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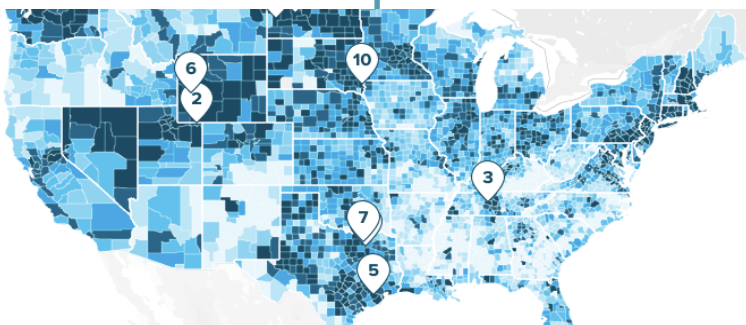
Contact Us

Grant County Economic Development Council

6594 Patton Blvd NE | Moses Lake, WA 98837 | Phone 509.764.6579

brant@grantedc.com | nic@grantedc.com

allan.peterson@wsbdc.org | rebecca@grantedc.com



Grant County Cost of Living Index Q4 2020 Update

The Grant County EDC's website has been updated with new COLI information for Q4 of 2020, as well as updated statistics for each information page.

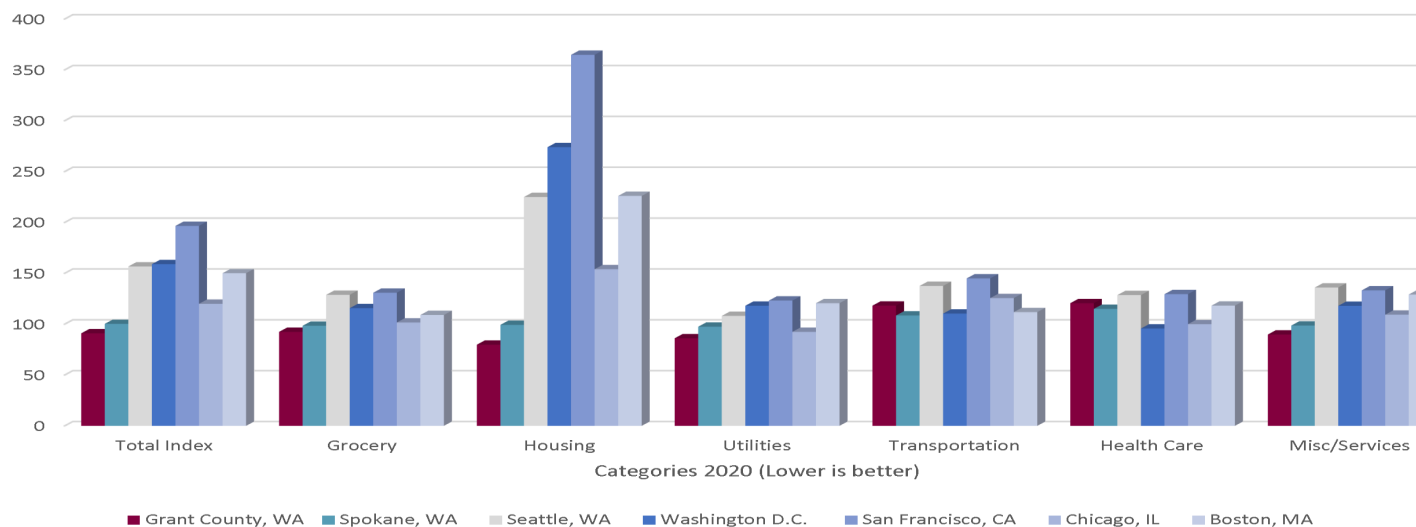
These new statistics were only just released and we urge you to take a look on our website to see all our changes at www.grantedc.com!

With our COLI work, we also have updated information on how Grant County compares to areas around the country as well as the surrounding areas of Washington State.

For instance, Grant County's Cost of Living Index is **60%** lower than the Seattle area. These statistics coupled with our beautiful areas, cooperative community and cheap power all help to make Grant County look like a great place to start or expand a business. For instance, we can see that Grant County fares considerably better than other surrounding areas in terms of Housing, Utilities and Grocery.

Congratulations to Grant County in our continuing trend to being one of the most beautiful and affordable places to live!

2020 Annual Cost of Living General Comparison



New SBDC Partnerships

The SBDC (Small Business Development Center) for Washington State has new partnerships with WSU, Washington Department of Agriculture and Washington Department of Commerce

Allan Peterson with the SBDC at the Grant EDC and the Washington SBDC network is partnering with the WA departments of Agriculture and Commerce as well as WSU in order to help find buyers for Grant County wineries and breweries.

This is possible with the help of the Washington Dept of Agriculture and their in country contractor in Mexico City. The contractor will arrange for 5 to 7 meetings with each producer. This is a state wide project that includes 3 Grant county wineries and a brewery.

"Covid 19 has affected these businesses, as others, terribly in the last year" according to SBDC director Allan Peterson. "This is a way to find buyers in foreign countries to help with sales outlets." The WA SBDC applied for a grant from the SBA at the request of Allan Peterson. The grant allows for the collaboration

with WSU, Department of Agriculture and Department of Commerce to arrange for business to business meetings virtually. Samples of products have been shipped to Mexico for the buyers to taste and discuss their needs for the Grant County producers.

The meetings are scheduled for **February 25th** and **March 4th**.



Wastewater Infrastructure in Mattawa

The Port of Mattawa is working to expand and improve the infrastructure of its Wastewater Treatment System to accommodate the increasing growth of the wine grape crushing/bulk wine-making industry in central Washington as well as support other food processing in the Mattawa area.



Funding for Phase 4 of the Port of Mattawa's Infrastructure Improvement Project will go directly to the new wastewater infrastructure.

Over **30** different organizations sent letters of support for Mattawa to allow the funding request's approval.

In addition to accommodating the wineries locally, these improvements will also better enable the Port of Mattawa to safely water crops with a focus on environmentally sustainable manner.

Lars Leland, Executive Director of the Port of Mattawa was quoted saying: "The Port of Mattawa has become a leading location for wine grape crushing and bulk wine-making in the Pacific Northwest, and the Port is working to continue to improve its wastewater treatment infrastructure to keep up with this very important value-added agriculture-industry."



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JR Newhouse Co., PLLP
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Martin Morris Agency
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Northwest Farm Credit Services
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Port of Hartline
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