

CWCOG

COWLITZ-WAHKIAKUM
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Recruitment Announcement

Economic Development Planner

"Working together to enhance our region"



The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) located in the heart of Cowlitz County, Washington seeks motivated candidate interested in making a difference and having a positive impact on the local community and regional economy through planning and programs in the field of Economic Development.

The CWCOG is a long-range planning agency that makes numerous connections daily with federal, state, and local governments, economic development councils, non-profit agencies and organizations, and the community to address issues, attract and retain resources, and collaborates to advance the region's economic condition and strengthen its competitive advantages.

The successful candidate will be a key player in identifying and cultivating economic development opportunities within a three-county region in Southwest Washington, building relationships with and between stakeholders and board members in order to grow a common vision and strategy plan to promote and nurture opportunities within the region.

This could be you!

The CWCOG Economic Development Program

The CWCOG Economic Development Program is a long-standing agency program enacted by legislation to aide areas challenged in infusing new job markets and resources into the local economy. Federal and local funding resources enable a centralized program that encourages collaboration amongst a broad array of agencies to bring about positive and mutual gain for the region.

Through the Southwest Washington Economic Development District (SWEDD) Board the CWCOG is able to assist local agencies both public and private in growing their programs, finding resources and resolution to issues, and connecting federal and state goals with local needs.

Specifically, Economic Development Planner is charged with connecting with local partners to produce a five (5) year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) Report and annual updates, assisting area agencies with project development, identifying and implementing programs supporting Regional Economic Development, as well as aiding in the facilitation of the SWEDD.

Additionally, this position researches and monitors trends within Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Lewis counties generating a variety of data, information, grant opportunities, and resources on behalf of local jurisdictions, businesses, and the public, and collaborates with the Transportation program to aid in building a cohesive planning infrastructure.

About the Organization

The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) has been in existence for 55 years! It is a voluntary association of general and special purpose governments and agencies in the Lower Columbia region with a membership of 31 entities made up of counties, cities, school districts, utility districts, ports, fire districts, economic development councils, a community college, and other non-profit agencies in or near the Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. The Economic Development program reaches farther into Lewis County, and the Transportation program into Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties as well.



The CWCOG has one of the most vibrant, varied work programs of any COG in the Northwest with over 30 initiatives undertaken in the areas of regional and local planning, transportation, community and economic development planning, technical assistance, information services, and a wide array of contractual services.

About the Region

The CWCOG is ideally located! Work and live in the comforts of a small-city lifestyle with access to many outdoor recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, boating, mountain climbing, and skiing. With a short car or train ride, residents have access to the many cultural and large city opportunities found in the two major metropolitan areas of Seattle and Portland. The office is located in the City of Kelso just a minute or two off I-5, and is surrounded by tree-lined hills bordering the beautiful Columbia River. Cowlitz County is the 28th largest county out of 39 in Washington State covering 1,144 square miles, and is home to approximately 102,000 residents.

About the Position

Though the focus of the position is Economic Development, the position is multi-faceted. Never the same day twice. The successful candidate will be responsible not only for the CEDS, but will also engage in freight mobility, transportation and other regional planning efforts. Daily duties include research, development, analysis and/or implementation of plans and studies; working with local jurisdiction staff, committees, planning commissions and the public; and assisting with development of scopes of work for new projects and grant applications.

The CWCOG is committed to growing strong, knowledgeable employees who will aide the local community and help grow the region.

Qualifications

The successful candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree or higher in Economic Development, urban and regional planning, or related field and have three to five years experience within a planning process related to economic development.

To be considered, candidates must demonstrate strong technical and public relations skills. GIS and environmental permitting experience is preferred.



Application Process

Please see the Employment section at www.cwcog.org.

A letter of interest, application, resume, and an example of writing are required.

Applications will be considered as received. This position will remain open until filled.

\$3,398—\$4,916 per month DOQ.

Benefits include: Paid Holiday, vacation, and sick leave. Medical, dental, and vision. Long-term disability, AD&D, Life, and deferred compensation. The CWCOG participates in Washington State Dept. of Retirement and a 457b program in lieu of Social Security.