

The Big Sky Business Insight Summit convenes cross-sector leaders to define big problems, identify Montana's strengths to address them, and offer insight into ways we can strengthen our statewide economy and improve our overall quality of life.

The 2022 Big Sky BIS will address housing and childcare as specific challenges to cultivating and sustaining a healthy workforce. We'll hear from local and regional experts on how these challenges impact the availability of skilled labor and explore ways to respond through innovation and collaboration. We'll kick off the Summit with a welcome reception and networking social before two days filled with speakers, panels, and interactive discussion. Featured panels include:

Employer-Led Approaches to Housing Challenges

Housing cost and availability is a major factor in the ability to recruit and retain skilled employees. As the housing market continues to tighten, employers have taken initiative and begun exploring creative solutions to housing challenges. This panel features business owners and industry experts who will share their insight into different models for employers to support housing efforts.

Panelists

Danielle Bergner, Hall Render
Edie Willey, Bozeman Health
Laura Seyfang, Big Sky Community Housing Trust
Moderator: Julie Lacey, MEP

Housing Innovations from the Public and Private Sectors

Our housing challenges require innovative approaches and unprecedented collaboration between the public and private sectors. In this panel, community and business leaders will discuss their experiences working to expand the production of housing in Montana and share insight into tools that provide opportunity to expand and expedite increased capacity in the housing market.

Panelists

Eran Pehan, City of Missoula
Dawn McGee, Ravara
Hannah VanWetter, Foothold
Heather Grenier, Bozeman HRDC
Moderator: Kaia Peterson, NeighborWorks Montana

Family Forward Business Practices

Family-friendly workplaces have a competitive advantage: they attract and retain more top talent and their employees are more productive and committed. Employers benefit from reduced employee health care costs, a healthier work environment, and fewer employee absences. Hear from four Montana businesses who have implemented family-friendly business practices.

Panelists

Austin Hobza, Paradise Dental Technologies
Robert Farmer, Clearwater Credit Union
Katie Stevens, Stevens & Co.
Rebekah Nelson, Zoot Enterprises
Moderator: Grace Decker, Zero to Five

Exploring Community and Cooperative Models of Childcare

The pressing need for childcare providers has prompted parents, educators, employers, and communities to create new structures and methods for the development of childcare programs. In this panel, we'll hear from community and business leaders on their progress towards collaborative solutions for childcare. Following the panel, join an interactive, facilitated discussion about barriers faced by communities working to implement collaborative childcare models and resources available to overcome them.

Panelists

Carly Wheatley, Snowy Mountain Development Corp
Meghan Ballenger, RAISE Montana
Heather Foster, Missoula YMCA
Moderator: Nicole Rush, MEP

Agenda

*(Subject to change, visit missoulapartnership.com
for up to date program)*

Wednesday, May 18

AC Hotel | 175 N Pattee St

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Welcome Reception

Thursday, May 19

ALI Auditorium | UM Campus

9:00 – 9:30 am

Registration Check-in

Coffee and continental breakfast

9:30 – 9:45 am

Welcome

Intro – Grant Kier

Messages from Congressional Delegation

9:45 – 10:30 am

Define the Issue: Workforce

Bryce Ward, Economist

10:30 – 11:45 am

Panel: Employer-Led Approaches to Housing Challenges

Moderator: Julie Lacey, Missoula Economic Partnership

Panelists:

Danielle Bergner, Hall Render (Milwaukee, WI)

Edie Willey, Bozeman Health (Bozeman, MT)

Laura Seyfang, Big Sky Community Housing Trust (Big Sky, MT)

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Lunch

Interactive poll and table talk

12:45 – 2:00 pm

Panel: Housing Innovations from the Public and Private Sector

Moderator: Kaia Peterson, NeighborWorks Montana

Panelists:

Eran Pehan, City of Missoula (Missoula, MT)

Dawn McGee, Ravara (Missoula, MT)

Hannah VanWetter, Foothold (Butte, MT)

Heather Grenier, Bozeman HRDC (Bozeman, MT)

2:00 – 2:15 pm

Break

Agenda

Thursday, May 19

ALI Auditorium | UM Campus

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|-----------------------|---|
| 2:15 – 3:15 pm | Discussion Groups: Housing
<i>Interactive discussion and collaborative brainstorm</i> |
| 3:15 – 3:45 pm | Discussion Groups: Report Back
<i>Facilitated talk-back session</i> |
| 3:45 – 4:00 pm | Day 1 Recap and Close
<i>Wordcloud and interactive poll</i> |
| 4:00 – 5:00 pm | Happy Hour Reception
<i>Networking social with hors d'oeuvres and beverages</i> |

Friday, May 20

ALI Auditorium | UM Campus

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| 8:30 – 9:00 am | Registration Check-In
<i>Coffee and continental breakfast</i> |
| 9:00 – 9:45 am | Welcome and Fireside Chat
<i>Grant Kier and Bruce Tribbensee</i> |
| 9:45 – 10:15 am | Table Talk
<i>Childcare issues and impacts</i> |
| 10:15 – 10:30 am | Break |
| 10:30 – 11:00 am | Define the Issue: The Case for Family-Forward Business Practices
<i>Caitlin Jensen, Montana Zero to Five</i> |
| 11:00 am – 12:15 pm | Panel: Family Forward Business Practices
<i>Moderator: Grace Decker, Zero to Five</i> |

Panelists:

Austin Hobza, Paradise Dental Technologies (Missoula, MT)

Robert Farmer, Clearwater Credit Union (Missoula, MT)

Katie Stevens, Stevens & Co. (Missoula, MT)

Rebekah Nelson, Zoot Enterprises (Bozeman, MT)

Agenda

Friday, May 20

ALI Auditorium | UM Campus

12:15 – 1:00 pm

Lunch

Interactive storytelling activity

1:00 – 2:15 pm

Panel: Exploring Community and Cooperative Models of Childcare

Moderator: Nicole Rush, MEP

Panelists:

Carly Wheatley, Snowy Mountain Development Corp (Lewistown, MT)

Meghan Ballenger, RAISE Montana (Lolo, MT)

Heather Foster, Missoula YMCA (Missoula, MT)

2:15 – 2:30 pm

Close of Program

Reflection, Wordcloud activity, close of Summit