

THE BUSINESS EXPANSION AND RETENTION PROGRAM

One of the most important aspects of a community's economic development is the expansion and retention of its existing businesses. A community's business climate is a measure of the strength of its local economy and a determining factor for the possibilities of future growth. The BEAR program deals with both expansion and retention and business climate issues.

The Butte Local Development Corporation contracts with Headwaters RC&D to administer the BEAR program for the seven counties in southwest Montana. The BEAR program is a program that offers support, help and assistance to the hometown businesses that support our local economies. In essence, the BEAR program is our way of saying "Thank You for

IS THE BEAR PROGRAM RIGHT FOR MY BUSINESS?

Is your business struggling to survive, stuck in a no-growth situation, wanting to expand or interested in seeking opportunities? **Then the BEAR Program is right for you.**

The BEAR interview process helps bring out very important information concerning your business. The business owner or manager can feel comfortable knowing that this vital information will be held in the strictest confidence by all participating in the program.

A team of experts will review your interview data and suggest resources that may offer

To set up a BEAR interview for your business, contact:

Butte Local Development Corporation
305 W. Mercury
Butte, Montana
723-4349
Fax 723-4672
bldc@bldc.net

Business
Expansion
And
Retention



*Thank you for keeping
your business in
Southwest Montana.*

Business Expansion And Retention

The BEAR Program is sponsored by the Butte Local Development Corporation, Headwaters RC&D, North Western Energy, and



BUSINESS ASSISTANCE RESOURCES THROUGH BEAR

Public Sector

Montana Tech
College of Technology
Chamber of Commerce
Headwaters RC & D
MT Mfg. Extension. Center

Government (all 7 counties)

City, County and State Agencies
Office of Economic Development
Job Service
Small Business Administration
USDA

Private Sector

Technical Contractors
Human Resources
Banks
Legal
Accounting
Etc.

Your business can join the BEAR program by contacting Jim Smitham at 406-723-4349 or jsmitham@bldc.net. Interviews are scheduled at mutually convenient times, usually within two weeks.

The interview will identify your strengths and weaknesses. Information from the interview questionnaire will be entered into a confidential database. If appropriate, a tour of your business will be conducted.

Businesses in southwest Montana will have the resources that they need to be more successful and profitable.

A BEAR Resource Committee meeting is held to put together a proposed resource assistance team for your business.

The BEAR program will follow up with your business after the BEAR consultation to determine if advice and assistance from the resources were beneficial to your business.

Your business is presented with the names of the potential resources team. After approval, the resources contact your business to set up a meeting date.