



Washington

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**\$175,000 - \$210,000**

Apply by  
**August 2, 2026**  
(First Review, Open Until Filled.)

**PROTHMAN**



**WHY APPLY?**



The Walla Walla Housing Authority offers an exceptional opportunity for an experienced housing leader to guide a stable, respected, and mission-driven organization through its next chapter.

The incoming Chief Executive Officer will join an experienced team and engaged Board while helping WWHA respond to a growing need for affordable housing across Walla Walla and Columbia Counties.

This is an opportunity to lead an organization where thoughtful decisions can have a direct and lasting effect on individuals, families, seniors, veterans, and people transitioning from homelessness. The next CEO will help shape WWHA's organizational culture, strengthen succession planning, guide housing development and acquisition, continue modernizing systems, and expand the partnerships needed to support the agency's mission. For a leader who is passionate about affordable housing and wants to be closely connected to the organization, its residents, and the broader community, this position offers meaningful work, strong organizational foundations, and the ability to make a visible difference.



**THE COMMUNITY**

Located in southeastern Washington at the foot of the Blue Mountains, Walla Walla is a vibrant community of approximately 34,000 residents and the county seat of Walla Walla County, which has a population of approximately 63,800. The community blends a rich agricultural history and welcoming small-city atmosphere with outstanding dining, higher education, arts, culture, and year-round recreation. As one of Washington's oldest communities, Walla Walla features a nationally recognized historic downtown with locally owned shops, tasting rooms, art galleries, restaurants, coffee shops, and beautifully preserved architecture. The Walla Walla Valley is also home to Whitman College, Walla Walla Community College, and Walla Walla University, located in neighboring College Place, which contribute to the region's cultural vitality and provide valuable opportunities for education, workforce development, and lifelong learning.

Agriculture remains an important part of the region's identity and economy. The valley is known for wheat, barley, fruit, and the Walla Walla sweet onion, Washington's official state vegetable. It has also become one of the country's premier wine destinations, supported by a thriving culinary scene and numerous wineries, vineyards, and tasting rooms throughout the valley. Residents enjoy four distinct seasons and convenient access to outdoor recreation. Bennington Lake and the nearby Blue Mountains offer opportunities for hiking, cycling, camping, fishing, hunting, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Local parks, trails, rivers, golf courses, theaters, museums, festivals, and community events provide a wide range of activities throughout the year.

Walla Walla is approximately one hour from the Tri-Cities and is served by Walla Walla Regional Airport, which provides commercial air service to Seattle. The community offers the character and connection of a smaller city while remaining accessible to larger regional destinations.



## THE ORGANIZATION

Established by City resolution in 1972, the Housing Authority of the City of Walla Walla is an independent public corporation that administers federal, state, and privately funded housing programs throughout Walla Walla and Columbia Counties. WWHA provides affordable housing, rental assistance, and supportive services while also managing market-rate housing owned by the agency.

WWHA's mission is to create housing opportunities that enable low- to moderate-income families to prosper with dignity and respect. WWHA's vision is a community where everyone is housed. The organization carries out this work through the values of respect, integrity, compassion, fairness, trust, and accountability and is committed to advancing equity and social justice in the communities it serves.



Across its programs, WWHA serves more than 1,740 households, including families with children, individuals, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and households transitioning from homelessness. The agency currently serves approximately 600 households through its affordable housing communities and another 1,162 households through rental assistance programs.

WWHA's housing portfolio includes family and senior communities throughout its service area, with rental assistance programs administered in partnership with private landlords, which include Housing Choice Vouchers, project-based vouchers, HUD-VASH assistance for veterans, and tenant-based rental assistance. The organization continues to evaluate opportunities for new development, property acquisition, redevelopment, and partnerships that can expand or preserve affordable housing.



WWHA is governed by a Board of Commissioners, five of which are appointed by Walla Walla's Mayor to staggered five-year terms. Additionally, a Housing Choice Voucher participant is appointed by the Board to a three-year term. The Walla Walla City Manager also serves in an ex-officio capacity.

WWHA operates with an annual budget of approximately \$16 million and a staff of 42 FTEs. Departments include Administration, Finance, Housing, Family Housing Stability, and Maintenance. The organization enters this leadership transition with an experienced workforce, established community partnerships, a diverse housing portfolio, and sound financial and operational foundations.



## THE POSITION

Under the direction of the Board of Commissioners, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the administration, management, and overall performance of the Walla Walla Housing Authority. The CEO oversees the agency's housing programs, properties, finances, operations, employees, contracts, and compliance with Board policies and applicable federal, state, and local requirements.

The next CEO will be a strategic leader who is also willing to work tactically when needed. Supported by a strong finance and operations team, this individual will provide clear direction, understand the human resources needs of the organization, balance community priorities with responsible stewardship of agency resources, and keep the Board informed without surprises.

Success in this role will require knowledge of HUD and affordable housing, along with direct experience in real estate development, property acquisition, housing finance, construction, and project management. Because WWAHA is a relatively small organization, the CEO must be able to develop project scopes and guide complex work from planning and financing through construction and completion. The position also serves as a visible representative of WWAHA, strengthens external partnerships, supports succession planning and organizational culture, and advances systems and technology that improve efficiency.

The selected candidate will be expected to live within the WWAHA service region and work in-person in the Walla Walla office.

To view the position's full job description, please see the attachment provided [here](#).



## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

**Leading Through Transition and Strengthening Succession Planning:** The next CEO will guide WWAHA through an important leadership transition while building an organizational culture that supports the agency's continued success. A key priority will be succession planning, including providing direction, developing internal capacity, and ensuring that knowledge and leadership responsibilities are carried forward.

**Advancing Development and Acquisition:** Property development and acquisition will remain central to WWAHA's work. The CEO will need the experience to evaluate opportunities, develop project scopes, understand financing, and guide new construction, facility development, remodeling, and acquisition projects from concept through completion.

**Modernizing Systems and Improving Efficiency:** WWAHA is continuing to advance its use of technology and systems to improve organizational efficiency. The next CEO will identify practical opportunities to modernize processes and introduce tools that improve service, access, and day-to-day operations.

**Navigating HUD, Funding, and Financial Stewardship:** WWAHA depends on federal and state funding, grants, and complex housing finance. The next CEO must remain current on HUD programs and regulations while bringing the financial and audit knowledge needed to protect agency resources, support sound decisions, and balance community needs with available funding.

**Strengthening Board, Community, and External Partnerships:** The CEO will serve as a visible representative of WWAHA and maintain strong relationships with the Board, community partners, funding agencies, and other stakeholders. Success will require political awareness, collaboration, clear communication, and a commitment to keeping the Board informed while building trust throughout the community.



**THE IDEAL CANDIDATE**

The ideal candidate will be genuinely passionate about affordable housing and the work of the Walla Walla Housing Authority. This individual will be vision-driven, able to think strategically, and willing to become directly involved when needed. The next CEO must balance the needs of the community with responsible use of the organization's resources.

The successful candidate will bring a strong understanding of HUD programs and affordable housing finance, along with direct knowledge of real estate development and acquisition. Experience with land acquisition, new facilities, remodeling, construction, project financing, and writing project scopes will be important to leading WWHA's development work.

Strong project management, financial, and audit skills are also essential. Because WWHA cannot rely heavily on outside consultants, the CEO must be able to guide complex projects and decisions internally. The ideal candidate should understand human resources and be prepared to lead an organization of more than 40 employees while supporting succession planning and a strong organizational culture.

The next CEO will be a strong communicator and attentive listener who is open to feedback, builds trust, and provides clear direction. This individual must be able to make difficult decisions when necessary and maintain transparent communication with the Board so that emerging issues never come as a surprise.

The preferred candidate will be a collaborative leader who understands the political landscape and can serve effectively as the face of the organization. This person will build and sustain external partnerships, bring energy to the agency's housing and community work, and support practical innovation, including new systems and technology that improve efficiency.

**EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE**

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in business administration, public administration, or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience that provides the knowledge and abilities required for the position may be considered.

Candidates should have at least five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in housing management, housing agency administration, public housing development, housing finance, modernization programs, real estate development, property management, or a closely related field. Executive or senior management experience is strongly preferred.

Candidates must possess thorough knowledge of HUD programs and applicable federal, state, and local regulations, guidelines, budgeting requirements, and development processes.

Certification as a NAHRO Certified Management Executive or IREM Certified Property Manager, or an equivalent or similar professional certification, is preferred.

The successful candidate must possess or obtain a valid Washington or Oregon driver's license, maintain an acceptable driving record, and successfully complete the agency's required background-check process.



## COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **\$175,000 - \$210,000 DOQ**
- Health coverage beginning after the first full calendar month of employment. Employees contribute 20% of the monthly premium for employee-only coverage and may add dependents at their own cost through payroll deduction.
- Washington State Department of Retirement Systems Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).
- Optional participation in the Washington State Deferred Compensation Program.
- Optional Section 125 cafeteria plan that allows employees to pay eligible health insurance premiums, out-of-pocket medical expenses, and dependent-care expenses on a pre-tax basis.
- Optional AFLAC supplemental insurance available through payroll deduction.
- Generous Paid Time Off that begins accruing upon hire and may be used according to each employee's personal needs. PTO is provided in place of separate vacation, annual leave, and sick leave. PTO accrues at 21 days annually during the first four years of service, 27 days annually after five through nine years of service, and 36 days annually after ten or more years of service. Regular part-time employees accrue PTO proportionately.
- Eleven (11) paid holidays, which include: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the following day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.
- Three (3) floating holidays accrued upon hire and annually thereafter. Floating holidays must be used within the applicable calendar year.
- Monthly wellness program events.

For a full review of benefits and perks provided, please click [here](#).



**For more information on the Walla Walla Housing Authority and the local community, please visit:**

[www.wallawalla.org](http://www.wallawalla.org)

[www.wallawalla.org](http://www.wallawalla.org)

[www.wvwchamber.com](http://www.wvwchamber.com)



The Walla Walla Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **August 2, 2026** (first review, open until filled). Applications, resumes, cover letters, and supplemental questions will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to [www.prothman.com](http://www.prothman.com) and click on "Open Recruitments", select "Walla Walla Housing Authority, WA – Chief Executive Officer", and click "Apply Online", or click [here](#).



[www.prothman.com](http://www.prothman.com)

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