



Why Invest in WIEDP?

The Western Illinois Economic Development Partnership works to build the economic base of our region, provide new jobs for our workforce, new investment in land and buildings, more dollars flowing back into the community, and an increased quality of life for our residents. Investors in WIEDP sustain the work of the Partnership because they care about our community and the future economic health of our region.

Some investors benefit directly from the work of WIEDP. Their businesses provide services and products to the companies WIEDP is encouraging to make facility and real estate investments in Warren County. Some investors benefit in a less direct way from a more prosperous marketplace, which WIEDP is working to nurture and promote. These investors benefit from the improvements to the community, which make Warren County a better base for their operations.

In addition, to these basic benefits that stand to be gained by investing in economic development, there are several other advantages that investing in the Partnership can provide.

Advocacy

As Warren County's premier association for economic development, WIEDP represents business interests at all levels of government. WIEDP works to ensure that government affairs, environmental, transportation, zoning, and other community issues are addressed on behalf of the business community. In addition, WIEDP monitors statewide legislative action, provides members with information from state and national business organizations, and updates members on local, state, and federal government issues impacting business.

Business Retention & Expansion Support

WIEDP strives to ensure the success of businesses in Warren County, and can assist when organizations are ready to expand in a variety of ways. WIEDP can provide assistance in working with governmental agencies, identifying financing options, and providing resource referrals. Continual support is also offered through WIEDP's Business Retention and Expansion Program.

Information Resource

WIEDP is an excellent resource for information regarding Warren County, as WIEDP is often the first point of contact for site selectors interested in our area. All members are encouraged to utilize WIEDP as a resource for information on the labor force, government, quality of life, economic indicators, and sites available for development in Warren County. The WIEDP website contains much of this information, as well as a searchable business database for Warren County, and is a valuable reference tool. Visit us at www.wiedp.org.

Resource Referral

Through an extensive local and regional network, WIEDP is knowledgeable about available business development tools and resources available to local entrepreneurs, business owners, and organizations. Connecting our investors with these valuable options allows for informed decisions and increased rates of success. WIEDP fields inquiries from civic groups, non-profit associations, businesses, education, and government sectors, providing a valuable resource capacity for the Warren County area.

Community Involvement

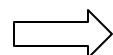
All of our members will have the opportunity to be active and visible in the community as well as have a voice in the direction of economic development in Warren County, if they so choose. There are several different forms of involvement available through WIEDP membership, including serving on the board of directors or a community task force. In addition, interested members can sign up to share their experiences regarding doing business in Warren County and describe the services they have to offer prospects. This can be done by going on recruiting trips with WIEDP to talk with another person or business, speaking at engagements, or by being featured on the WIEDP website or newsletter. WIEDP membership provides an excellent way to get involved and make new connections on local committees.

Networking Opportunities

Make new business contacts and heighten your company's visibility through the many networking opportunities provided by WIEDP membership. This is a great way to meet potential customers, clients, and vendors. Networking opportunities include WIEDP sponsored meetings and seminars, the WIEDP annual luncheon, notification of events and forums around the area, and opportunities to serve on committees impacting local topics of interest.

Invest in a healthy economy

WIEDP serves as the only economic development entity for Warren County. As local businesses and community members invest in WIEDP, they are in turn making a smart and sound investment in the future of their community, business, quality of life, and business climate.



Workforce Development

A quality workforce is a crucial element in attracting and retraining business, and as the economic development entity for Warren County, WIEDP works to train and cultivate a first-rate workforce. This task is accomplished via the Prairie Tech Learning Center, which was created and is managed by WIEDP. The Learning Center provides certified technology training opportunities to the area's workforce, in order to allow them to compete to today's changing job market and has a regional network of training providers to customize training programs for our business community.

Matching Funds – Maximize your Investment!

Investing in the work of WIEDP not only promotes the economic health and prosperity of the region, it is also the only economic development option that allows your investment to go twice as far! Through a cooperative agreement with University of Illinois Extension, investments in economic development through WIEDP will be matched by U of I Extension, based on a percentage formula – pending the State of Illinois budget process. By investing in WIEDP you can allow us to capture additional money for investment into Warren County's economic health, future, and quality of life. This tremendous endorsement of WIEDP's program of work from a highly respected institution such as University of Illinois, illustrates WIEDP's integrity, credibility, and commitment to the prosperity of Warren County.

Investment FAQ's

Why should I invest in WIEDP?

To invest in the community that you belong to by creating and sustaining a strong economic environment. In addition to helping further our mission of economic and community development, which serves to better the Warren County area as a whole, there are many exclusive investor benefits that are listed in the investor benefits chart.

How long is an investment commitment?

You can customize your investment to best fit your needs by choosing a one, two or three-year commitment.

What does WIEDP do for the community?

By promoting economic and community development, WIEDP improves our community through growth, strength, and increased prosperity. Every new household attracted to the area by jobs expands our labor force, helps housing construction and property values of homes, improves the tax base and encourages the expansion of educational opportunities. Investment and jobs assist in making Warren County economically strong and competitive, helping us be perceived as a proactive, progressive, and prospering community. All of these improvements lead to additional cultural and lifestyle opportunities for our residents, and a higher quality of life.

Won't bringing in more businesses just increase my competition?

No. The larger our economic base becomes in Warren County, the better off the community is as a whole. The more businesses that come to the area, the larger everyone's customer base becomes. WIEDP is working to expand the economic pie, and local businesses will simply be competing for a bigger slice.

How does WIEDP implement their program of work?

WIEDP implements four main strategies to carry out our plan of work:

- Business Retention & Expansion
- Business Attraction & Development
- Community Improvement
- Program Oversight and Investor Relations

(For a detailed list of activities that fall under each of these categories, please see the WIEDP strategic plan.)

What are a few examples of how WIEDP executes their program of work?

- Proactively works to attract new business developments viable for our community, such as wind farm developments.
- Maintains a searchable database of available sites and properties in Warren County through the Location One Information System.
- Obtains business leads and advice through relationships with corporate real estate consultants.
- Conducts business retention and expansion visits with existing companies to survey needs and seek avenues of providing assistance.
- Created and manages Prairie Tech Learning Center in order to provide customized technology training to the area's workforce.
- Plays a major leadership role in advocating for a completed four lane highway between Monmouth, IL and Burlington, IA to policy makers through involvement with the Highway 34 Coalition.
- Markets Monmouth, IL and Warren County as part of a regional logistics corridor that is ideal for new business locations through the BNSF US Route 34 Logistics Corridor, the only community marketing effort within the BNSF system.
- Provides up-to-date regional information through the WIEDP (www.wiedp.org) and Warren County (www.warrencountyil.com) websites.
- Obtained recognition for Monmouth's downtown as a National Historic Commercial District.
- Accomplished Monmouth making the list of "Top 21 Intelligent Communities World-Wide" for technology planning efforts.
- Provides economic and community development services to the villages in Warren County, coordinating with their local officials to address the needs most important to each individual community.
- Utilizes grant writing dexterity to apply for programs which advance our community, such as the \$30,000 grant obtained to assist with roof repairs for the Warren County Courthouse.