

# Washington Business Improvement Dis

Executive Director / CEO

June 9, 2026

This analysis benchmarks the total compensation of **Melanie Thiel, Executive Director / CEO** (\$69,507) against **every comparable organization** that fit the selection criteria — **156** in total — drawn systematically from IRS Form 990 filings, not a hand-picked subset.

Compensation sits at approximately the **40<sup>th</sup>** percentile of comparable organizations within the typical range

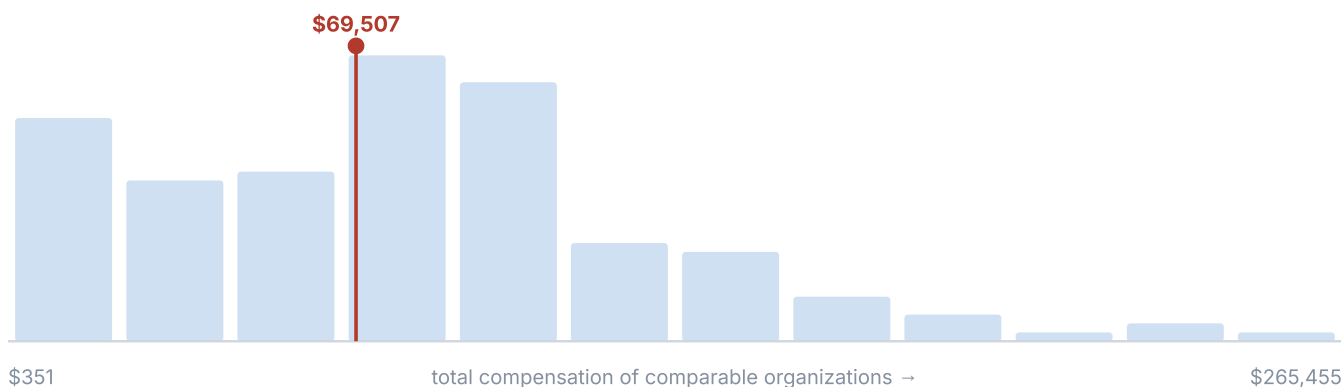
**Benchmarked executive:** Melanie Thiel — reported title “EXECUTIVE DI”, a **direct title match** to the Executive Director / CEO role.

## How comparable organizations were selected

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| SECTOR    | Organizations sharing the subject's NTEE classification (S30).  |
| BUDGET    | Total revenue between \$187,115 and \$418,915 — 0.67x to 1.50x the subject's \$279,277 (the band tightens as size grows). |
| GEOGRAPHY | Same NTEE sector (S30), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5x revenue.  |

**156** organizations qualified on sector, size, and geography → **156** within the band form the benchmarked peer set.

## Distribution of comparable compensation



|          |          |          |           |           |          |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| \$15,385 | \$41,323 | \$78,614 | \$104,895 | \$141,361 | \$69,507 |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|



## ■ Comparable organizations

Each figure is Form 990 Part VII columns D + F (reportable pay plus other compensation and benefits; column F may include amounts from related organizations), normalized to NJ cost of living (BEA RPP, 2023) and to its filing year (CPI-U); the reported amount is on each linked 990.

| ORGANIZATION  | STATE | REVENUE   | MATCHED TITLE                      | COMP (REPORTED) | COMP (ADJUSTED)  | FY   |
|---|-------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------|
| <a href="#">Crawford County Economic Development Par</a>        | IN    | \$278,080 | Executive Director                 | \$29,400        | <b>\$34,725</b>  | 2023 |
| <a href="#">Elizabeth Avenue Partnership Inc</a>                | NJ    | \$281,262 | Executive Director                 | \$95,240        | <b>\$95,240</b>  | 2023 |
| <a href="#">Central Arkansas Council</a>                        | AR    | \$275,000 | Director                           | \$5,000         | <b>\$6,295</b>   | 2023 |
| <a href="#">Renaissance Heights Foundation</a>                  | TX    | \$274,703 | Executive Dir.                     | \$105,401       | <b>\$114,700</b> | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Ypo Dfw</a>   | TX    | \$274,534 | Chapter Manager                    | \$20,000        | <b>\$21,203</b>  | 2025 |
| <a href="#">Intown Concord</a>                                  | NH    | \$284,189 | Executive Di                       | \$75,487        | <b>\$75,828</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">The Creative Coast Inc</a>                          | GA    | \$284,241 | Executive Director (April-present) | \$51,326        | <b>\$56,143</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Fondren Renaissance Foundation</a>                  | MS    | \$273,767 | Executive Director                 | \$70,583        | <b>\$85,521</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Ozaukee County Economic Development Corporation</a> | WI    | \$273,374 | Executive Director                 | \$36,000        | <b>\$40,901</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Adac Inc</a>  | IN    | \$287,218 | Executive Di                       | \$41,154        | <b>\$47,213</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Chicago Southland Economic</a>                      | IL    | \$270,201 | Executive Di                       | \$36,110        | <b>\$38,620</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Wentworth Economic Development Corp</a>             | NH    | \$269,573 | Executive Director                 | \$71,400        | <b>\$71,723</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Marin Economic Forum</a>                            | CA    | \$269,302 | Ceo                                | \$188,542       | <b>\$177,115</b> | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Ellensburg Downtown Association</a>                 | WA    | \$289,361 | Executive Director                 | \$75,405        | <b>\$73,444</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Building 127 LI Inc</a>                             | NY    | \$268,876 | Treasurer, Director                | \$99,234        | <b>\$97,552</b>  | 2024 |

| ORGANIZATION  | STATE | REVENUE   | MATCHED TITLE      | COMP (REPORTED) | COMP (ADJUSTED)  | FY   |
|---|-------|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|------|
| <a href="#">Rhea Economic And Tourism Council</a>       | TN    | \$268,307 | Executive Director | \$52,625        | <b>\$58,627</b>  | 2025 |
| <a href="#">All Together Now Pennsylvania Inc</a>       | PA    | \$290,911 | Co-director        | \$32,500        | <b>\$35,259</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Downtown Excelsior Partnership Inc</a>      | MO    | \$267,348 | Executive Di       | \$88,157        | <b>\$101,578</b> | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Noble County Convention And Visitor</a>     | IN    | \$267,279 | Executive Di       | \$55,640        | <b>\$65,718</b>  | 2023 |
| <a href="#">Fox Oakland Theater Inc</a>                 | CA    | \$293,046 | President          | \$138,422       | <b>\$133,873</b> | 2023 |
| <a href="#">Naugatuck Valley Project Inc</a>            | CT    | \$263,743 | Executive Director | \$70,000        | <b>\$71,401</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Benton Economic Partnership Inc</a>         | MN    | \$297,127 | Executive Dir.     | \$134,525       | <b>\$144,609</b> | 2024 |
| <a href="#">South Central</a>                           | LA    | \$261,321 | Executive Di       | \$86,538        | <b>\$103,665</b> | 2024 |
| <a href="#">Progress Lakeshore Inc</a>                  | WI    | \$298,559 | Executive Director | \$78,528        | <b>\$89,220</b>  | 2024 |
| <a href="#">West Bloomington Revitalization Project</a> | IL    | \$259,902 | Manager            | \$18,594        | <b>\$19,887</b>  | 2024 |

**Comp (reported)** is the figure on each organization's Form 990 (columns D + F); **Comp (adjusted)** normalizes it to NJ cost of living and 2023 dollars. Click any organization to verify the figure on ProPublica.

## ■ Methodology

Comparable organizations were drawn from electronically filed IRS Form 990 returns and matched on sector (NTEE code), budget (a size-adaptive revenue band that tightens as the organization grows), and geography (same-state first, broadening only when too few peers qualify); every organization within the band forms the peer set. To compare fairly across regions and years, peer compensation is normalized to NJ cost of living (BEA Regional Price Parities, 2023) and to the subject's filing year (CPI-U). The figure benchmarked is Form 990 Part VII, Section A, columns D + F — reportable pay plus other compensation, benefits, and deferred amounts (column F may include amounts from related organizations) — with the chief executive matched by role. Related-organization amounts (column E) and institutional trustees are excluded. Full methodology: [peerbasis.org/methodology](http://peerbasis.org/methodology).

## ■ Sample, role match & sensitivity

PEER COUNT **156** organizations. Compensation range \$351–\$265,455; filing years 2022–2025.

SIZE BASIS Matched on total revenue (\$279,277); for reference, expenses \$284,325 and assets \$109,759.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| ROLE MATCH      | Melanie Thiel, reported title "EXECUTIVE DI", benchmarked as Executive Director / CEO. The title maps directly to this role.           |
| RELATED-ORG PAY | 21 peers report related-organization compensation (column E), which the D + F benchmark does not fully capture; review where material. |
| OUTLIERS        | 4 peers fall outside 1.5× the interquartile range — consider whether any reflect one-time payments (severance, deferred-comp payouts). |

Sensitivity — the subject's percentile under alternative compensation definitions:

| BASIS   | SUBJECT PERCENTILE |
|---|--------------------|
| Total compensation (D + F), cost-of-living + inflation adjusted — the PeerBasis default | 40 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Total compensation (D + F), as reported (no adjustments)                                | 45 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Reportable pay only (column D), adjusted  | 42 <sup>nd</sup>   |
| All sources (D + E + F), adjusted   | 31 <sup>st</sup>   |

If the percentile moves materially across these definitions, the result is sensitive to methodology choices, and the board should weigh which basis best fits its facts.

### ● Rebuttable presumption of reasonableness • 26 CFR 53.4958-6

Compensation paid by a tax-exempt organization is presumed reasonable — shifting the burden to the IRS — when three requirements are met. This report supplies the comparability data for the second. The board should record the following in its minutes *concurrently* with its decision:

#### Draft board minutes – executive compensation

1. The compensation of the Executive Director / CEO (Melanie Thiel) was approved in advance by [the Board / Compensation Committee], composed of members with no conflict of interest with respect to the arrangement.
2. Prior to its determination, the authorized body obtained and relied upon appropriate comparability data, namely the PeerBasis Compensation Comparability Determination dated June 9, 2026, comparing compensation against 156 similarly situated organizations (Same NTEE sector (S30), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5× revenue).
3. The authorized body determined that total compensation of \$69,507 is reasonable (approximately the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile of comparable organizations) and documented the basis for this determination concurrently, on [date], by a vote of [\_\_ for / \_\_ against].

Sources: IRS Form 990 e-file data (apps.irs.gov); IRS Business Master File (NTEE classification). Every figure traces to an original public filing — click any organization above to verify it on ProPublica. PeerBasis is a service of Prismind Analytics; its [methodology is published](#), was commissioned for independent adversarial review, and discloses its own limitations. This report is comparability

data to support a board's good-faith determination under IRC 4958; it is not legal or tax advice. Generated by PeerBasis on June 9, 2026.