

SWEETGRASS DEVELOPMENT

SERVING THE BLACKFEET NATION, THE LITTLE SHELL TRIBE, AND CASCADE, GLACIER, PONDERA, TETON & TOOLE COUNTIES

SWEETGRASS DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY SURVEY

We are a non-profit that supports economic development in the Blackfeet Nation, the Little Shell Tribe, and Cascade, Glacier, Pondera, Teton, and Toole Counties. Every five years we review our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This allows us to adapt and set new goals and objectives based upon the regional needs. In order to adapt to changes **we need your input**. When you provide feedback, including it in our planning is just the beginning. We use your insight to identify projects that make our region even better. The CEDS is a public document, so it may be used our partners in local government, nonprofits, private business, and beyond. **Thank you for taking the time to participate. We appreciate your assistance!**

1. What is your ZIP Code? _____

2. How long have you resided in that zip code?

- 0-5 years 15+ years
 5-15 years Visitor

3. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, do you think your local community's economy was getting better, worse, or the same?

- Better Worse Same

4. In the next 5 years, do you think your local community's economy will get better, worse, or the same?

- Better Worse Same

5. What are the greatest assets in your area? What makes your community stand out? List your top 3.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for Small Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism Businesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurants/Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

6. What are the biggest needs in your area? Pick your top 3.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help retaining and expanding businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Have more job opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better local infrastructure (including transportation, water/sewer, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fill empty storefronts/revitalize downtown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better access to health care services | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide more parks and recreation options |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better and/or more educational opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Public transportation access/options |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better housing options | <input type="checkbox"/> Better public safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better programs/services for seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More programs/activities for kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications/Broadband |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More entertainment for all ages | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

7. How would you meet those needs? Pick your top 3.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner with surrounding counties for economic development purposes | <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in community marketing and advertising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Give tax incentives for new businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Angel investing or increased private investment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invest more local funding in infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Institute a state option authority (ex. state sales tax) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expand industrial and commercial growth opportunities (ex. meat processing plant, power generation) | <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in regional or statewide transportation infrastructure (ex. rail, bus, EV) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |

8. Which business industries have the most "growth potential" in your area? Pick your top 2.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Service industries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail | |

9. Based upon your choices above (#8), what TYPES of business would you like to see?

- Traditional Agriculture (farming and ranching)
 - Value Added Agriculture (meat and grain processing, distilling, brewing, etc)
 - Ag Equipment and Supplies (retail)
 - Specific healthcare providers (dental, eye, therapies, etc)
 - Small manufacturing (components, welding, metalworks, etc)
 - Main Street retail/service (cosmetology, clothing, pet grooming, hardware, home improvement)
 - Entertainment/Activities (movies, indoor recreation, music)
 - Legal, engineering, architectural
 - Construction, plumbing, electrical
 - Restaurants/Bars/Coffee shops
 - Energy businesses (wind, solar, natural gas, oil, business support)
 - Remote work space/Coworking opportunities
 - Other (please specify)
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10. What do you see as some of the obstacles for new businesses to open in your community?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of local infrastructure or utilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local/state/federal regulations (red tape) | <input type="checkbox"/> Startup capital |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Community Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Not knowing where to go and who to contact |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population and/or location | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local taxes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of commercial real estate | |
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11. What changes would you like to see in your county or local community?

12. Please provide any additional comments on the growth and development of your community.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ENTERED IN A FREE RAFFLE FOR A \$100 GAS CARD?

Email address: _____
(please note that by giving us your email address, you hereby consent to receive future communications from the North Central Montana Economic Development District, dba Sweetgrass Development Corporation.)

ARE YOU A TRIBAL MEMBER? IF SO, WE HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION FOR YOU!

Tribal affiliation: _____