

STAPLES, MN

A community you can get attached to

Economic Development Director

Salary: \$70,703 to \$90,645





The Opportunity

The City of Staples, Minnesota, is seeking a collaborative and forward-thinking Economic Development Director to lead the City's economic and community development efforts. This position plays a key role in supporting business growth, housing development, downtown vitality, and long-term community prosperity.

The Economic Development Director serves as the Executive Director of the Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) and works closely with City leadership, elected officials, businesses, developers, and community partners.

About the Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA)

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) was established by City Council resolution in 1992 to promote the economic, commercial, housing, and industrial development and redevelopment of the City of Staples.

SEDA is overseen by a seven-member Board comprised of the Mayor, two City Council Members, and representatives from education, health care, retail/commercial, and industrial sectors.

SEDA actively works to attract, retain, and support businesses of all types, including retail, commercial, industrial, manufacturing, and entrepreneurial ventures. Efforts include business start-ups, relocations, expansions, redevelopment initiatives, and housing development.

Community Highlights

Over the past several years, the City of Staples has made strategic investments in infrastructure, commercial development, housing, and downtown revitalization to support sustainable economic growth. The community offers shovel-ready development opportunities, an engaged business community, and strong partnerships focused on long-term success.

Staples is home to award-winning healthcare at Lakewood Health System, a strong K–12 school district (Staples-Motley Schools), advanced training opportunities at Central Lakes College, a skilled workforce, and a wide range of recreational and cultural amenities.

Located at the junction of U.S. Highway 10 and Minnesota Highway 210, Staples sits on the border of Todd and Wadena Counties and is within convenient driving distance of the Twin Cities, Duluth-Superior, and the Fargo–Moorhead area. With approximately 3,000 residents, the community serves as a regional employment and service hub.

VOTED

“Best Run City Under 10,000”

BY BUSINESS VIEW MAGAZINE



Summary of Duties

As the Economic Development Director for the City of Staples, this position manages the City's economic development, community development, and marketing initiatives. The Director serves as the primary liaison for development projects and business assistance efforts and acts as the Executive Director of the Staples Economic Development Authority.

Desired Skills and Abilities

- Demonstrated ability to build strong relationships and serve as an active, visible presence in the community.
- Creative, persistent, and resourceful leader with the confidence and initiative to advance economic development efforts.
- Collaborative problem-solver and team player willing to support a wide range of activities in service to the City of Staples.
- Working knowledge of federal, state, and regional economic and community development programs, including grant identification and application processes.
- Strong understanding of the community's assets, challenges, business climate, and key community and economic development partners.
- Knowledge of business development and expansion processes, including land acquisition and disposition, real estate financing, and commercial, industrial, and residential development.
- Ability to communicate effectively and to plan, coordinate, and implement development goals; conduct surveys and research; and prepare clear reports, correspondence, and presentations.

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economics, Marketing, Public Administration or related field, and a minimum of five (5) years of experience in local government, economic development, financial management, business ownership, or business operations, or an equivalent combination of education and experience

Apply

Visit <https://daviddrown.hiringplatform.com/363816-staples-economic-development-director/1389041-application-form/en> and complete the application process by February 10, 2026.

Please direct any questions to Liz Foster at liz@daviddrown.com or 612-920-3320 x108.