

City of Livingston/Park County Economic & Community Development

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Livingston, Park County, and Montana State University Extension outlines a strategic direction for the Economic & Community Development Agent. **In 2018, every \$1 invested yielded a return of \$46.** The primary focus of the partnership are those activities critical to the stability and prosperity of a local economy, including:

1. Proactively identifying, gathering, and applying resources necessary to the success of local business activity;
2. Development of community infrastructure (physical and non-physical) necessary for economic enhancement; and
3. Creation of new businesses, expansion and retention of existing businesses, and attraction and recruitment of new businesses.

2018 Impact Highlights

Support for business creation, expansion, retention, and attraction resulted in:

- Wrote/awarded \$157,000 in grants for job creation and workforce development; leveraging \$486,000 in additional funding for a **total investment of \$643,000**
- Assistance to seven startup businesses and four business expansion efforts
- One-on-one consulting with 96 entrepreneurs, businesses, and organizations
- **Twenty-six jobs created and 12 jobs retained; estimated wages of \$1.2 million**
- Awarded management of the \$947,000 Livingston/Park County Revolving Loan Fund

Strategic efforts in workforce development resulted in:

- Business liaison for the PHS Work-Based Learning project; a four-year pilot project to improve connections between students and businesses to address workforce needs; **\$27,000 grant award**
- Convener of the Gardiner Tourism Partnership representing 18 industry partners
- Recognition as a [Next Gen Sector Partnership](#) expert in rural communities; serving as faculty at the national and Wyoming state academy

Strategic efforts in community development and capacity building projects resulted in:

- Assisting in the **award of \$369,929 for environmental cleanup grant/loan** to Blue Bunch Flats affordable housing project; leveraging \$5.8 million in additional funding
- Ongoing facilitation of Cooke City infrastructure meetings and support for Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report outreach and sewer district formation
- In its fifth year, the [award-winning](#) Leadership 49 program will graduate 19 participants, growing the network to 82 alumni/graduates working to strengthen and connect the communities of Park County

Local and sustained support from the City and County has enabled the Economic & Community Development program to produce the above outcomes and **provide training and education for over 760 people** in 2018.