

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District

Community Profile

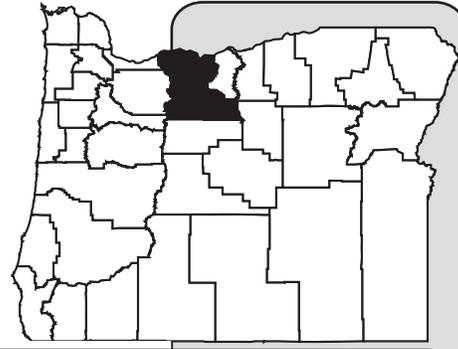
Population 80,708

Location The Dalles

Position Description

Sponsor Mid-Columbia Economic Development District

Supervisor Amanda Hoey
Executive Director



Assignment The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District was established in 1969 by its five member counties who realized that by sharing a common workforce, a common geography and a number of other important factors, their economic fates were tied together. They realized that by joining together they would benefit from better access to economic development loans and grants, pooled technical assistance, marketing, and administrative resources, and most importantly, they would be able to bring a regional approach to their economic development efforts. Over the years Mid-Columbia Economic Development District's membership has grown to include cities, ports and chambers of commerce within the five county region.

The RARE participant placed with the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District will act as the coordinator on an array of economic development projects. Specifically, the participant will convene and conduct surveys, interviews, and focus group meetings needed to develop a strategic/sustainability plan; work to increase community support for the Columbia Gorge Sustainability Consortium; and seek opportunities that advance goals and implementation strategies that address housing, transportation, workforce training, and economic development.

RARE Participant



Caryn Pipinich

Caryn Pipinich received her Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Barnard College of Columbia University. Continuing her education, Caryn recently received her Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University. As a student, she developed an interest in working in the field of urban, rural and regional planning. While studying at Portland State, Caryn managed a team-based capstone project. The project put a team of five students to work in Weston, a small community in Eastern Oregon, to support their efforts to revitalize their historic downtown. This project required the student team to draft and implement a work plan, create materials for public outreach events and advisory group meetings, work with elected officials in various capacities, and organize internal meetings and communications. Following her year with the RARE Program, Caryn plans on following her long term interest of contributing to the community in which she lives as a planner.