

# Economic Benefits of Film Industry Productions

First, there are direct economic benefits of the **money spent on wages, products, and services**. The production company spends money with local businesses on lodging, clothing, groceries, restaurants, fabrics, lumber, hardware, office supplies, and laundry services. Individual cast and crew members may also spend money on leisure activities, books and magazines, and souvenirs. Even temporary “extras” and curious visitors from neighboring areas will spend additional dollars within the community hosting a production company.

Because most of the dollars spent is **new money brought in from out of state**, economists project that the film industry has a greater impact for Montana businesses and employees.

Productions also play a part to **create and retain jobs within the state**, as they allow Montana’s freelance film crew members and support services to earn their living. These commercial media projects are much like having new, medium-size businesses move into the community, **generating thousands or millions of dollars of activity over a few months instead of a few years**.

## Guiding Principles for Film-Friendly Communities

### Principle 1 – Approvals

A public agency that receives an application for a film permit must not unreasonably withhold the approval of that application.

### Principle 2 – Timeliness

A public agency must approve or refuse an application for a film permit in a timely manner.

### Principle 3 – Reasons for refusal

A public agency that refuses to approve an application for a film permit must give reasons to the applicant for the refusal.

### Principle 4 – Single point of contact

A public agency must take reasonable steps to provide a single point of contact to deal with commercial filming on public land.

### Principle 5 – Standard forms

A public agency must ensure that any application forms and other documents required by the public agency to consider an application for a film permit are consistent with any standard forms or documents issued.

### Principle 6 – Fees

Unless specifically authorized by another Act, fees charged by a public agency for applications for film permits and issuing film permits must not exceed cost recovery.

In relation to fees for applications for film permits and issuing film permits that are not set by regulations or governing laws, a public agency must have regard to the broader economic benefits that commercial filming will bring to the community when setting the fees.

### Principle 7 – Accessible information

A public agency that has the power to issue film permits must publish information about how a person may apply for a film permit on its website or on a website approved.

### Principle 8 – Staff training

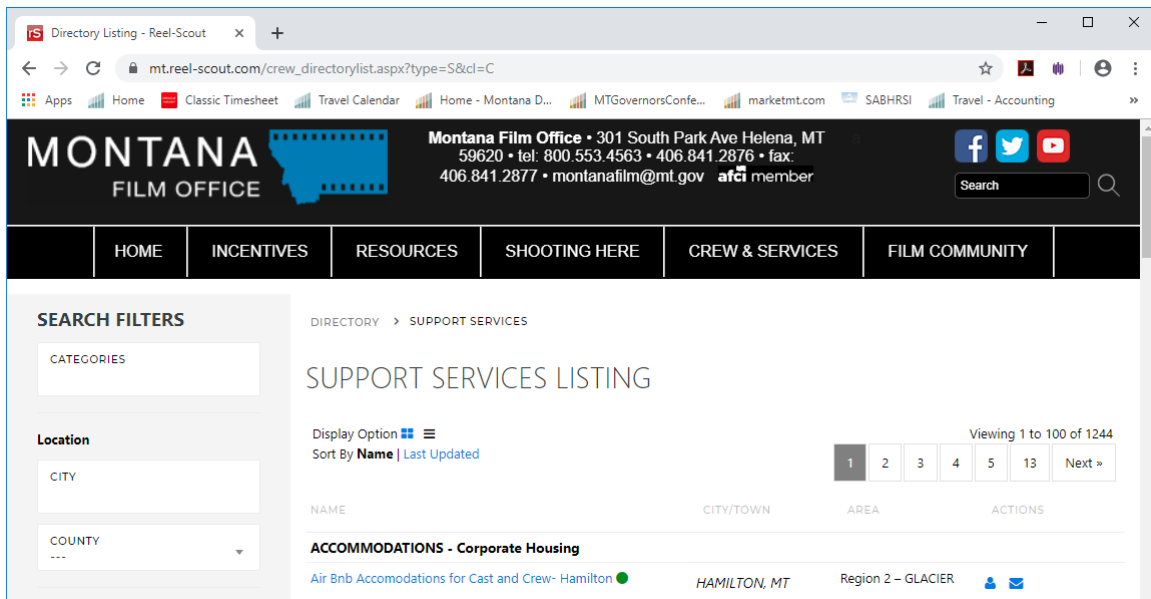
A public agency must take reasonable steps to ensure that staff responsible for considering and issuing film permits are given appropriate information regarding the film industry.

For more information, visit the Montana Film Office online at [montanafilm.com](http://montanafilm.com)

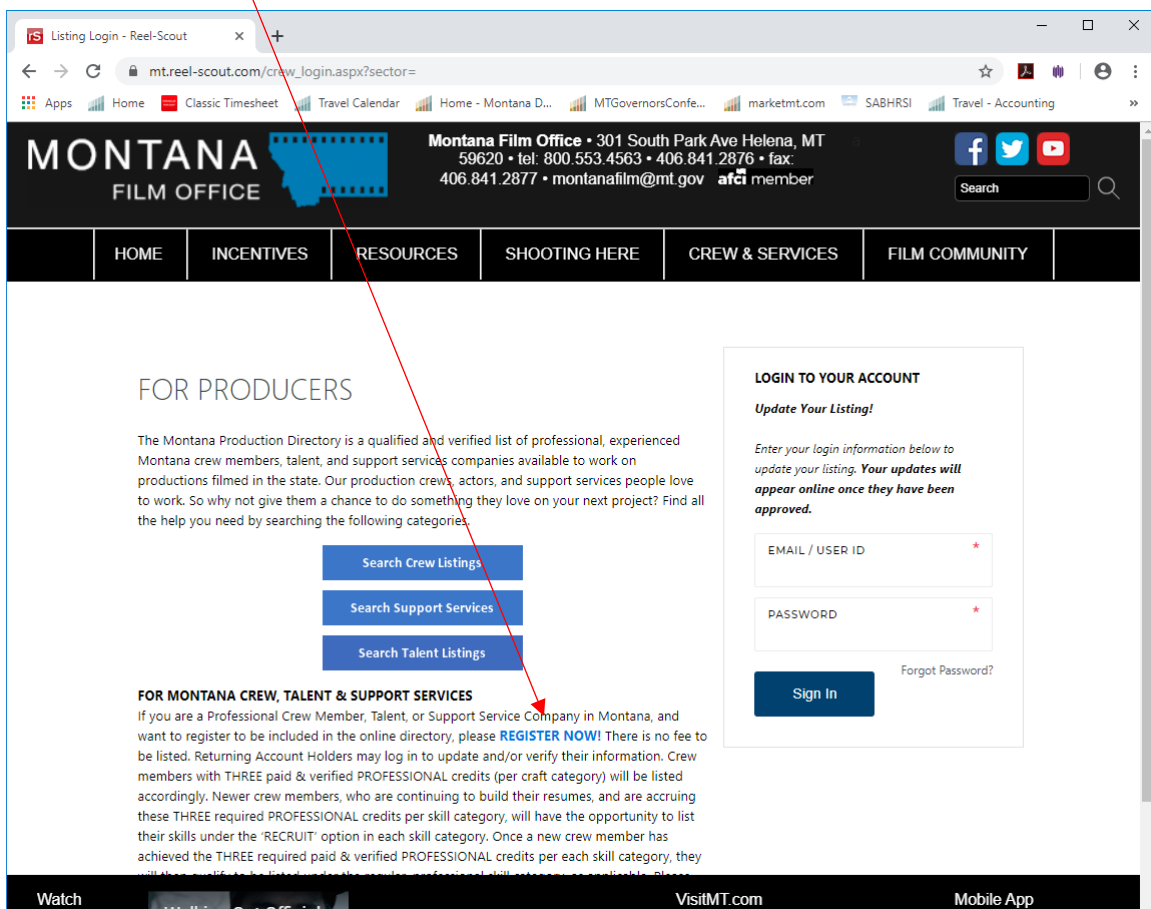


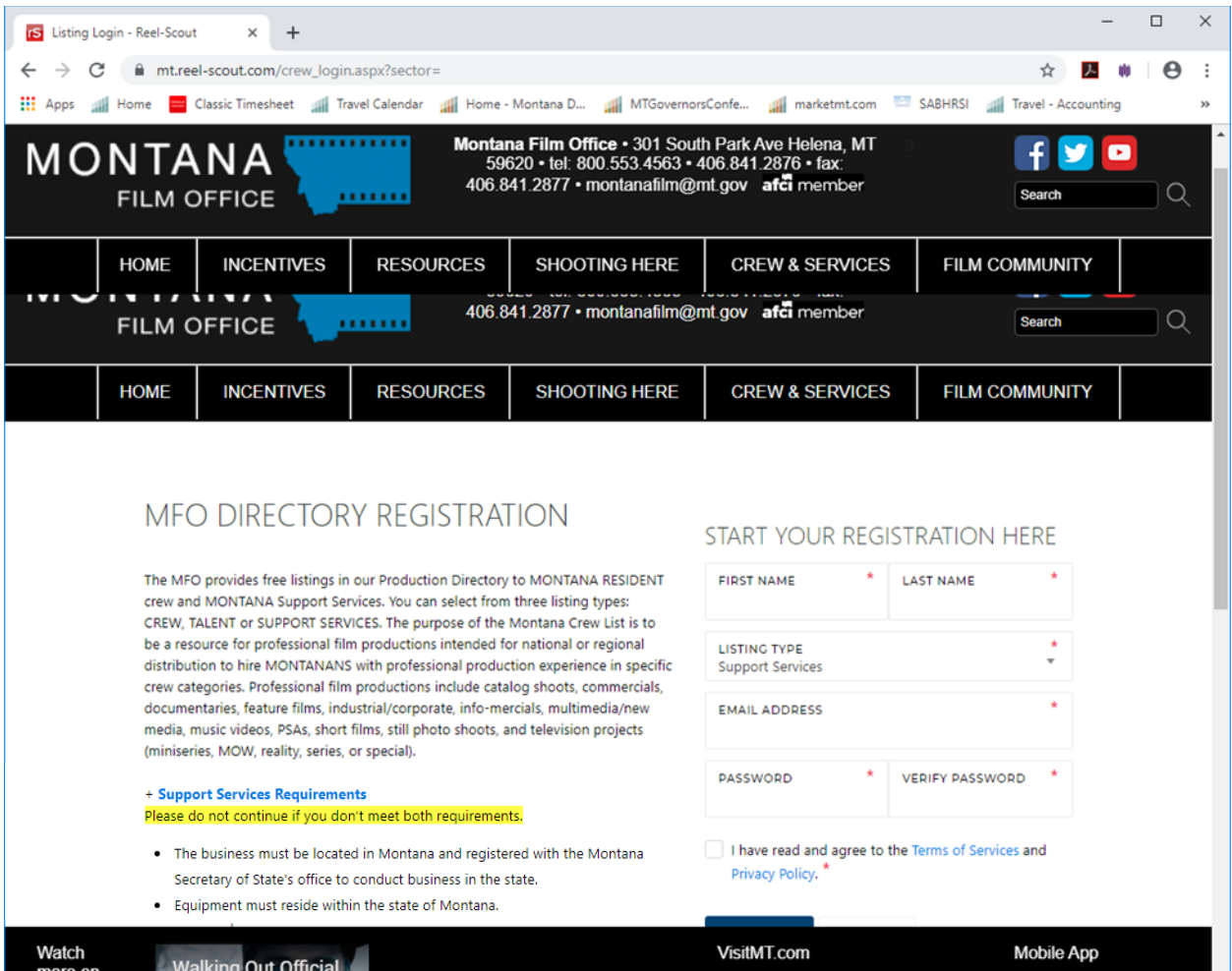
# How to List a Business (Support Service)

The Montana Film Office provides a searchable online directory that includes Support Services. Visit [montanafilm.com](http://montanafilm.com), click on the tab **CREWS & SERVICES** (this will redirect you to [mt.reel-scout.com](http://mt.reel-scout.com)).



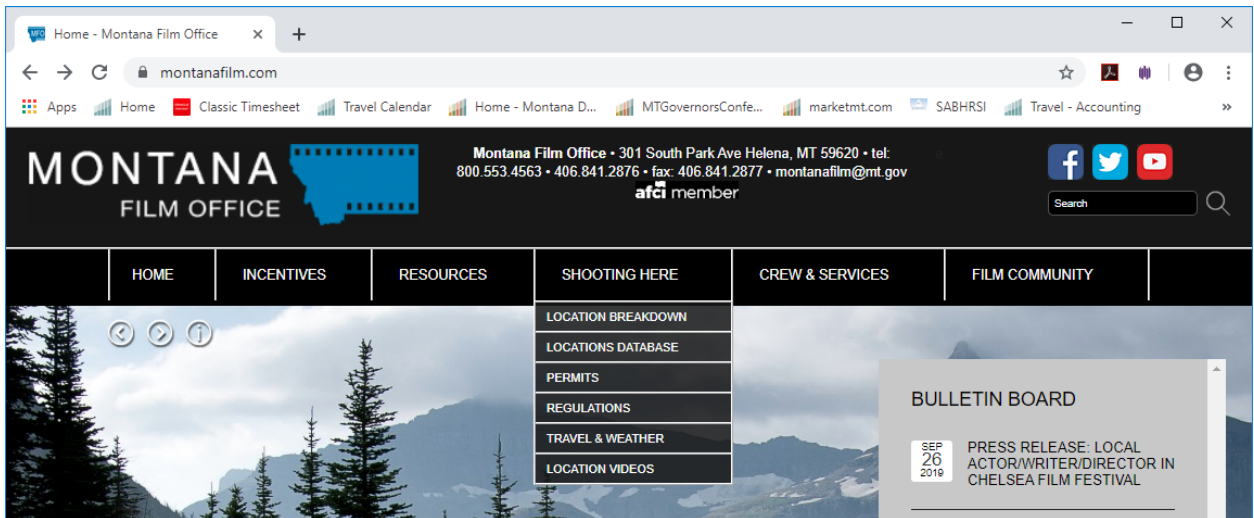
To register a business that provides support to filming locations (lodging, supplies, catering, etc.) visit [montanafilm.com](http://montanafilm.com), click on the link **REGISTER NOW** to create an account login.





# How to List a Location

An online searchable database of filming locations across Montana is found on the [montanafilm.com](http://montanafilm.com) website. Click on the tab **SHOOTING HERE** and select **LOCATIONS DATABASE** from the dropdown menu.



To be included in the locations database, please email high resolution photos via [DropBox](#) to [jjacoby@mt.gov](mailto:jjacoby@mt.gov) along with details, descriptions, directions, etc. For assistance, call 406 841 2876.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Montana Film Office's location search results page. The browser's address bar shows the URL [mt.reel-scout.com/loc\\_results.aspx](http://mt.reel-scout.com/loc_results.aspx). The page header features the Montana Film Office logo and navigation links for MENU, HOME, and a search bar. The main content area is titled "LOCATIONS" and displays a "Location Search Results" section with 1,850 locations. The search results are sorted by "Last Modified" and displayed in a grid of 24 items. The visible results include:

- 10134537 Old Galen State Hospital Campus ...
- 10106653 Montana State Training School ...
- 10133547 Montana State Training School ...
- 10127837 Montana State Training School ...

The left sidebar contains filters for Location Categories (with "ACCOMMODATIONS - Bed & Breakfasts / Inns" selected), Location Name / ID, Geographic Area (with "All Cities / Towns" selected), Proximity (with "Any Distance" selected), and Architecture Style (with "select style..." selected). The "SEARCH" and "RESET" buttons are located at the bottom of the sidebar.