

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Economic Development Partnership”



Attracting businesses to your community is a complicated process and it takes more than one person or group to make it work.

Courtney Klein-Faust, the city of Norfolk's economic development director, works with municipalities, community groups, businesses and private entities to encourage new business development and support existing businesses in the area.

The city's economic development goals include job retention and creation, expansion of labor markets in the region, capital investment attraction to broaden the tax base, and promotion of economic diversification.

In 2009 Norfolk voters approved using \$400,000 a year of property taxes to fund economic projects to attract businesses and jobs to the area. They joined 50 other communities across Nebraska who have increased economic development activity by offering low interest loans and grants through LB840 guidelines.

Interested applicants must submit their requests for the funds along with a business plan and other financial documents to the city. The City of Norfolk Economic Development subcommittee reviews those applications and then makes funding recommendations to the Norfolk City Council who ultimately approve any LB840 loans.

The city works closely with numerous organizations, including the Norfolk Area Economic Development Council, the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, area utility providers, area colleges, and even railroad companies to create a comprehensive approach to the continued development of our region.

Klein-Faust emphasized that it's not just the City of Norfolk and its many partner organizations that work on economic development. It's also the residents, schools, businesses and non-profit organizations which provide a community that people want to work and live in.

“As we work together to grow our community, we're able to provide more jobs, a larger tax base and a better quality of life for our residents,” Klein-Faust said.