



Biography

James Grunke
President and CEO

James Grunke joined the Missoula Economic Partnership as president and CEO in April 2012 after serving as the organization's interim CEO. Grunke began his involvement with Missoula economic development efforts in early 2010 as a project director with National Community Development Services (NCDS). In his role with NCDS he helped facilitate fundraising and strategic direction for the Best Place Project — the initiative that would become the Missoula Economic Partnership.

As a consultant with NCDS and through his previous work with economic development organizations, Grunke has experience working with both nonprofit and local government economic development organizations. Grunke believes that his most successful and rewarding professional experiences to date involve working to develop the climate for successful entrepreneurship and strengthening and building communities. In addition to his experience in Missoula with NCDS, Grunke managed successful economic development engagements in Cody, Wyo.; Modesto, Calif.; Great Falls, Mont.; and Tacoma, Wash.

Prior to joining NCDS, Grunke served as director of the Boise Valley Economic Partnership (BVEP), a separately funded division of the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce that is driven by a partnership of communities, institutions, chamber organizations and businesses in the Boise Valley. Before serving as director of BVEP, which offers services and site location assistance to entrepreneurs in the Boise area, Grunke for two years was its manager of economic development policy. In that position, Grunke worked on the highly successful Valley Initiative for Prosperity campaign, which raised \$5 million to market the Boise area. Also at BVEP, Grunke managed all entrepreneur and venture capital efforts, attracting millions of dollars in capital investment to the state of Idaho.

Before joining BVEP Grunke served as the director of Idaho's Washington County Economic Development Commission, working in partnership with the Idaho Department of Commerce to develop and implement business expansion, business relations and development programs.

Grunke holds a B.S. in finance from the University of Idaho, a B.S. in political science and a master's degree in public affairs from Boise State University.