

Job Title: Director of Business Development & Special Projects

Location: Great Bend, Kansas

Organization: Great Bend Economic Development (GBED)

Position Overview: The Director of Business Development & Special Projects will play a vital role in advancing the economic growth of Barton County by fostering relationships with local businesses, identifying opportunities for development, and leading innovative projects that align with the organization's vision. This position requires a strategic thinker with strong communication skills and a passion for community development.

Key Responsibilities:

- 1. Liaison with Local Businesses:**
Build and maintain strong relationships with existing and prospective local businesses.
Assess the needs of businesses to identify challenges and opportunities for growth.
Develop tailored strategies to address business needs, leveraging available resources and incentives.
- 2. Incentives and Support Communication:**
Educate businesses about existing incentives, resources, and support programs.
Collaborate with local and state agencies to promote available funding and assistance.
- 3. Fundraising and Program Support:**
Assist in fundraising efforts for programs and special projects, including grant writing and proposal development.
Identify potential funding sources and partnerships to support economic development initiatives.
- 4. Representation at Conferences and Events:**
Represent GBED at local, regional, and national conferences and events.
Network with stakeholders to promote Barton County and foster collaboration.
- 5. Project Conceptualization and Leadership:**
Conceptualize, develop, and lead new projects that align with GBED's strategic goals.
Oversee project implementation, ensuring alignment with organizational vision and community needs.
Evaluate project outcomes and provide recommendations for future initiatives.
- 6. Strategic Planning:**
Collaborate with the GBED team to develop and refine strategic plans and objectives.
Monitor industry trends and economic conditions to inform organizational strategy.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economic Development, or a related field preferred, 3-5 years of related experience will be considered.
- Proven experience in business development, communication, economic development, or a related area.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, and negotiation skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders.
- Strong organizational and project management skills.
- Proficiency in data analysis and reporting.



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Application Process: Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter outlining their qualifications and experience to director@gbedinc.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Great Bend Economic Development is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees.

About Great Bend Economic Development:

At Great Bend Economic Development (GBED), our mission is to foster the long-term economic health and vitality of Barton County. We are dedicated to the retention, expansion, and attraction of businesses that enhance property values, increase personal income, and elevate the quality of life for all residents in our community.

GBED is at the forefront of developing innovative workforce initiatives that not only support our existing employers but also attract new businesses to our vibrant community. Our strategic focus areas include Business Retention and Recruitment, Entrepreneurship, Workforce Development, and Quality of Life enhancement. Through these pillars, we lead a diverse array of projects designed to strengthen the overall economic landscape of Barton County.

By prioritizing collaboration and community engagement, GBED aims to create a thriving environment where businesses can grow, individuals can prosper, and the quality of life in Barton County continues to improve. Join us in our commitment to making Barton County a premier destination for economic opportunity and community well-being.

For more information about GBED visit: www.gbedinc.com