

JULIE A. HOLSTROM

DIRECTOR OF PROJECTS

ABOUT

As the Director of Projects, Julie has been with the Worcester Business Development Corporation (WBDC) for over 15 years. During her tenure, Julie has successfully administered over \$15 million in grant funds from local, state and federal agencies.

In Julie's position, she works closely with the organization's Executive Vice President on management of the WBDC's projects as well oversight of fee-for-service contracts. Julie has extensive knowledge of municipal and state governments, economic development, and has an expertise in grant writing and administration, government relations and project management. Her ability to secure funding for projects and assist in navigating a wide range of development issues allows her to manage projects in an effective and efficient manner.



Julie's development portfolio consists of oversight of the remediation, demolition and redevelopment of several properties in the City of Worcester, most recently including the redevelopment of a 46-acre portion of the former Worcester State Hospital for the purpose of establishing a new biomanufacturing hub, known as The Reactory. Julie has also played a key role in the current redevelopment of the Saint Gobain property, assisting in securing a \$2 million grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for the purposes of remediating the property and placing it back into a productive use within the community.

Julie manages several fee-for-service projects throughout Central Massachusetts, including the Southbridge Innovation Center and Mercantile Center. These projects encompass a wide array of services, from grant writing and government relations to project administration and coordinating with various consultant teams to ensure the success of these projects.

As someone that is passionate about Downtown Worcester, Julie is the Chair of the Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District (BID). As one of the founding stakeholders of this organization, Julie worked closely with other Downtown community members to assist in establishing the BID in 2018 and has been an integral part of the BID renewal that is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2023.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining the WBDC, Julie worked as a Project Manager in the City of Worcester's Office of Economic Development where she was instrumental in the implementation of the City's first expedited permitting program. Julie also served as a Legislative Director in the Massachusetts State Senate for several years. In this capacity, Julie developed legislation, as well as integrated district-specific and programmatic funding requests into the state budget.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Julie earned her bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in public service from Providence College, a graduate certificate in Women in Politics and Public Policy from UMass Boston, and Master in Public Administration from Clark University. In 2016, Julie was recognized by the Worcester Business Journal as a "40 Under 40" honoree.

A Shrewsbury resident, Julie volunteers as a member of the Shrewsbury Development Corporation and is the Clerk for the Shrewsbury Planning Board. Julie also serves as a representative with the Southern Worcester County Economic Development Organization, representing the WBDC. Julie is a Corporator with the Central MA YWCA and serves on the organization's Policy Committee.

In her free time, Julie enjoys cooking with her husband, watching her daughter on the softball field, traveling and running.

