



CREDC

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Columbia River Economic Development Council
Vancouver, Washington

PRESIDENT

\$150,000 - \$170,000 DOQ

Plus Excellent Benefits

Apply by

November 2, 2025

(First Review, Open Until Filled)

PROTHMAN



THE REGION



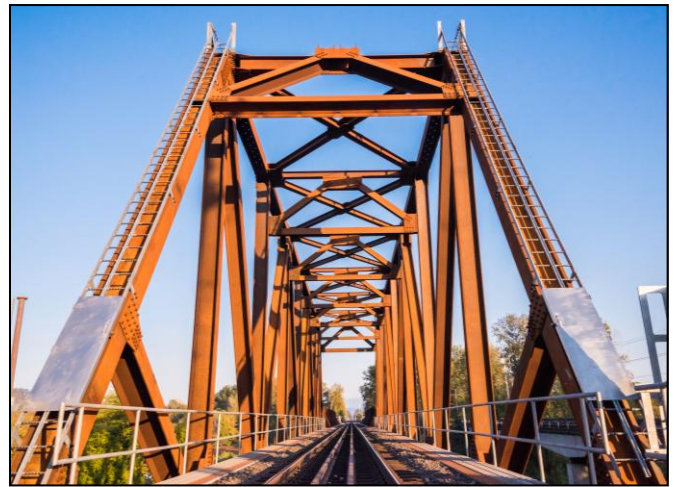
Located in Southwest Washington, Clark County is a thriving region that combines rich history, natural beauty, and modern amenities. Stretching from the Columbia River to the southern slopes of Mount St. Helens, the

county is home to more than 527,000 residents and has become a vital player in the greater Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area. Its county seat, Vancouver, is Washington's fourth largest city and serves as a dynamic hub for government, commerce, dining, and culture. Just across the Columbia River from Portland and within easy reach of Portland International Airport, the county enjoys strong regional and global connectivity, making it a prime location for both residents and businesses.

Clark County offers an exceptional quality of life, blending urban conveniences with abundant outdoor recreation. The region spans 656 square miles of diverse landscapes, from vibrant downtown centers to small towns, farmland, forests, and more than 40 miles of river frontage. Residents enjoy affordable housing, low property taxes, and high-performing schools, with higher education anchored by Clark College and Washington State University Vancouver, the only four-year public university in Southwest Washington.

Recreational and cultural opportunities are a hallmark of life in the region. With its mild climate and easy access to the Pacific Coast, Cascade Mountains, and Columbia River Gorge, the area provides year-round opportunities for hiking, boating, fishing, skiing, and other outdoor activities. Local attractions include the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, as well as a thriving arts scene supported by galleries, theaters, breweries, and community festivals.

Clark County continues to experience steady growth, with a diverse and expanding economy, strong median household income, and a population that reflects a range of backgrounds and cultures. Residents enjoy a welcoming community atmosphere, supported by a balance of economic vitality and a lifestyle closely tied to the region's natural surroundings.



THE ORGANIZATION

The Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) is the state-recognized Associate Development Organization (ADO) for Clark County, Washington. As a nonprofit corporation, CREDC unites more than 150 public- and private-sector partners dedicated to advancing regional economic vitality through business growth, innovation, and collaboration.

CREDC serves as the leading economic development entity for Southwest Washington, providing free, confidential services to companies seeking to launch, expand, or relocate in the region. Each year, the organization meets with more than 100 traded-sector businesses, offering tailored assistance to help reduce costs, optimize talent, improve efficiency, and grow sales. By leveraging strong partnerships across local, state, and federal agencies, CREDC ensures businesses have access to the resources and networks needed to thrive.



In 2024, CREDC celebrated a landmark year of results despite challenging business conditions. The organization secured nine recruitment and expansion wins, generating \$338 million in capital investment, retaining and creating 445 jobs, and filling more than 343,000 square feet of industrial employment space. Major achievements included advancing Summit Truck Body's new Ridgefield facility and securing significant federal and state resources to grow local employers. A highlight was Vigor Industrial's \$1 billion defense contract expansion, which will create 180 jobs and inject \$48 million into the regional economy. Collectively, every \$1 invested in CREDC produced \$34 in new economic activity for Southwest Washington.



Governed by a 50-member Board of Directors, CREDC advances its mission through a strong committee structure and a professional team that operates "like a lean startup" - nimble, collaborative, and outcome-driven. The staff includes leadership in business development, operations, investor relations, and the Washington APEX Accelerator program, which supports small businesses in securing government contracts. In 2024 alone, APEX at CREDC provided over 300 hours of advising, helping local companies secure more than \$24 million in federal, state, and local government contracts.

CREDC's strategic framework is built on three pillars: expanding business growth across five key traded sectors (software, computers and electronics, clean technology, life sciences, and technology-enhanced production); supporting people through workforce development and inclusion initiatives; and creating place by advancing infrastructure, placemaking, and quality of life projects.

With an annual budget of approximately \$1.1 million, CREDC is well-positioned to continue serving as Clark County's economic development leader, driving sustainable growth and fostering a resilient, competitive, and inclusive regional economy.



THE POSITION

The President of CREDC is responsible for the continuing development of the organization's strategic direction. Each year, the President will formulate a work plan consistent with the strategic direction for adoption by the Board of Directors and then implement that plan. This position reports to the Board of Directors and is supervised by the Chairman of the Board and Executive Committee.

The President is expected to follow general direction from the Board of Directors and Executive Committee while simultaneously exhibiting initiative, a collaborative work style, and high-level of professional judgment. The President is given full oversight, responsibility and accountability for planning and managing the administration, staff, funding, budget, programs, strategic initiatives and business support activities of the organization. The President will also represent CREDC's interests on a number of business, community and civic boards, providing strategic input and direction to a broad network of partners to support a growing and competitive business environment.

For the full job description and to view all responsibilities, please view the attachment found [here](#).



OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

- The incoming President will help create the next Vision for the CREDC by facilitating goal development and sharing that vision with the broader community. Being the face and spokesperson for the CREDC, this person will need to be an advocate for business interest which supports the goals of the organization.
- Balancing the use of resources between recruiting new businesses and retaining existing ones will be a priority. This approach will help grow the region's economy and ensure that local businesses can thrive and succeed.
- The President will collaborate with the agency's public sector partners, such as cities and ports, to ensure that economic development efforts are well-coordinated. By clearly defining each partner's role and readiness, CREDC can advance the region's economy in a unified and efficient manner.
- Reframing the region's strengths to align with new priorities that focus less on abundant, low-cost energy and ample land supply, and instead emphasize the importance of prioritizing resource use to enhance the quality of life that the region desires will be a priority. This will require CREDC to market the specific strengths of each area in the region, to best identify opportunities in specific locations.
- It will be a priority for CREDC to stimulate new business growth internally which matches both market opportunities and on the ground assets in the CREDC area.



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will bring a strong passion for CREDC's mission and vision, coupled with enthusiasm for providing economic development leadership at the local, statewide, and national levels. This individual will understand that economic development is a team effort, and will be recognized for a proven track record of managing effective and diverse teams while driving measurable business and community outcomes that create lasting regional impact.

The successful candidate will demonstrate familiarity with startups and entrepreneurs, including mentorship and funding, while also possessing insight into the needs of established and enterprise-scale businesses operating on both national and global levels. A deep understanding of business financing and the stages of business growth will be essential, as will a conceptual knowledge of Washington State's financing and tax structures to appreciate the challenges faced by public-sector partners.

Strong candidates will also bring knowledge of land-use planning, real estate development, and city and county permitting, along with the ability to discern when to focus narrowly on CREDC's territory and when to engage across county and state lines to advance the regional economy. A visible presence in Clark County and the Columbia River region will be expected, with the ability to build and maintain the trust of current and future stakeholders while remaining closely engaged in community affairs.

The ideal candidate will be an excellent communicator, with the ability to clearly and simply tell CREDC's story, engage investors, and build productive partnerships. Collaborative leadership, grounded in emotional intelligence, accountability, and respect, will be key, along with the ability to recognize accomplishments, provide constructive feedback, and foster a positive organizational culture that empowers both staff and partners.

A working knowledge of accounting and financial reporting will ensure effective oversight of organizational resources. Above all, CREDC is seeking a leader who can champion collaboration, deliver strategic results, and drive continued success and growth for the organization, its investors, and the community it serves.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

A bachelor's degree in a related field is required, with a master's degree in a relevant discipline strongly desired. A four-year degree serves as the minimum qualification, while advanced training or graduate-level education is preferred to support the complexity of this leadership role.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate at least ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in community and business leadership. Successful candidates will bring an energetic, creative, and collaborative work style, combined with values and abilities that align with the mission and goals of the organization.



COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **\$150,000 - \$170,000 DOQ**
- Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance.
- Employer matched 401k plan.
- Paid time-off package.



**For more information on the
Columbia River Economic
Development Council, please visit:**

www.credc.org

The Columbia River Economic Development Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **November 2, 2025** (first review, open until filled). Applications, supplemental questions, resumes and cover letters will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to **www.prothman.com** and click on "**Open Recruitments**", select "**Columbia River Economic Development Council, WA – President**" and click "**Apply Online**" or click [here](#). Resumes, cover letters, and supplemental questions can be uploaded once you have logged in.



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