



CEO Opportunity



Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County, Washington

Chief Executive Officer Search

WHY SKAGIT

Skagit (pronounced "SKÄJ-it") means "to hide away" or "place of refuge" in the dxʷləšúcid (Lushootseed) language spoken by the Native American peoples who first lived in the region. Skagit County is one of the Pacific Northwest's best kept secrets for business, investment, and economic development. No other location is as centrally and strategically connected with the Seattle and Vancouver, Canada, metropolitan regions – North America's leading gateways to the Asia-Pacific region. Home to innovative, solution-oriented industry leaders, and a highly skilled workforce, Skagit County offers an affordable, cost-competitive, and welcoming environment where business and investment is valued. Its established track record in balancing sustainability and growth is unique within the region.

Why Skagit County?

- Strategic, international location – half-way between Seattle and Vancouver, Canada, with more than 8 million people within a 100-mile radius
- Cost-competitive – significantly lower tax rates, industrial land and building costs, and median home prices than are available in the two large metropolitan areas
- Access to skilled workforce at every level
- Proximity to world-leading research institutions and universities, as well as agile community colleges for workforce training
- Easy access by highway, rail, air, and sea (within 2 hours of three international airports and seaports) – with far less traffic congestion
- Comprehensive infrastructure, including competitive energy and utilities costs,

wide access to high-speed internet, one deep-water seaport, and three airports (Skagit Regional Airport, Anacortes Airport, Concrete Airport) offering a diverse range of business, commercial and recreational aviation and maritime services

- Diverse, increasingly multicultural, and welcoming community for all businesses, residents and visitors



- Inviting cities, towns, and rural areas with an enviable quality of life, thriving arts community, access to top-notch health care services, and ample retail and cultural amenities
- Spectacular outdoor recreation opportunities – Skagit County is the gateway to the San Juan Islands and North Cascades National Park. Discover the Magic of Skagit and all the recreation, dining, arts and events that make our region so rich at VisitSkagitValley.com.

Schools

Seven school districts serve the K-12 students of Skagit County: Anacortes, Burlington-Edison, Concrete, Conway, La Conner, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley.

In addition, Northwest Educational Service District 189, serving 35 school districts, and Northwest Career & Technical Academy, serving eight school districts, are headquartered in Skagit County.

Skagit Valley College offers both two- and four-year degrees; and Western Washington University is a short drive away in neighboring Whatcom County to the north.

Healthcare

Three hospital systems are represented within Skagit County: Skagit Regional Health, Island Health and PeaceHealth.

Bringing a spouse or partner with you to Skagit County? EDASC's [Skagit Job Board](#) is an excellent resource for job seekers, featuring hundreds of openings.



MEET EDASC

The [Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County](#) (EDASC) carries out business attraction, retention and expansion and collaborative engagement to achieve a prosperous, sustainable and equitable community while maintaining Skagit County's natural beauty and quality of life.

EDASC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports existing Skagit companies, and works with prospective companies on site location, workforce training, identifying incentives and access to capital, permitting, research, and other forms of assistance. In addition, EDASC's strategies focus on improving assets and amenities within Skagit County, strengthening communities, and working to make Skagit County more prosperous, successful, diversified, and sustainable.

EDASC is the Associate Development Organization for Skagit County, as designated by the Washington State Department of Commerce.

In 2024, the International Economic Develop-



Skagit Industry Mix

Advanced Manufacturing

Agriculture

Clean Technology

Defense

Environment & Natural Resources

Maritime

Recreation

Tourism & Arts

3 Pillars of EDASC's Work

Economic Development in Skagit County

01

Business Attraction

EDASC is the first point of contact for businesses and site selectors exploring opportunities to invest in and establish operations in Skagit County.

02

Business Retention & Expansion

With a focus on BRE, we proactively reach out to businesses of all sizes to assist them as we connect them to vital resources, programs, experts and assets.

03

Capacity Building

EDASC also looks at education systems, government, child care, transportation, inclusion, equity, public health, and more.



ment Council awarded EDASC the Accredited Economic Development Organization designation. It is the only economic development organization in the Pacific Northwest to have achieved this level of distinction and one of fewer than 100 accredited EDOs worldwide.

The team at EDASC provides customized support and access to resources to build a strong and resilient Skagit County.

Its core pillars are Business Attraction, Business Retention & Expansion, and Capacity Building.

EDASC strategic priorities are outlined within the [Skagit County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) (CEDS), which is a shared vision for a resilient and inclusive regional economy where residents have access to living-wage employment and opportunity.

The plan prioritizes workforce development, support for small businesses, infrastructure improvements, economic diversification, and quality-of-life investments to strengthen communities and promote long-term economic prosperity throughout Skagit County.

EDASC is proud of its leadership development program, Leadership Skagit, and its entrepreneurial training program, Startup School.

Leadership Skagit has been developing local leaders for more than 20 years, with nearly 700 graduates to date.

Startup School offers education to entrepreneurs in both English and Spanish using Santa Clara University's My Own Business Institute platform.

JOB SUMMARY

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

To perform the job successfully, an individual must demonstrate the following competencies.

1. At least 5 or more years of progressively responsible leadership experience involving collaboration and productive alliances across public, private, business, community, and governmental sectors.
2. Demonstrated success in business recruitment, business retention, economic development, community development, commercial real estate, infrastructure development, or related fields.
3. Strong understanding of business operations, investment decision-making, and regional economic competitiveness.
4. Experience securing grants, legislative appropriations, or other public funding sources.
5. Minimum of a bachelor's degree, preferably with a graduate degree in planning, business, finance, law, or another related field, or experience equivalent.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

1. Executive leadership experience within an economic development organization or business-focused nonprofit.
2. Experience implementing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) or similar strategic initiative.
3. Previous private-sector business experience.
4. Familiarity with the economic drivers and communities of Skagit County.
5. Resident of Skagit County (or willing to become one within 6 months of hire)
6. Certification in Economic Development (within 6 months of hire)

SUCCESS PROFILE

The successful candidate will be known as someone who is regularly in the community, understands the regional economy in detail, builds trusted relationships, identifies opportunities before others see them, and consistently delivers measurable economic development results. The CEO is expected to spend most of their time advancing economic development initiatives, building partnerships, and supporting businesses rather than administering internal organizational processes.

EDASC is committed to fostering a workplace and community that values diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. We welcome applicants of all backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and identities, and encourage individuals who are passionate about serving a diverse region to apply. We believe our organization is strongest when leadership reflects the communities we serve.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ytm9ht3p> for the complete job description.

Apply by Aug. 15, 2026, by submitting a cover letter and resume to:
office@skagit.org



EDASC Signature Investors

