EMPLEYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS:

SENIOR PLANNER

To learn more about this position, go to www.yvcog.org, click on Employment.

Contribute to the Future of Yakima Valley:
The Senior Planner plays a key role in supporting regional decision makers in planning for the future of all of those that live, work, and visit Yakima Valley. It is an exciting time specific to how this region addresses land use, transportation, and human services.

QUALIFICATIONS:
A Bachelor’s degree in planning, urban development, transportation, or public administration.

Three (3) years of experience in planning and research as related to land use, transportation, or human services.
ABOUT THE YAKIMA VALLEY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS ...

Established over 50 years ago, the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (“YVCOG”) was then and is today, a group of community members who are committed to working on land use, transportation, environment and human services’ issues that impact the quality of life for the communities of the Yakima region. Yakima Valley COG serves as an intermediary between the communities it represents and the state and federal government entities that are responsible for ensuring the decisions made at the local level are aligned with state and federal laws, and that government resources are managed.

The overall mission of Yakima Valley Conference of Government membership is to improve the valleys’ livability and secure its future.

Located in the center of the state, Yakima County is the second largest county in Washington. The region is a rich and productive agricultural valley which is surrounded by lush rivers and mountain ranges. Well known for its apples and its production of fruit and vegetables, in recent years it has received national recognition for its many vineyards. Home to approximately 251,500 people, 49.9% of whom are Hispanic and Latino, the region is culturally rich and diverse. Applicants will find a family friendly environment that offers affordable housing with a median cost of housing in the mid-$168,000. Small town living galore, the region offers urban living in the City of Yakima which is the largest city in the county, while small farms and more rural living is of abundance in the surrounding cities. The Yakima Indian Reservation, which is home to 30% of the region’s population, is the 16th largest Native American tribe in the nation.

Outdoor sports are abundant year around and include fishing, camping, hiking, water sports and snow skiing.

ABOUT THE SENIOR PLANNER POSITION...

The Yakima Valley COG is a small group of highly professional and committed professionals committed to making a difference in the Yakima region. Although the primary focus of the current position will be planning specific to land use (current and long range planning), there is an opportunity for this individual to work with colleagues assigned to perform transportation planning as needed.
**PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Senior Planner reports to the Executive Director and performs the assigned job duties under general supervision as follows:

- Have a thorough understanding, working knowledge and direct experience implementing Washington State legislation specific to the Growth Management Act, and Shoreline Management Act.
- Research, analyze data and develop plans specific to Washington State land use, transportation, environmental issues, urban economics, and human services;
- Assist municipalities in identifying specific Washington State comprehensive planning needs and requirements, prepare comprehensive plans, and oversee the implementation phase of the plan including plan amendments;
- Research and identify grants resources and opportunities, prepare grant submissions, and provide partners with information about grant and philanthropic financial resources that may be available to assist an individual community in providing a critical service;
- Develop long range plans, prepare planning reports, conduct technical research, perform an analysis of the information, and structure the information so it may be easily understood by the user;
- Supports director and program managers in facilitating transportation-related organization committee meetings, advisory meetings, open houses, or other public participation events. May be required to lead facilitation of said transportation meetings.
- Represent the COG at a wide range of meetings and public forms, and facilitate discussions and workshops specific land use the interests of the members served by YVCOG;
- Establish goals, budgets, schedules, project timelines, and criteria deliverables for multiple projects, programs, and initiatives;
- Interpret, apply, and advise the agency and its users about federal, specific Washington State legislation, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines; i.e., Washington State Growth Management Act, Washington State Shoreline Management Act, Washington State Environmental Policy Act, Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Improvement Plans;
- This list of job responsibilities is not all inclusive.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

- A Bachelor’s degree in planning, urban development, transportation, environmental studies, or public administration; (equivalent experience may substitute for education on a one-one basis)
- Three (3) years of experience in planning, research and analysis related to land use, transportation, human services, economics, or for a government entity;
Must be able to obtain a valid Washington State driver’s license within 30 days of employment and possess valid auto insurance, or to demonstrate the ability to travel throughout the Yakima region and state on a regular basis, at times during inclement weather conditions;

Must possess a strong knowledge of the principles, methods and practices of planning, project management, budget, and preparation of a wide range of written reports;

**SALARY & BENEFITS:**

- Beginning salary range for this position is **$5,496 – 6,032 /monthly DOE**
- Eligible for 15 days of Personal Leave Time (PTO) leave for year one and two of employment; increases to 18 days at the beginning of the third year of employment followed with increases at five year increments (5-20)
- Twelve (12) paid holidays
- Sick Leave Accrual of 8 hours per month
- Health benefits include medical, dental and vision for the employee and dependents as established by the Executive Director and Board on an annual basis
- Additional benefits include: long-term disability and life insurance
- Eligible to participate in Deferred Comp and in a Health Saving Account
- Participation in Washington State Department of Retirement Systems PERS is required

**HOW TO APPLY:**  **Position Closes July 20, 2020 at midnight.**

To apply for this opportunity, email your resume and cover letter with GMA Planning work related experience to yvcog.hr@yvcog.org

Qualified applicants will be contacted the week of July 20th for an initial interview

Interviews will be conducted the week of July 27

Job offered by August 7

The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
This is a drug and tobacco free workplace.