



**The Board of Directors of the Grant County Economic Growth Council is seeking its next Executive Director to move the organization and the community forward. The Growth Council’s mission is to promote a vibrant, sustainable economy that attracts and empowers business growth and innovation in Grant County. The organization and its Executive Director lead the charge in making Grant County one of the best places to live, learn, work, and retire in Indiana. The Executive Director will have the opportunity to guide the strategy and execution of economic development efforts for the Grant County community.**

**Following this job description, please find additional information about Grant County.**

**Please submit resumes and related documents to [director@grantcounty.com](mailto:director@grantcounty.com) by May 26, 2023.**

The Executive Director is responsible for the development, conduct, execution, and management of the policies, programs, and initiatives of the *Grant County Economic Growth Council* (Growth Council) as directed by its Board of Directors in its mission of improving the long-term economic health and vitality of Grant County, Indiana.

In promoting Grant County’s economic development, the Executive Director will strengthen and enhance relationships with key business and government leaders in the region and state, as well as on the national and international stage. He or she will take the lead on major corporate retention and attraction initiatives and provide oversight and strategic direction for community development activities.

**The duties of the Executive Director will include but not be limited to the following:**

Strategic Planning:

- Facilitate the development of an overall strategic plan for the Growth Council.
- Coordinate a bi-annual strategic plan and goal calibration with the Board of Directors
- Develop short-term action plans with measurable goals in conjunction with the Board of Directors that align with the strategic vision of the Growth Council

Administration:

- Direct the operations of the Growth Council to achieve the goals outlined in the strategic plan
- Guide, supervise, and develop the Growth Council’s staff
- Prepare and work within an annual budget (as approved by the Board)

- Execute, in partnership with the Board, an annual fundraising program to support the organization
- Review and suggest revisions to Growth Council policies and procedures
- Maintain professional service contracts for economic and community development with the City of Marion, City of Gas City, City of Jonesboro and Grant County. Fulfill obligations and objectives outlined in any professional service contracts.
- Lead by example to develop a positive organizational culture that promotes a strong work ethic, team atmosphere and desire to carry out the goals of the Growth Council
- Attend Board and Executive Committee meetings, as well as any other committee meetings as necessary
- Oversee development of publications, presentations and promotional materials that support the goals of the Growth Council

#### Economic and Community Development:

- Maintain regular contact with local community, business and education leaders to develop and maintain relationships
- Serve as liaison between local business community and governmental entities to address business issues and needs of the community
- Design and implement marketing programs aimed at specific recruitment goals in the targeted sectors
  - Develop short-term and long-term overall marketing program
  - Annually evaluate ongoing value of individual marketing components
- Oversee the preparation of marketing materials, which will assist in responding to inquiries about economic development opportunities in Grant County Indiana
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive available site and building database for Grant County Indiana
- Develop and maintain relationships with recruitment partners including site consultants, commercial real estate brokers, utility and railroad representatives, as well as representatives of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation
- Coordinate with federal, state, city and county on potential incentives for economic development prospects
- Keep community and regional information up to date and available for immediate turnaround on request. This should include information regarding utilities, taxes, zoning, transportation, community services, demographics, labor force, and financing tools.

- Assist new and expanding businesses with business and development applications and procedures. Exchange information with state and local partners to encourage cooperation and efficiency in the development process
- Provide oversight of the staff to prepare, write and administer grant applications related to economic development or improvement to the existing communities

External Relationships:

- Serve as the spokesperson for the Growth Council with the goal to enhance the Growth Council's overall image and achieve its goals
- Support, attend and participate in professional associations for economic development
- Monitor local, state and federal legislation and public policy relating to economic development

Other:

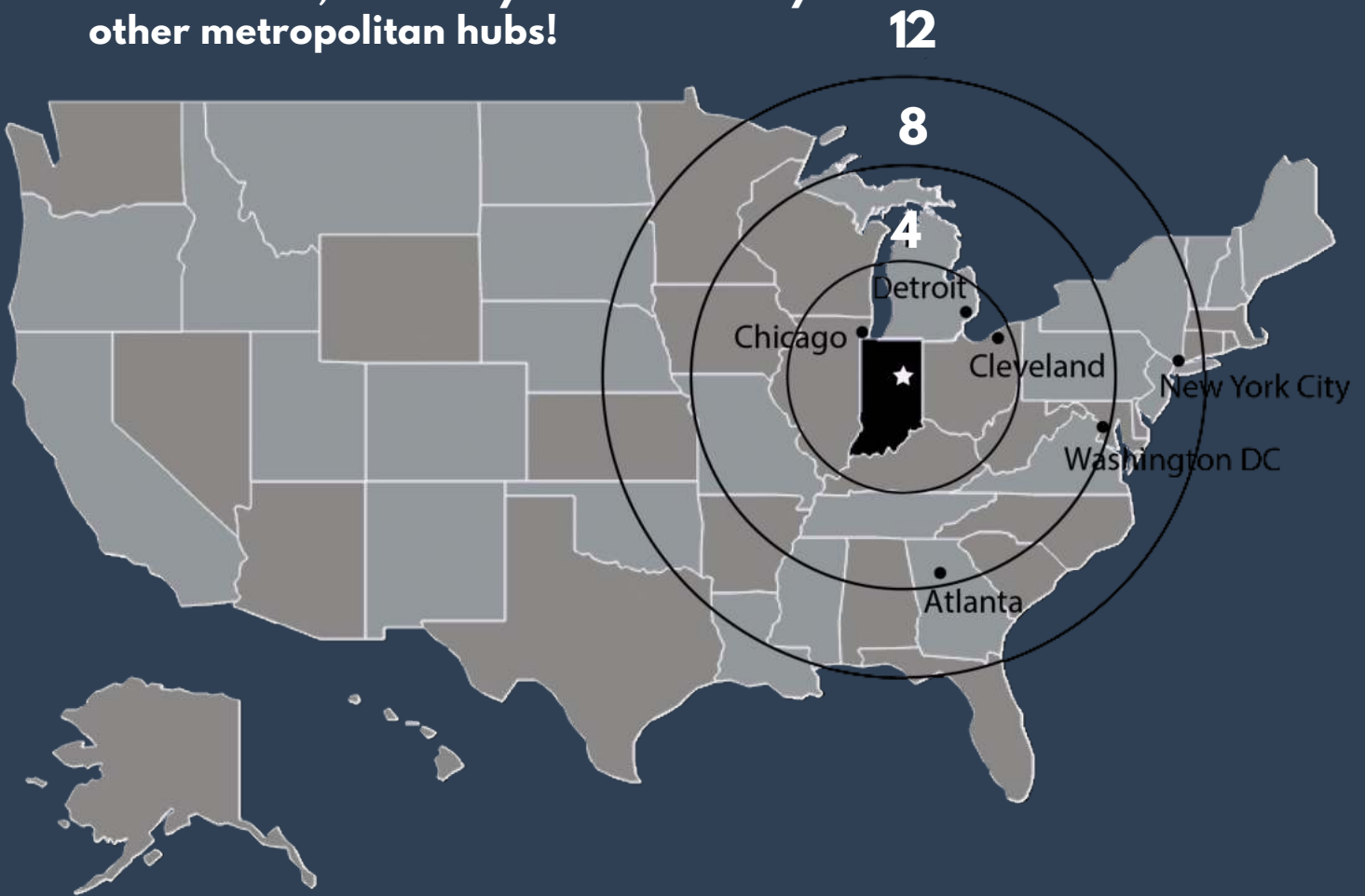
- Travel as needed to call on prospects and encourage their investment in Grant County Indiana
- Other duties at the direction of the Growth Council Board of Directors

### **Experience & Education**

Qualified candidates will possess a combination of formal training and work experience, such as:

- Bachelors degree in urban planning, economic development, business, public management, or related field; Masters degree or CECD a plus
- Formal economic development or community development training via the International Economic Development Council or similar institution
- 5+ years of economic development, business, real estate, or other relevant professional experience
- Working knowledge of local and state economic development financing tools or related tax and finance experience
- Experience working with business leaders
- Experience convening stakeholders for the purposes of strategic planning
- Demonstrated leadership abilities and excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Experience operating key technologies, e.g. Zoom, Salesforce, Microsoft Office; familiarity with real estate databases and labor market tools a plus

**Grant County is located in the heart of the Midwest, with easy access to many other metropolitan hubs!**



**1 hr**

from  
Fort Wayne, IN



**HALFWAY  
BETWEEN  
INDIANA'S  
TWO  
LARGEST  
METRO  
AREAS**



**1.5 hrs**

from  
Indianapolis, IN

**3.5 hrs**

from  
Chicago's O'Hare  
International Airport

- 2nd Busiest Airport in USA
- Flights to 60+ Foreign Destinations
- 76,000 Flights per month

## Grant County is eager for you join our community!



**Mitra Majumdar, 29**  
**Architect**

**Dhaka, Bangladesh → Grant County, IN**

*"I moved to Grant County for work 6 months ago. At first Marion seemed like a peaceful, quiet city with a beautiful river, and lots of elegant old buildings! But with time this city is revealing its layers. I realized that Marion is truly inclusive, I've always felt welcomed here. Sense of belonging to a community is something we all desire and 'Marionites' provide friendship and support to newcomers and created a strong community. The city is constantly working on community development. As an architect I feel lucky that I got to work both on beautiful historic buildings and new commercial facilities in Marion which indicates the city respects its past, responsibly conserving it and at the same time it is growing with new businesses. There are events and meetings arranged by different organizations dedicated to the city to attract new business and keep the community active and informed. People of Marion and young professionals are remarkably passionate about this place and working hard for rejuvenating downtown and the city. Its great to live amongst diligent dreamers and see Marion growing, spreading and moving towards reclaiming its past glory!"*

*"As we were moving towards retirement from overseas missionary service, my wife and I bought our home in Marion, Indiana, in 2013. The property was in excellent condition and the price was affordable. Since then we have retired. We are finding the costs that come with owning a 3-bedroom home well within our means. Property taxes, insurance, utilities and home maintenance are economical. People are friendly. Neighborhoods are generally safe. Food costs are competitive. Accredited medical services are accessible. City and county workers are available. Quality public and private schools offer 21st century education. Volunteer situations abound. We are making Marion our permanent home. We invite others to consider relocating here too."*



**Richard Dick Hart, 81**  
**Retiree**

**Lebanon → Grant County, IN**





# Why Grant County?

**1** The People

**2** The Affordability

**3** The Economic Opportunity

**4** The Education

**5** The Beauty

# 1

# The People

When current residents talk about why they choose to live in Grant County, they talk overwhelmingly about the people. They talk about the kindness, creativity, and passion of people who live here. They talk about the people who care deeply about the community and work tirelessly to see it thrive. In Grant County, you will have abundant opportunities to know the people of Grant County and feel a sense of true community.

- You will know your neighbors.
- Baristas will memorize your drink orders.
- You will run into friends while shopping at Lowe's.
- Bartenders will know you by name.
- The Mayor will personally introduce himself to you.
- Your neighborhood group will host a summer rummage sale.

"It is impossible for me to walk away from a community that is so loving, and a town that has so much potential. I believe there is so much talent here for us to tap into as a community."

*Recent Grad, Community Development Coordinator, 23  
Marysville, OH → Grant County, IN*

"I came to Grant County for a job. I stayed because of the people."

*Mother, Marion Schools Employee, 33  
Minneapolis, MN → Grant County, IN*

# 2 The Affordability

Living in Grant County is astoundingly affordable. The low costs of living allow individuals to live well and comfortably and pursue opportunities for less here in Grant County!

- Drink an entire pitcher of Yuengling Lager for \$4
- Eat a hash-brown, bacon, eggs, and toast breakfast for \$5
- Get a 25% discount on your property taxes if you live in the home you purchased (Homestead Exemption)
- Enjoy an authentic Mexican taco for \$2
- Buy a beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in a historic neighborhood for \$45,000
- Rent a 1 bedroom apartment in central Marion for \$460 per month
- Take your family through a 227-foot Christmas Lights Display for a total of \$5

Marion, IN is the  
"#1 most affordable suburb in the nation"

(according to Realtor.com)

"I moved to Grant County from the Chicago area, and its here I can live my preferred, ideal lifestyle on a smaller salary than I had before."

Recent Grad, Behavioral Therapist, 24  
Wheaton, IL → Grant County, IN

Marion  
\$510



Grant County  
\$460



Indiana  
\$760

United States  
\$990

Median  
Rent  
Costs

(of a 1 bedroom  
apartment)

Marion  
\$68,000



Grant County  
\$87,600



Indiana  
\$130,200

United States  
\$216,200

Median  
Home  
Costs




# 3 The Economic Opportunity

Grant County, akin to many midwest towns, is navigating the growing pains of reestablishing identity, industry, and culture against a backdrop of a rapidly changing global economy. Predominately a manufacturing and agricultural community, Grant County faces the typical challenges of a post-industrial society—identity crisis, blight, vacancy, unemployment, economic depression etc. Yet, post-industrialization is not all deficit; it is opportunity. Grant County is rich in history and brimming with opportunity.

Grant County is ripe for the individual who wants to make a difference. The potential for beauty, innovation, and prosperity is palpable. Grant County residents have the opportunity to transform physical space and culture and be a direct agent of change.

- **Restore an early 20th century building and preserve a piece of the community's history**
- **Launch a program to teach computer programming to local high school students**
- **Develop a riverside apartment complex and transform the housing stock**
- **Join a local board and renew an organization**
- **Work directly with the Mayor to start a Community Arts Council**



"Being here allows for visible impact. 'Doing' something here truly matters and there are endless outlets to do so."

*Design Professor at Indiana Wesleyan University, 37  
Los Angeles, CA → Grant County, IN*

## Business Development Assistance

Grant County's local elected officials are eager to support the business community through:

- Tax Abatements
- Tax Increment Financing
- Business Ready Properties
- Marketing/Promotion
- Local, Regional, and State Grants

The Marion-Grant County Chamber of Commerce (local Chamber) and Grant County Economic Growth Council (local Economic Development Organization) are eager to assist with:

- Business Planning
- Mentoring
- Promotion/Marketing
- Lobbying
- Finding Capital
- Finding Real Estate
- Networking
- Advocacy

# 4 The Education

Grant County schools are deeply committed to education, safety, kindness, and the holistic wellbeing of their students. The schools offer many athletic, musical, and artistic opportunities, in addition to ample internship and work-based learning opportunities, offered in partnership with local universities, employers, and the local career center.

**5** School Districts

**3** Premier Universities: Taylor University, Indiana Wesleyan University, and Ivy Tech Community College

**2** Private Schools

In the last five years, there's been \_\_\_ state champions and \_\_\_\_ individual state champions.

Eastbrook High School has a **96.03%** graduation rate

Marion High School has a **96.31%** graduation rate

Mississinewa High School has a **96.84%** graduation rate

Oak Hill High School has a **93.94%** graduation rate

Madison Grant High School has a **84.48%** graduation rate



Grant County provides inclusive resources for all

YMCA  
Boys and Girls Club  
United Way  
Project Leadership - mentoring  
Lead Inc (youth leadership)  
On My Way Pre K

Grant County was awarded **1 Million** dollars for a comprehensive counseling program, granted by the Lilly Endowment. Grant County is the only recipient of this grant program to have all five school districts collaborating to comprehensively meet the mental and social needs of Grant County students.

Allen Elementary was recently featured on **NBC's TODAY Show** for its New Beginnings program—a program that has drastically changed the school's culture and given many students hope.

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**Grant County provides inclusive resources for all!**

### **On My Way Pre K**

a wonderful opportunity for families to receive free, high-quality preschool education while parents are attending school or going to work.

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### **YMCA**

**Boys and Girls Club**

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**Project Leadership - mentoring**

**Lead Inc (youth leadership)**

**On My Way Pre K**

# 5 The Beauty

Grant County may not have a warm ocean breeze or lofty mountain tops, but it contains all the natural beauty of the American Midwest. The enveloping sky that stretches endlessly in every direction. The clouds that seem close enough to touch. The brilliant red, orange, and yellows of the sunset. The melody of the cicadas as summer days come to an end. The stately courthouse, made of exquisitely carved limestone. The long stretches of quiet backroads, surrounded by rows of cornfields and wooden barns.

Grant County's cities and towns each have main streets that contain beautiful, historic structures. The City of Marion has a traditional courthouse square; many of its buildings date back to the 1800-1900s, beautifully designed and historically preserved.

Grant County has parks and trails, historic main streets, and proximity to many sources of natural Midwest beauty!

## The Cardinal Greenway

features biking, running, walking trail, runs through the county and continues another 62 miles until it reaches the Ohio state line.

## The Mississinewa Riverwalk

provides a trail along the Mississinewa River and connects to the City of Marion's Matter Park, a beautiful park containing a playground, tennis courts, a concert venue, and butterfly garden.

"When I moved from the west coast of Canada, away from the mountains and ocean, I was astonished to find the Indiana landscape particularly beautiful. At first, I couldn't stop looking at the sky.. without the mountains, the sky seemed so close. I sounded crazy whenever I would try to explain how different and amazing the sky was to me."

Recent Grad, Young Professional, 23  
Vancouver, Canada → Grant County, IN

**3** hours from Lake Michigan

**3** hours from the Indiana Sand Dunes (Indiana's first National Park)

**25** Indiana State Parks

**20** mins from Salamonie Lake State Park, containing several beaches, hiking trails, and campsites

**1** hour from the nearest mountain for skiing, snowboarding, and snow shoeing