



Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Washington

PLANNER II / PLANNER III

\$57,877 - \$72,346 (PLANNER II)

\$66,043 - \$82,554 (PLANNER III)

Plus Excellent Benefits

Apply by

June 19, 2022

(First Review, Open Until Filled)



WHY APPLY?



Located in Kelso, WA, the Cowlitz - Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) serves the communities primarily within the southwest Washington counties of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum.

This Lower Columbia region is nestled between the Cascade Mountains and ocean beaches and is considered one of the Northwest's best outdoor playgrounds. Fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, boating, mountain climbing, and skiing are among the many activities one will find in Southwest Washington.

CWCOG is looking to fill multiple planning department positions. An ideal candidate will be considered a planning generalist with experience in GIS, Transportation, and/or Small City Planning. The intent is to fill both positions with titles determined by the extent of experience and qualifications. Each of these positions are distinguished by levels of experience and scope, breadth and complexity of responsibility. If you are looking for a diverse and challenging position and want to live in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, then this is the perfect opportunity for you!

THE REGION

Conveniently located between Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington on the I-5 corridor, the region offers residents a comfortable, small-city lifestyle while having access to big-city recreational and cultural opportunities. Within an hour's drive of the Pacific Coast and home to some of the most prominent mountains in the Cascade Range, residents can enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities year-round. Only an hour drive south, the City of Portland offers an international airport, chain and boutique hotels, exceptional food options, and plenty of shopping.

Cowlitz County is the 13th largest out of the 40 counties in Washington State and is home to approximately 108,950 residents. The county covers 1,166 square miles within Washington's southwestern region. Kelso is home to the county seat, and its largest city is Longview.

Wahkiakum County is the third smallest of Washington's 40 counties covering 287 square miles and lies near the mouth of the Columbia River. The area was once known as the "Timber Capital of the World" and still produces a large supply of lumber for domestic and international markets while maintaining its beautiful and scenic Northwest appeal.

THE ORGANIZATION

The Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) was established in 1961 as the Cowlitz Regional Planning Commission. In 1974, it was reorganized and renamed the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Governmental Conference and, in 1992, the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments. The agency is a voluntary association of general and special purpose governments and agencies within the Lower Columbia region. CWCOG is supported by a membership of 36 entities made up of counties, cities/towns, ports, school districts, utility districts, fire districts, economic development councils, a community college, 911 public authority, chambers, and non-profit agencies in the region.

CWCOG has a highly varied work program with initiatives undertaken in the areas of long and short-term regional and local planning, transportation and economic development planning, community development, technical assistance, and a wide array of contractual services. Financial support for CWCOG services comes from annual membership fees, project specific federal and state grants, and contractual revenues. CWCOG is a board-directed organization that meets once-a-month to oversee operations, approve policy direction, and discuss issues of importance to the region. CWCOG operates on a 2022 budget of \$1,293,207 and employs 9 FTEs.



CWCOG programs include:**Economic Development**

CWCOG collaborates with local governments, economic development councils, non-profit agencies, and the community to address issues and resources needed to advance the region's economic condition and strengthen its competitive advantages.

Transportation

The CWCOG is designated as a bi-state Metropolitan Planning Organization, comprised of the urbanized area of Longview and Kelso, Washington, and the City of Rainier, Oregon across the Columbia River. The urbanized area, originally designated as an MPO in 1982 by federal and state governments, covers an area of over 62,000 people. CWCOG is also the lead agency for the five-county Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SWRTPO) comprised of Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties.

Planning/Community Development

The CWCOG's experienced, professional planning team helps communities with short-range and long-range planning services, code updates, development review services, comprehensive planning, neighborhood and park plans, and other services requested by its members, such as document research and preparation; code and permitting assistance, grant application development, and community visioning.

THE POSITION

Accountable to the Executive Director, the Planner III classification is distinguished from other COG planning positions by end-to-end project responsibility; building and managing projects to deliver contractual products on-time, on-budget, and to quality standards. The Planner III classification may provide work direction to a project team on occasion.

Accountable to the Executive Director, the Planner II classification is distinguished from other COG planning positions by the need for specialized planning knowledge and the ability to work on moderately difficult projects with limited supervision.

[View the Planner II Job Description Here](#)

[View the Planner III Job Description Here](#)

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

The CWCOG leadership continues to strengthen and refresh partnerships, products and relationships to serve the needs of the region. With a membership of 36 agencies, making meaningful connections is crucial to the ongoing success of the organization and the regional initiatives CWCOG is engaged in. The CWCOG Executive Director is looking for staff with abilities to aid in refreshing the agency's approaches, strengthening its relationships, and partnering with leadership to build more effective collaboration amongst stakeholders. Bringing new, innovative ideas forward and laying the foundation for ongoing success takes creativity, energy, vision and commitment from CWCOG's staff and members. Engaging in long and short-range planning in an ever-changing environment requires big-picture vision with the ability to promote incremental changes for the benefit of the region. The ideal candidate will also be able to hit the ground running in order to meet grant deadlines.

IDEAL CANDIDATE**Education and Experience:**

A Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning or a similar field, and three (3) to five (5) years of planning experience is required. Experience related to urban or regional plans, comprehensive plans, economic development, transportation, or community development is a plus. Candidates must have or obtain a valid Washington State driver's license.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate strong generalist skills, and project leadership experience including requisite planning, organizational and people skills.



Necessary Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with state and local agency members, planning staff and the community.
- Ability to work in a team environment to enhance the growth, development, and livability within the region.
- Ability to write clear and concise reports, documents and plans and communicate effectively both orally and in writing with individuals and groups regarding complex or controversial public policy issues or regulations.
- Experience with and enthusiasm for organizing, conducting, and participating in public meetings and hearings.
- Knowledge of and demonstrated experience with principles, practices, regulations, and techniques in at least some of the fields of housing, planning, resilience, economic development, community development, land use, environmental, transportation and other areas of planning.
- Knowledge of and experience in research methods and the ability to compile, analyze and present data in meaningful formats and mediums.
- Knowledge of and experience with geographic information systems, graphics design and public presentation methods and materials.
- Knowledge of federal and state laws, policies, guidelines, regulations, and manuals as they apply to project or program assignments.
- Ability to prepare and administer work programs, budgets, grant applications and requirements, manage and adhere to work schedules and progress reviews.

- Advanced knowledge of a functional area of planning and its relationship to the comprehensive planning process, and/or technical expertise in a functional area of the planning process and the associated methodologies and techniques.
- Skills in graphic communication and computer applications appropriate for the assigned tasks, including familiarity and experience with GIS applications.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **\$57,877 - \$72,346 (Planner II)**
- **\$66,043 - \$82,554 (Planner III)**
- Medical, dental, and vision insurance.
- AD&D insurance.
- Long-term disability.
- Eleven (11) paid holidays.
- Paid vacation and sick leave.
- Washington PERS in lieu of Social Security.
- VOYA 457(b) Plan. *(Optional)*
- Employee assistance program.
- Company wellness program.
- Part-time hybrid work environment.

**For more information,
please visit:**

www.cwco.org



CWCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **June 19, 2022** (first review, open until filled). Applications, supplemental questions, resumes, and cover letters will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to **www.prothman.com** and click on "**Open Recruitments**", select "**Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, WA – Planner II / III**", and click "**Apply Online**", or click [here](#). Resumes, cover letters, and supplemental questions can be uploaded once you have logged in.



www.prothman.com

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