Meadowlark Brewing
Billings, MT



"Through the valuable efforts of the SBDC, we were able to access the Big Sky Trust Fund Job Creation Grant and were able to offer new employees a competitive, living wage. The SBDC staff were thoughtful, insightful, and made the process very easy."

Travis Peterson, Owner

In 2019, Travis Peterson began the expansion of Meadowlark Brewing from Sidney to Billings. The original brewery had reached its capacity for the canning process, and Travis wanted to supply their products to additional retailers. Unfortunately, the project faced setbacks when the COVID 19 pandemic struck, causing supply issues and increased project costs. Despite these challenges, the project persevered and was completed, opening its doors in 2022.

Although Meadowlark was able to start brewing and canning its products, obtaining the licensing necessary to serve the public took roughly a year.

Meadowlark Brewing faced additional challenges when expanding, especially hiring and retaining employees. Travis drew upon a variety of resources such as the BSTF Planning and Job Creation grants, the SBA 504 lending program, and the SBDC for help with projections and business planning to make Meadowlark's vision a reality. SBDC Regional Director Lorene Hintz was able to help Travis access the grant needed to offer new employees competitive, living wages. They have created 12 full time and 36 part time jobs in Yellowstone County and have roughly a 50 50 split in equity and loan funds for a $5,000,000 project.

"Travis' journey from running a small brewery in Sidney to building one of the largest in the state is a testament to his inspiring entrepreneurship, unwavering perseverance, and remarkable brewing and business skills," stated Lorene Hintz.