skills and qualifications currently possessed by DBEs.

The MDT DBE Program team is currently working on some creative ways to address these areas of concern in order to implement a strategy that will help you to overcome these barriers. We know that it has been a road full of curves and unknowns, but as a team we will succeed!



Montana MicroBusiness Finance Program

Montana-based businesses with 10 or fewer employees and a gross annual revenue of less than \$500,000 can apply for a MicroBusiness loan up to \$35,000 by contacting an MicroBusiness Development Corporation ([MBDC](#)) for further details. MBDCs not only provide capital to start or expand a business but they also provide training and technical assistance to the business owner. Pre- and post-loan training is a very important aspect to a small business' success. Since the inception of the MicroBusiness Finance Program in 1991, over 872 loans have been made across the state, totaling over \$14 million and creating 1,056 jobs. The program also sponsors the [MicroBusiness of the Year Award](#), which highlights successful businesses who are current micro-loan borrowers.

The MicroBusiness Finance Program operates under the policy guidance of the Governor's appointed [Economic Development Advisory Council](#), which consists of 19 appointed Council members. Those members include: the Director of the Department of Commerce, the Chief Business Development Officer in the Governor's Office, one member from a Montana tribal government who represents a tribal economic development organization, up to 12 public members representing each certified regional development corporation, and four legislators, which includes two representatives (one from each party) and two senators (one from each party).

The Montana MicroBusiness Finance Program's goals & objectives:

- Assist the MBDCs in their efforts to provide loans up to \$35,000 to qualified micro businesses.
- Improve the capacity of the MBDCs to underwrite and service their micro loan portfolios.
- Improve the capacity of the MBDCs to provide training and technical assistance to their customers.
- Develop close and effective working relationships between MBDC staff and other resources providers that work with low- to moderate-income people interested in self employment.

Organizations interested in becoming a certified MicroBusiness Development Corporation (MBDC) should contact the Department of Commerce directly by calling Janice Wannebo at (406) 841-2751 for further details on how to apply to become a certified MBDC. You may also email inquiries by using the [Contact Form](#) and selecting Micro business. For further information, contact your local [MBDC](#).

Be sure to check out the [Finance Information Center](#) and the [Small Business Development Center](#) for more financing options.
http://businessresources.mt.gov/BRD_MBFP.asp

SBA SCORE Business Toolbox

www.score.org

Check out this web site for your business. The site has financial templates, links to top small business web sites, sample business plans, online business workshops, quizzes to help you learn your business style and traits, financial benchmarking tool to help you track the financial health of your company, and online IRS tax workshops. The web site has many helpful articles and information for your business.

MONTANA CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

In order to keep you informed of some of the latest contracting opportunities that are out for bid throughout the state, we will be sending you a weekly e-mail update.

REMEMBER to contact us if you change your e-mail address.

In addition to our weekly e-mail list, you can access (**FREE** of charge) the following websites for contracting opportunities:

www.mdt.mt.gov

This is our MDT website: Click on Doing Business; Contracting/Consulting with MDT; Highway Construction; Letting Info/Q&A Forum; Invitation For Bid.

www.gsd.mt.gov

This is the state's General Services Division: Click on Doing Business With The State to get a listing of contracts.

www.ci.billings.mt.us

This is the City of Billings website: Click on Online Services; click on RFP's & AD's.

www.greatfallstribune.com

This is the Great Falls Tribune: Click on Classifieds (top of screen), Legal Notices (under Choose a Category); Bids & Proposals.

MONTANA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Do you need help starting a business or assistance in helping your business grow to become more profitable? The Montana Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) focus on the creation, retention and expansion of small businesses. Each year, the Montana SBDC network counsels more than 1,500 entrepreneurs and existing business owners through direct assistance and referrals.

Poplar Airport DBE Program

Policy Statement

Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

The *City of Poplar* has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The *City of Poplar* has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the *City of Poplar* has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFE Part 26.

It is the policy of the *City of Poplar* to ensure that DBEs are defined in part 26, have an equal Opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

Theresa Murray, Mayor, City of Poplar, 406 2nd Avenue West, P.O. Box 630, Poplar, MT 59255, (406) 768-3483 has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, *Ms. Murray* is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE Program. Implementation of the DBE Program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the *City of Poplar* in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The City of Poplar has disseminated this policy statement to the *City Commission* and all of the Components of our organization. We have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DEB business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts. The *City of Poplar* will provide printed or disk copies of the DBE Program upon request.