

Dawn Espe, Regional Development Planner

Dawn is responsible for the annual planning grant through the Economic Development Administration (EDA). In conjunction with the CREDS Strategy Committee and the CREDS Governing Body, she develops and recommends overall economic strategies and objectives and is responsible for completing the Comprehensive Regional Economic Development Strategy plan (CREDS) on a five-year cycle. She also implements programs of economic and community development assistance to local units of government and businesses to improve the overall economic vitality of the Region Five service area.

Dawn oversees the Artplace America grant, which focuses on aligning arts and culture with other economic development initiatives such as local foods through the Sprout Marketplace in Little Falls. In addition to the ongoing grants, she works alongside partners at National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) to assist in the creation of comprehensive plans for local units of government, as well as assists with grant writing for NJPA's Innovation Funding grants.

Dawn holds a Master's Degree in Education from the University of MN, Duluth. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree from Mankato State University in Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services with an emphasis in Event Planning and an emphasis in Natural Resource Management.