



Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Western Piedmont Council of Governments Environmental Health Specialist Intern

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) is currently seeking energetic, self-motivated and detail oriented candidates for **three (3)** positions for **Environmental Health Specialist Intern (2 OSWW, 1 FLI)**. The WPCOG is an innovative and forward-thinking organization dedicated to addressing planning issues for the region. Situated in the beautiful rolling hills and mountains of Western North Carolina, with ample opportunities for recreation, shopping and dining abounding in the region, the area is an ideal place to call home. The region contains great natural resources from the slopes of Grandfather Mountain to five major lakes along the Catawba River. The region contains a population of about 365,000 in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba counties.

THE ORGANIZATION:

WPCOG is a regional governmental agency owned by the 28 local governments in the region and was organized in 1968 to provide long-range planning, technical assistance and regional delivery of services. Our organization is one of 16 regional councils in North Carolina formed under NC General Statutes 160A 470-478. Local governments eligible for WPCOG membership include Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties located in Western NC and the 24 cities and towns within those counties.

WPCOG is organized into eight departments including: Administration; Finance; Workforce Development; Community and Economic Development; Community and Regional Planning; Regional Housing Authority; Area Agency on Aging; and IT/Facilities.

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

The WPCOG Community & Regional Planning Department engages in various types of planning services for local governments and other partners in the Western Piedmont. Those services are organized into six divisions:

- Community & Regional Planning
- Transportation Planning (d/b/a Greater Hickory MPO)
- Regional Data Center / GIS
- Natural Resources
- Environmental Health
- Code Compliance & ADA

The department consists of sixteen (16) full-time positions providing a comprehensive set of services.

Western Piedmont Council of Governments
P.O. Box 9026, Hickory, NC 28603
www.wpcog.org

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The **Environmental Health Specialist Intern** under close administrative and technical supervision, will receive a maximum of 24 months of extensive structured training in techniques and procedures for conducting environmental health inspections, investigations, and enforcement, as well as application of these techniques and procedures in the field, in compliance with Federal, State, and City public health laws, and with policies and procedures governing environmental health programs.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college, university in Health, Science or related field, or educational institution approved by the North Carolina State Department of Public Health or an educational institution of collegiate grade approved by the American Council on Education AND Must possess a valid "Letter of Eligibility" from the North Carolina Department of Public Health, which affirms the applicant's eligibility to work as an Environmental Health Specialist Intern.
- A valid North Carolina State Driver's License is required. Interns must obtain a valid registration as an Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) within 36 months of hire as a condition of continued employment. Environmental Health Specialist Interns are eligible to promote to the classification of Environmental Health Specialist after successfully completing the training program, acquiring the certification as an REHS from the North Carolina Department of Public Health, and receiving above satisfactory performance evaluations.

SALARY & BENEFITS:

The hiring range for this position is **\$40,018 – \$44,019**. New hires are eligible for up to a 5% increase with the successful completion of probationary period.

- WPCOG is a member of the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System. This entitles vested employees with at least five years of employment to a defined benefit at the time of retirement. Members contribute 6% of gross compensation each month. This is a before-tax deduction. Western Piedmont Council of Governments contributes an actuarially determined percentage of the gross payroll of members each month.
- The Western Piedmont Council of Governments will contribute 4.2% of each employee's salary and match 4%, for a possible total of 8.2%, to either the NC 401k or the NC 457.
- WPCOG pays 100% of an employee's health and vision coverage. The current plan is a high deductible health plan with a Health Savings Account (HSA). Contributions to the HSA are made pre-tax through payroll deduction.
- WPCOG pays 100% of the following premiums:

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- Life Insurance with AD&D - \$100,000
 - Dental Insurance - Employee and Family
 - Short-Term Disability (Weekly Indemnity)
 - Long-Term Disability
- WPCOG provides for the following payroll deduction and retirement options:
 - NC 457 Plan
 - NC 401(k) Plan
 - Additional Voluntary Life Insurance
- WPCOG provides for the following paid leave options:
 - 11 Paid Holidays Per Year
 - Annual Leave earned based on approved years of relevant government service
 - 12 Sick Leave Days Per Year
 - Longevity Pay

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Position open until filled.

Please submit a cover letter, resume, references and WPCOG application to Director of Administrative Services and Human Resources, Ashley Bolick, at WPCOG, P.O. Box 9026, Hickory, NC 28603. Emailing application materials is acceptable, ashley.bolick@wpcog.org. Questions should be directed to Ashley at (828) 485-4221. Final candidates will be subject to an interview process. The WPCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer.