

Blades Economic Development Corporation

Executive Director / CEO

EIN 510362437
 DE · NTEE S300
 FY ending 2024-06-30
 June 9, 2026

This analysis benchmarks the total compensation of **Ed Cranston, Executive Director / CEO** (\$19,200) against **every comparable organization** that fit the selection criteria — **98** in total — drawn systematically from IRS Form 990 filings, not a hand-picked subset.

Compensation sits at approximately the **18th** percentile of comparable organizations below the typical range for comparable organizations

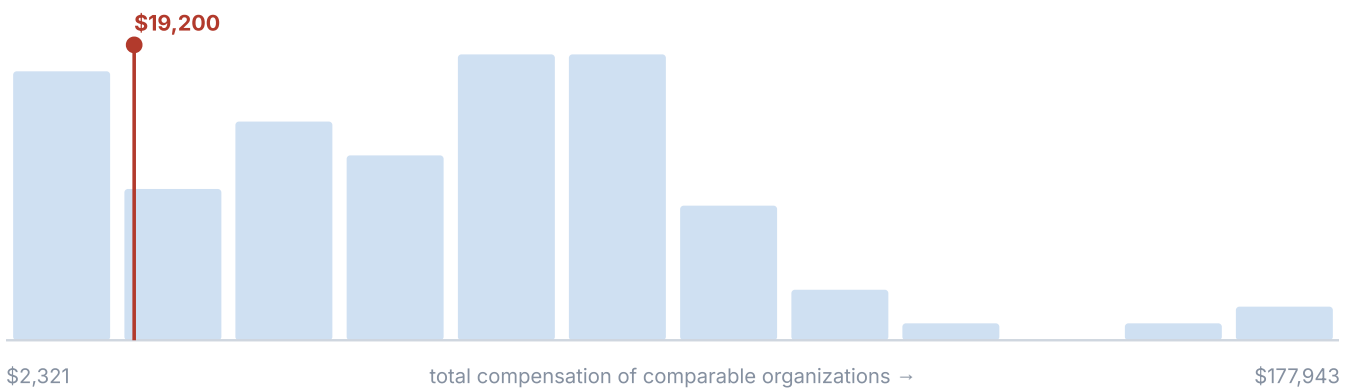
Benchmarked executive: Ed Cranston — reported title “Dockmaster”, selected as the organization's **highest-paid individual** — no exact title match, so confirm this is a comparable role.

How comparable organizations were selected

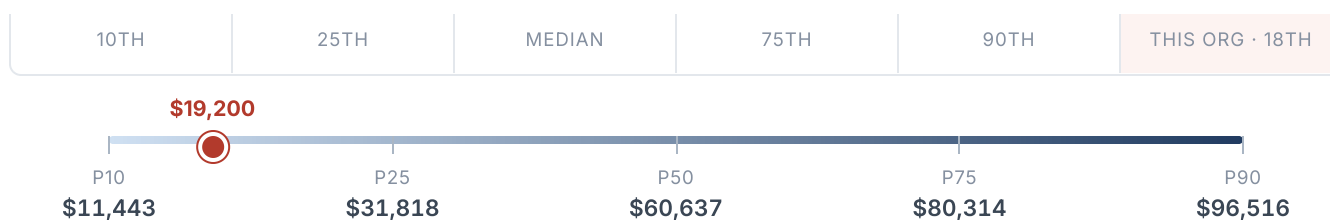
- SECTOR Organizations sharing the subject's NTEE classification (S300).
- BUDGET Total revenue between \$127,789 and \$286,095 — 0.67x to 1.50x the subject's \$190,730 (the band tightens as size grows).
- GEOGRAPHY Same NTEE sector (S30), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5x revenue.

98 organizations qualified on sector, size, and geography → **98** within the band form the benchmarked peer set.

Distribution of comparable compensation



\$11,443	\$31,818	\$60,637	\$80,314	\$96,516	\$19,200
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■ 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 DE 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
Keyah Advanced Rural Manufacturing Alliance	NM	\$190,416	Chief Executive Officer	\$60,500	\$66,456	2024
Chautauqua Opportunities For	NY	\$191,315	Ceo	\$20,241	\$18,680	2024
Foodworks Alliance Llc	OH	\$195,468	Executive Di	\$34,678	\$38,619	2023
Catalyst Community Capital Inc	FL	\$195,564	Ceo / Board Member	\$11,002	\$10,867	2023
Emancipation Economic Development Council	TX	\$198,287	Executive Director	\$93,674	\$95,698	2024
The Quilt Corporation Nfp Inc	IL	\$183,028	President	\$11,700	\$11,747	2024
Sustain Blaine Inc	ID	\$182,961	Executive Director	\$110,000	\$119,508	2024
Gallatin Valley Foundation For Economic	MT	\$182,243	Executive Dir	\$12,546	\$13,812	2024
Twin Cities Innovation Alliance	MN	\$181,975	Founder Board Member	\$71,030	\$69,832	2025
Healthy Neighborhood Enterprises	VA	\$200,019	Executive Director	\$65,337	\$66,332	2023
Perris Community Economic Development Co	CA	\$200,227	Chief Executive Director	\$27,674	\$25,126	2023
Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation	CO	\$178,950	Executive Director	\$80,000	\$78,343	2024
California Urban Partnership	CA	\$178,480	President & Ceo	\$82,000	\$74,450	2023
Crazy Love Africa	CO	\$203,713	Executive Director	\$11,000	\$11,090	2023
Southeastern Vermont Economic	VT	\$176,768	Executive Director	\$4,455	\$4,715	2023

ORGANIZATION	STATE	REVENUE	MATCHED TITLE	COMP (REPORTED)	COMP (ADJUSTED)	FY
Montana West Economic Development	MT	\$205,356	President/ceo	\$11,287	\$12,426	2024
Retail Advancement Fund	VA	\$175,000	President/ceo	\$21,211	\$20,916	2024
Stanly County Convention And Vistiors Bureau Inc	NC	\$206,625	Director	\$50,977	\$52,407	2025
Common Wealth Inc	OH	\$208,039	Executive Director	\$34,698	\$37,533	2024
Circular Philadelphia	PA	\$173,164	Board Member	\$38,556	\$40,428	2023
Old Town Commercial Association	MI	\$208,424	Executive Director	\$66,308	\$69,898	2024
Northwest Wisconsin Economic	WI	\$208,540	Fiscal Manager	\$44,333	\$47,285	2024
Gateway South Innovation District	MO	\$209,054	President	\$63,747	\$70,992	2023
Downtown Hays Development Corporation	KS	\$171,029	Executive Director	\$63,414	\$72,033	2023
Elwood Community Development Corporation	IN	\$210,909	Executive Director	\$7,097	\$7,644	2024

Comp (reported) is the figure on each organization's Form 990 (columns D + F); **Comp (adjusted)** normalizes it to DE cost of living and 2024 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 DE 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.

■ Sample, role match & sensitivity

PEER COUNT 98 organizations. Compensation range \$2,321–\$177,943; filing years 2023–2025.

SIZE BASIS Matched on total revenue (\$190,730); for reference, expenses \$178,708 and assets \$1,045,290.

ROLE MATCH	Ed Cranston, reported title " <i>Dockmaster</i> ", benchmarked as Executive Director / CEO. Selected as the organization's highest-paid individual without an exact title match — the board should confirm this is a comparable 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	2 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	18 th
Total compensation (D + F), as reported (no adjustments)	17 th
Reportable pay only (column D), adjusted	28 th
All sources (D + E + F), adjusted	10 th

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 (Ed Cranston) 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 98 similarly situated organizations (Same NTEE sector (S30), nationwide + budget 0.67–1.5× revenue).
3. The authorized body determined that total compensation of \$19,200 is reasonable (approximately the 18th 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.