

Executive Search

conducted by:



Next Move Group
We Are Jobs

September 2026



SEARCH FOR: VICE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



www.thenextmovegroup.com/stpete

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

St. Petersburg is in the heart of the Tampa Bay region. Tampa Bay is the 17th largest metro in the U.S.A with 3.5 million and growing population. St. Pete has grown into a vibrant, world-class city with thriving innovation, business, and arts environments that make us a world-class city worth exploring.

ST. PETE IS HOME TO INNOVATION ON EVERY FRONT:

- Technology and financial services leaders have developed a thriving Tech and SaaS Ecosystem downtown.
- Startups and entrepreneurs thrive in urban co-working spaces and Class-A office space nestled throughout the city's vibrant streets.
- Marine and life science institutions conduct important studies in our waters.
- Specialized & defense manufacturing thrive in St. Pete.



Here's the quick read on St. Pete,
but you'll have to visit
to really *feel the vibe here.*



**Easily accessible by
air, land, and sea**



An international flight destination:

150+ nonstop flights
to/from St. Pete

Tampa International Airport (TPA)
25 min. NE of downtown

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE)
15 min. N of downtown

Albert Whitted Charter & Private Airport
Downtown St. Pete



From I-75 to **Florida's largest port**,
our iconic bridges and marinas help
make St. Pete an easy stop for drivers
and boaters.

Tampa Bay Region

10%
Population
growth by 2030



18TH
Largest Metro
in the U.S.

Diverse population

20%
Black

6%
Asian/Multiracial
& Other

9%
Hispanic

66%
White



3.5 million
in the Tampa Bay Region

1 million
in Pinellas County

St. Pete | **The Sunshine City**



5TH
Largest city in Florida

265K+
People

#5 Large city in America
to start a business

Top choice for young professionals

30,000+ highly skilled graduates
each year from nearby
higher-ed institutions

80% of Tampa Bay residents
aged 25-64 are working or
actively seeking work

42%
Bachelor's Degree
compared to 35% nationwide

15%
Graduate Degree



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Affordable place to live and work

At the state level, Florida has:



NO personal income tax
Second-lowest tax
collections per capita **#4**
Business tax climate,
after WY, SD & AK

Home to Fortune 500 Companies

RAYMOND JAMES

JABIL  **TD SYNEX**

The Tampa Bay metro area is second only to Miami
in Fortune 500 headquarters in Florida.



\$75,000

Median
household income

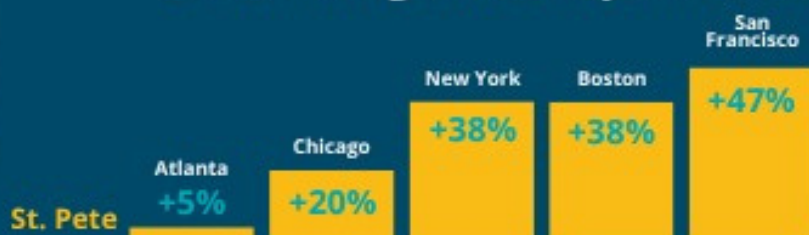
\$374,000

Average
single-family home

\$2,150

Median
monthly rent

Cost of living rivals major metros:



Average commute time
26.6 minutes



5

professional
sports teams



Sun & Fun by the Mile



361 Days
of sunshine
a year

244 MILES
of shoreline
in St. Pete



12+ Museums
3.6 per mile
downtown

7 Miles
of waterfront
downtown
7 beaches
nearby



Zero
snow days

What will your company
become when you

Become St. Pete?

✉ hello@becomestpete.com

☎ 727-767-0209

🌐 becomestpete.com



Many thanks for support from the Duke Energy Foundation! The Duke Energy Economic Development Grant Program makes strategic investments to build powerful communities that attract business investment and jobs, where residents and businesses thrive, and a talented workforce drives economic prosperity for all. Duke Energy is committed to the economic vitality of Florida communities, advancing the state's prosperity, and transforming the future.

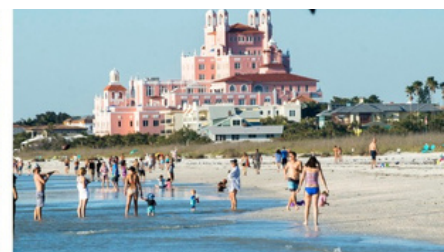
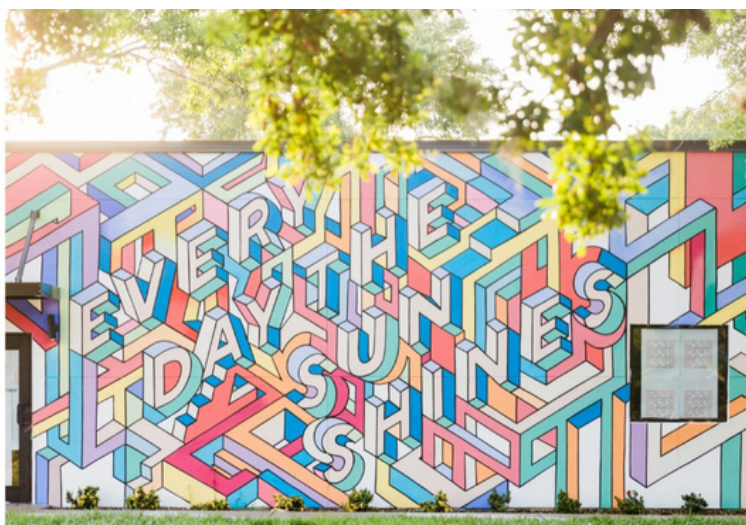
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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

SUNSHINE CITY LIVING:

With 361 days of sunshine and average temps of 72°–82° year-round, it's no wonder St. Pete is a favorite for visitors worldwide.

But St. Petersburg is more than a vacation stop...it's an award-winning place to live, loved by artists, innovators, researchers, and hard workers alike. Diversity is the foundation of our community, and our culture welcomes every age, background, and lifestyle.



WATERFRONT MUSEUM DISTRICT:

The Waterfront Museum District attracts visitors from all over the United States and overseas to its Salvador Dali museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the St. Petersburg Museum of History.

CENTRAL ARTS DISTRICT:

In the Central Arts District, the world's first permanent Dale Chihuly collection presented by the Morean Arts Center, Florida Holocaust Museum, and the Florida CraftArt Museum are within walking distance

ARTS AND CULTURE

Whether it's a mural on a building or a product launch at a local brewery, St. Pete is a place where creativity thrives. With seven arts districts, 12+ world-class museums, and home to the Florida Orchestra, there's always something to see.

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QUALITY OF LIFE

Recreation: St. Pete has one of the largest waterfront park systems in the nation and over 150 parks in the city. The community's paddling trails, cycling trails, scores of recreation centers, and sports leagues keep people moving in the year round sunshine.



Cycling:

PinellasCounty is home to the largest network of cycling and pedestrian trails in the Southeast. Ride or walk The Pinellas Trail, 36 miles of former railroad from downtown St. Pete all the way to the north of Pinellas

Bicycle lanes, recreational trails, sidewalks, and routes for non motorized vehicles connect St. Pete's neighborhoods. St. Pete's bike-sharing program has positioned 300 rental bikes in 30+ locations.

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QUALITY OF LIFE

Healthcare: St. Petersburg is home to high quality health care options for all stages of life, from an award-winning birthing center to vibrant assisted-living communities. St. Pete also offers seven hospitals and hundreds of independent providers that offer wide ranging medical expertise.



Seven hospitals are in St. Pete, and many more in neighboring cities. St. Pete is home to the world-class Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Pediatric Trauma Center and the Orlando Health St. Petersburg Level II Trauma Center.



- Bay Pines VA Headquarters offers community-based outpatient care in St. Pete and eight other nearby cities. Bay Pines Healthcare System serves some 108,000 veterans a year.
- St. Anthony's, St. Petersburg General Hospital, Northside Hospital, and HCA Florida Pasadena Hospital offer many specialties to the St. Pete community, including emergency care. Kindred Hospital offers direct admission from home and skilled nursing facilities.

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



Housing:

St.Pete is characterized by 260 miles of waterfront property and offers an attractive quality of life along Florida's Gulf Coast. The median sales price for a home in St. Petersburg is \$449,775 (Redfin, July 2026).

From historic to contemporary, urban to suburban, and everything in between, St. Pete's housing diversity means there is a perfect home for everyone. The neighborhoods of Historic Old Northeast and Old Southeast, with their brick and tree-lined streets, Craftsman-style homes, well-loved gardens, and welcoming porches are just a short walking or cycling distance to downtown and the waterfront while Historic Kenwood, to the west of downtown, is only a short drive.

If renting is your preference, the rental market in St. Petersburg is thriving, with opportunities ranging from modern apartment complexes to single family homes. Many rental communities feature shared in- and outdoor amenities to support the Florida lifestyle: pools, grills, and communal outdoor spaces. There is a rental option to suit every budget, and lifestyle throughout the city.

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WORKFORCE & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

St. Pete is comprised of skilled workers who are invested in building their careers and community. The regional workforce is diverse in their backgrounds, skills, and experiences. Whether you're looking for eager entry-level employees to learn the ropes, experienced executives to enhance your operations, or anything in between.

Fueled by nationally recognized higher education institutions, a low cost of living, and ample opportunity, St. Pete attracts top-tier talent from all over the country. The region has over 100,000 college students graduating each year (30,000 annually).



ECKERD COLLEGE



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PK-12 EDUCATION

Pinellas County Schools is the seventh largest district in Florida with 150 schools including magnets, career academies, adult education centers, and its own virtual school program.

Career and Technical Programs:

Pinellas County Schools offers dozens of career-focused programs, along with nearly 70 career-preparation programs through its technical colleges. The district currently has 50 career academies in various stages of implementation, providing students with opportunities to earn industry certifications, pursue postsecondary education, and prepare for entry into high-demand careers.

93.4% *2024-25's graduation rate was the highest in Pinellas County Schools' history at 93.4%.*

Private school options include:

Shorecrest
SINCE 1923




CANTERBURY
SCHOOL OF FLORIDA

**ADMIRAL
FARRAGUT
ACADEMY**

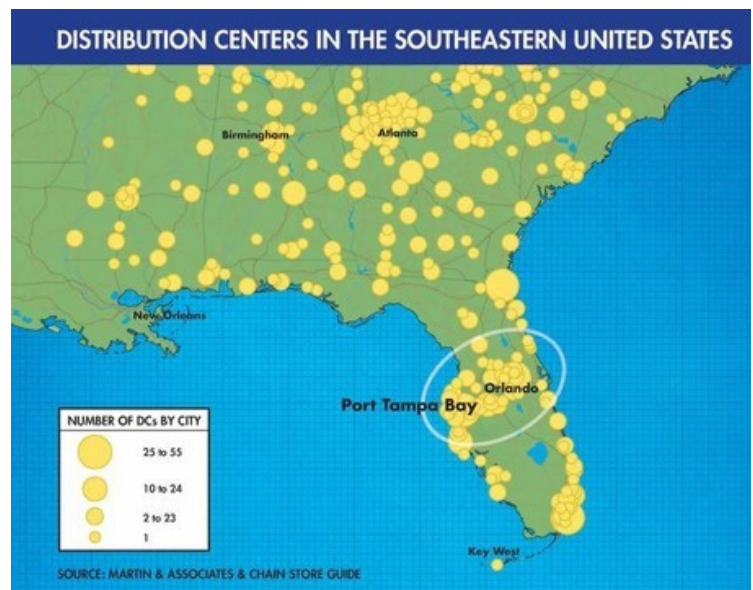


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TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS

Interstates:

The 1-4 Corridor is the gateway into and out of the Tampa Bay Region and a major east - west connection in our transportation network. Spanning from Tampa to Orlando, the 1-4 Corridor links the Tampa Bay region to the remainder of the state and nation. The 1-4 corridor in recent years has become one of the largest concentration of distribution centers in the Southeast, rivaling Atlanta.



Air:



St. Pete- Clearwater International (PIE) is located on Tampa Bay, north of St. Petersburg and sits on 1,900 acres. It has a 9,750-foot runway and a 6,000-foot runway and offers 62 non-stop flights by Allegiant and Sun Country.

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TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS

Tampa International Airport is consistently ranked among the world's top airports. With some of the shortest TSA wait times in the country and convenient access to the Westshore Business District and downtown Tampa, TPA makes doing business in St. Pete easy.

- Average of 215 daily departures, over 100 non-stop flights to domestic and international destinations and service to all major US hubs.
- Conveniently located on the prime I-4 warehouse, distribution, and logistics corridor.
- Easy access to Latin America and Europe from Tampa International Airport and exporting opportunities from Port Tampa Bay.

2ND *Ranked second in passenger satisfaction among large airports in North America by J.D. Power (2025)*

8TH *Tampa International Airport ranks eighth among the Best Domestic Airports by Travel + Leisure (2026)*



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EXISTING INDUSTRY

St. Petersburg attracts everyone from startups and small businesses to Fortune 500 companies. Business leaders from all industries and company sizes are drawn here for the same reasons; unique opportunities for business development, financial and tax incentives, and an unmatched sense of community and camaraderie. **These companies are just a few of the many businesses that call our city home and are working to shape St. Pete's future.**

Some of our existing industries:

Cornerstone	 
Trustee	              
Leadership	           
Ambassador	                                                 

SOME OF OUR TARGET INDUSTRIES



FINANCIAL SERVICES

With a Fortune 500 superstar like Raymond James as a lodestone, companies from Dynasty Financial Services to Cathie Wood's ARK Invest have chosen to ride the wave of financial services companies relocating to St. Pete. Florida is home to the 3rd largest cluster of insurance and banking companies in the US, and financial services is one of the largest employment sectors in St. Petersburg. St. Pete also is emerging as a fintech hub of excellence, driven by USF's new Fintech Center and the Tampa Bay Wave Fintech|X Accelerator.



MARINE & LIFE SCIENCES

St. Pete has the largest marine and environmental sciences community in the Southeast, anchored by NOAA and the Florida Institute of Oceanography along with major employers like Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. Many of these are in the St. Pete Innovation District, including the Maritime & Defense Hub. Polestar, a maritime intelligence tech company that relocated to St. Pete in 2020, is one of the anchor tenants.



SPECIALIZED MANUFACTURING

Although Jabil, one of the world's largest manufacturers has its HQ in St. Pete, many are surprised to learn that Pinellas County manufacturers employ the 3rd highest number of manufacturing employees in the state of Florida, primarily in electronics and medical device manufacturing. American Fibertek, which relocated its HQ to St. Pete in 2020, manufactures superior fiber solutions for security applications.

Example: Haddy INC - An AI 3D manufacturing company located its HQ in St. Pete in 2024



CREATIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

St. Pete is a Southeastern mecca for the arts. Our community of visual and performing institutions and artists is an economic driver for the city. St. Pete's artistic culture also draws creative businesses like marketing/advertising tech firm iSocrates and live broadcast production firm CP Communications, both of which relocated their HQs to St. Pete in 2019, and global creative agency BNO Inc., which launched innovative offshoot BNO Creative Labs here in 2020. Retail media tech company CitrusAd opened its HQ for the Americas in the Sunshine City in 2021 and expanded into new space in 2022.

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ABOUT THE POSITION

St. Petersburg Economic Development Corporation is seeking a qualified Vice President of Economic Development to extend our global reach through expert discovery and exploration of new and untapped business opportunities and relationships.

Our ideal candidate will be trusted to dive right in, use initiative, and help recruit and retain businesses.

Highly skilled at sales and business operations, this person will join and inspire a team of like-minded go-getters to achieve St. Pete's vision.



OUR IDEAL CANDIDATE

- A dynamic, results-driven leader with a passion for economic development.
- A strong relationship builder who connects easily with businesses, investors, and community partners.
- A strategic thinker who can turn opportunities into successful projects.
- A collaborative leader who thrives in a team-oriented environment.
- An effective communicator who can confidently represent the St. Petersburg Area.
- A proactive, motivated professional who takes initiative and follows through.



5 Professional Sports Teams



Tampa Bay
Rays
MLB



Tampa Bay
Buccaneers
NFL



Tampa Bay
Lightning
NHL



Tampa Bay
Rowdies
USL
Championship



Tampa Bay
Sun FC
USL
Super League

#1 BEACH IN THE U.S.
St. Pete Beach



QUALIFICATIONS: KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, & ABILITIES

- Bachelor's degree in economic development, marketing, business/public administration or a related field.
- 5+ years of experience in economic development, business development, and corporate relocation assistance and expansion.
- Proven experience in business recruitment, retention, and expansion.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Experience responding to RFPs/RFIs and managing site selection projects.
- Proficiency with data analysis, forecasting, and budgeting.
- Experience working directly with site selectors, corporate executives, and economic development partners.
- Ability to travel.



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ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

The St. Petersburg Area Economic Development Corporation is a public-private partnership dedicated to attracting, retaining, and expanding businesses in St. Petersburg. The organization promotes St. Pete as a premier destination for innovative companies while connecting businesses with resources, talent, and partnerships needed to grow and succeed. Through its work, the EDC helps generate new jobs, investment, and economic opportunity throughout the community.



ST.PETE IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

#2

*Tampa-St. Pete-Clearwater
Best Metro for New Grads
(2026)*

TOP 5

*Best City in America
to Start a Business
(2026)*

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HOW TO APPLY

Submit a cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references.

To apply, visit www.thenextmovegroup.com/stpete, or email
liv@thenextmovegroup.com

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

Salary: \$100,000

commensurate with experience + bonus
program & competitive benefits package



QUESTIONS?

Contact:

Alivia Tipton

(800) 764-3105

liv@thenextmovegroup.com

REFERENCES & BACKGROUND CHECKS

Finalists for the position will undergo
background checks that may include:

- Criminal records
- Driving records
- Education completion
- Personality profile assessments
- Drug testing
- Professional references

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The St. Petersburg Area Economic Development Corporation is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act (ADAAA), the St. Petersburg Area Economic Development Corporation will provide reasonable accommodations, upon reasonable request, to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective employees and incumbents to discuss potential accommodations with the employer.