

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position

The Town of Munster is in search of a qualified professional to spearhead its economic development initiatives. Suitable candidates must possess extensive experience in all aspects of economic development, demonstrate a successful track record in attaining new business opportunities, retaining and growing current businesses, and fostering collaborative partnerships with developers and business owners.

The Economic Development Director will be tasked with directing and overseeing initiatives aimed at promoting business expansion, attracting investments, and enhancing the economic vitality of the Town of Munster. Responsibilities include the formulation and execution of strategies to retain and grow existing businesses, actively pursue and secure new businesses, advocate for redevelopment within the Town's TIF and TOD Districts, solicit development proposals, negotiate development contracts, and formulate plans to rejuvenate the Town's primary retail corridors through land acquisitions, façade upgrades, and streetscape enhancements.

The Community

The Town of Munster provides a rich array of cultural and public amenities that are appreciated by its nearly 24,000 inhabitants. Situated just 26 miles south of Chicago, Munster presents families and businesses residing there with a diverse range of shopping options, cultural activities, and exceptional accessibility. The town's low tax rate, proximity to major highways, airports, and rail lines has contributed to its status as a sought-after hub for various businesses. Munster takes pride in its consistently high-ranking education system, convenient transportation options, abundant parks and trails, quality recreational programs, engaged community members, and outstanding municipal services.

Development Opportunities

Munster is currently experiencing a range of exciting developments. The Northwest Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) is finalizing the construction of the West Lake Corridor Commuter Rail Project — an 8-mile southern branch extension of the South Shore Line aimed at providing direct commuter rail service from Chicago to the regions of central and southern Lake County, Indiana. This project extends southward through Munster to the Munster-Dyer town line. Two stations will be established in Munster: one located on Manor Avenue, north of Ridge Road, and the other on the western extension of Main Street at the boundary with the Town of Dyer. Commuter rail service is anticipated to commence later this year. The areas surrounding both stations are well-suited for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and fall within the confines of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Tax Increment Development District (TDD)

districts. With a TIF fund balance of \$26 million, there is sufficient capital available for a proactive development strategy.

The Centennial Village project aims to provide the Town of Munster with a sustainable, mixed-use, walkable community situated at the intersection of Calumet Avenue and 45th Street. The nearly finished Maple Leaf Crossing development features a blend of retail, office, and hotel spaces. The Lansing County Club site is currently undergoing the initial phases of a significant development proposal.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Economic Development, Business Administration, Public Administration, Urban Planning, or a related field (master's preferred).
- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in economic development, business recruitment, urban planning, or a related field.
- Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) or similar credential preferred.

Compensation and Benefits

The salary range is \$70,608 - \$112,791. The Town of Munster provides a comprehensive benefits package which includes: PPO & HDHP medical insurance, dental and vision insurance, paid life insurance, vacation, 12 sick days, 11 holidays, 12 injury days, 2 PTO days, longevity pay, EAP, Indiana Public Retirement System or Town contribution to a deferred compensation plan, 457 plan, park discounts including pool and golf memberships, and professional development. Residency is not required.

Application and Selection Process

This position is open until filled. Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit a cover letter and resume to hr@munster.org by November 10, 2025.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer (EEOC): The Town of Munster is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. It is the policy of the Town of Munster to provide equal employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, marital status, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, genetic information, political affiliation, age, sexual orientation or other non-merit factors.

Planning & Development Documents:

Comprehensive Plan
Calumet-Ridge Streetscape Plan
Centennial Village
TIF Map
Zoning Map

NICTD West Lake Corridor Project
West Lake Transit- Oriented Development
Munster TOD Planning
Ridge Road Station TOD Plan
Main Street Station TOD Plan