

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Agency Overview

October 2011

For the Economic Affairs Committee

Chief Business Development Officer/Office head: Evan Barrett (appointed by governor with Senate approval)

Statutory Authority: 2-15-218, MCA, for Office of Economic Development, established within the Office of Governor, with policy and purpose stated in 90-1-112, MCA. Rulemaking authority is provided in 90-1-114, MCA. The chief business development officer's duties are listed in 2-15-219, MCA.

Other Office Names: Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

Office Description and Responsibilities:

- Encompasses programs on 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.
- Strengthen foundations of state's business environment and diversify and expand existing economic endeavors.
- Cooperate with businesses, other government entities, and public organizations.
- Offer technical and financial assistance regarding economic development, particularly of natural resources and agricultural operations.
- Someone from office serves on the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission

Business Development Officer Duties:

- Help provide, along with the office, a vision and direction through the development of strategies and initiatives to ensure orderly, effective development of state economy.
- Advise the governor on policy issues related to economic development.
- Lead the state's business recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts.
- Coordinate the development and distribution of a statewide strategic development plan.
- Coordinate office functions/programs.
- Serve as the state's primary liaison with federal, state, local agencies, Montana tribal governments, private, nonprofit economic development organizations, and the private sector.
- Serves on Rail Services Competition Council and Economic Development Advisory Council.

Programs, FTE, and Funding for FY 2012-2013:

Budget is within the Governor's budget.

	<i>FY 2013 FTE</i>	<i>General Fund</i>	<i>Total FY 2012-2013</i>
Governor's Office of Economic Development	5.63	FY 2012 - \$938,536 FY 2013 - \$937,510	\$1,876,046

Administratively Attached Entities:

- None

Legislative Audits:

- December 2004 Performance Audit, stemming from HB 2 request for an audit to determine whether the office is meeting its established goals.

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No Agency Bills Submitted During 2011 Session

Significant Non-Agency Bills During 2011 Session:

- SB201, by Sen. Edward Walker, requiring a small business impact analysis, provides that the Office of Economic Development shall advise and assist agencies in complying with the estimates. Vetoed.

Economic Affairs Interim Committee Areas of Interest:

- Unclear whether the Department of Commerce or the Governor's Office of Economic Development has true lead on economic development issues or whether it matters as long as they cooperate.

Hot Topics of 2011 Session:

- Transfers or attempted transfers of economic development funds to other purposes.