




Itawamba County Development Council

Executive Director Position

Opportunity Summary:

The Itawamba County Development Council (ICDC) is a 501 (c) 6 corporation formed in 1953, and is charged with the responsibility of deploying economic and community development services, existing industry expansion and retention, and small business development activities for Itawamba County, Mississippi. Itawamba County is also home to Port Itawamba, a full-service public inland port located on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. ICDC responsibilities include duties associated with port operations and marketing. ICDC is currently conducting a search for a qualified and proven Executive Director to lead its economic development efforts. The Executive Director will be responsible for the implementation, coordination, and management of economic development activities designed to foster job growth in Itawamba County.

Responsibilities:

- Plan, establish, and follow policies, goals and objectives of ICDC in accordance with its Board of Directors
 - Effectively market and promote Itawamba County's industrial development assets to potential private sector investors, site selection consultants, and state/regional stakeholders
 - Effectively deliver outreach initiatives and programs aimed at existing industry expansion and retention
 - Market capabilities and assets of Port Itawamba to prospective and existing businesses
 - Utilize committees and volunteer groups to fully construct and implement ICDC's annual program of work across all business functions in accordance with ICDC's mission
 - Serve as liaison for organization's membership in matters concerning local small business development and business-to-business promotion activities
 - Foster and develop productive working relationships with key state and regional economic development agencies, including, but not limited to, the Mississippi Development Authority, Tennessee Valley Authority, Appalachian Regional Commission, and North Mississippi Industrial Development Association
 - Maintain close working relationship with key organizational funding sources
 - Maintain close working relationship with local governing bodies, including municipal and county leadership, state elected official delegation, and national elected official delegation
 - Design, refine, and implement local economic development incentive programs and proposals
 - Manage organization's finances, including preparation of annual budget, expenditure control, and preparation and presentation of monthly financial reports
 - Oversee all key personnel functions, including employee recruitment, termination, performance measurements, and task delegation
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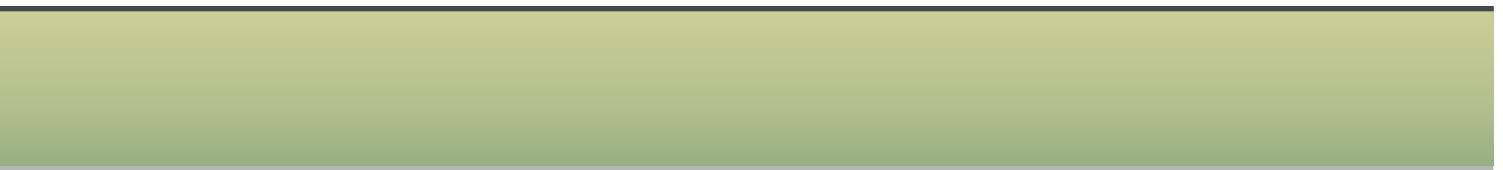
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Knowledge and Characteristics:

- Proven and comprehensive knowledge of economic development best practices and competencies
- Prior experience in promoting industrial real estate (greenfield land, existing buildings, and other infrastructure) assets to private sector investors
- Familiarity with multimodal transportation assets such as inland ports and railroads a plus
- Familiarity and experience with economic development organization governing structure, namely working with a large Board of Directors
- Lead community and site preparedness efforts as part of industrial development activities
- Possess knowledge of basic economic development finance tools to build a business sales case for Itawamba County as a business/industry location. Tools include identifying local, state, and utility-based incentives, sources and uses of funding, and basic real estate finance
- The ability to attain a working knowledge of utilities used in industrial processes (water, wastewater, power, natural gas), how they are delivered, and existing utility assets at Itawamba County's marketable industrial properties
- Excellent written and oral communication skills and the ability to present the community in a favorable light to the media, stakeholders, and in other communication forums as needed
- Hands-on knowledge of current technology applications used for economic development marketing and communications activities

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in business, public policy, finance, economic development, urban/regional planning, economics, political science, or equivalent combination of related experiences or training
 - Master's degree from an accredited university or additional professional certifications such as CEcD, EDFP are desirable
 - Minimum of five years of progressively responsible experience in the field of economic development or closely-related field
 - Ability to travel
 - Ability to work with a diverse background of individuals and stakeholders effectively
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Background Information:

The ICDC is governed by a 22 person Board and has offices located in Fulton, MS. Representatives for the county, the Port of Itawamba and the three municipalities of Fulton, Mantachie, and Tremont serve on the Board along with 2 at-large members. Funding for the operation includes both public and private dollars, and consists of a combination of county funds, municipal millage and membership dollars.

Itawamba County, located in Northeast Mississippi on the Alabama border, is home to 40 industries and a long-established manufacturing environment. With a population of just under 25,000, the county has a hard-working, well-trained workforce. From the new Toyota Boshoku plant in the modern Fawn Grove Industrial Park, to Mueller Industries and Max Home in Fulton and Jackson Furniture Industries in Mantachie, the area contains a diverse industrial base, manufacturing products from automotive seats and copper tubing to furniture and timber products.

The county operates two established industrial parks with available sites and is developing a new 250 acre industrial site with rail and port access south of Fulton. The first established park, Port Itawamba Industrial Park, is located on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in the City of Fulton and is a full tri-modal facility. The park is located conveniently north of Port Itawamba on the east side of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, which provides a direct link to the Gulf of Mexico. The park is adjacent to the Mississippian Railway connecting Fulton to Burlington Northern – Santa Fe, a major Class I railroad. The second established park is Fawn Grove Industrial Park. A state-of-the-art industrial park located in the heart of northeast Mississippi's industrial region, Fawn Grove Industrial Park is just west of Port Itawamba on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and less than fifteen minutes east of Tupelo – northeast Mississippi's retail and industrial trade center. The park is home to Toyota Boshoku, an automotive parts supplier to Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Mississippi, Inc. – only 22 miles away. A hard surface highway runs through the park, and all utilities are in place for industrial users.

The area provides true tri-modal transportation alternatives, interstate highway, railroad, and waterborne modes. Future I-22 provides easy access to Memphis, TN and Birmingham, AL with less than two hours driving time. Rail service is supplied by the Mississippian Railway Cooperative, a short-line railroad with direct daily connection to the BNSF Railroad. The short-line is very flexible and customer service focused. Barge service is provided via the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway. The Port at Fulton has the only inland slip on the canal section of the waterway providing fleeting and storage area. The Port is home to additional docks that are served by a 60-ton bridge crane and a roll-on/roll-off ramp for heavy and oversize loads.





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The community is home to Itawamba Community College (ICC). The second largest community college in Mississippi, ICC is a state of the art educational facility and offers unique opportunities to teach and train students and the area workforce. All five counties within the ICC district subscribe to an innovative program that guarantees free tuition for two years for every graduating high school student. Located in Fulton, the campus includes the 3,500-seat Davis Events Center, where special concerts and sports events are housed during the year. The W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center includes an auditorium and art gallery. The community is also within close proximity to three major Mississippi universities (University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University and Mississippi University for Women) and two major Alabama universities (University of Alabama and University of North Alabama). In addition, the area has high achieving public schools.

Area residents have access to excellent healthcare through the local Fulton Family Medical Center, which provides professional, comprehensive, relationship-based healthcare. In addition, residents can take advantage of the North Mississippi Medical Center (NMMC), a 650-bed regional referral center in Tupelo, the largest hospital in Mississippi and the largest non-metropolitan hospital in America. The medical center is comprised of staff representing more than 40 medical specialties. NMMC is designated as a Level II trauma center.

Application Instructions

Qualified candidates are asked to submit applications electronically to: kgraham@itawamba.com

Website

www.itawamba.com

