

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Agency Overview

November 2017

For the Economic Affairs Committee

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

Statutory Authority: 2-15-218, MCA, for Office of Economic Development, established within the Office of the 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.

Office Description and Responsibilities:

- 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.
- Offers technical and financial assistance for economic development, particularly of natural resources and agricultural operations.
- Serves (or appoints someone in office to serve) on the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission.

Business Development Officer Duties:

- 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 on the Rail Services Competition Council and the Economic Development Advisory Council.

Administratively Attached Entities:

None

Legislative Audits:

- Performance Audit, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, December 2004.

Budget (in the Executive Office budget)

Governor's Office of Economic Development				
	FTE	General Fund	State Special Revenue Fund	Biennium Total
FY 2017 Biennium (FY 2016-2017)	5.00	\$1,500,589	--	\$1,500,589
FY 2019 Biennium (FY 2018-2019)	See note	\$570,371 - FY 2018	\$200,000 - FY 2018	\$1,543,330
		\$572,959 - FY 2019	\$200,000 - FY 2019	

NOTE: The Governor's Office of Economic Development is housing the Governor's new Office of Outdoor Recreation. There is one staff position with that office. The GOED has one position open.

Economic Affairs Committee Areas of Interest:

- Overlap in duties, responsibilities between the Department of Commerce and the GOED.
- Activities of the new Office of Outdoor Recreation.

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