

Data/GIS Scientist (fulltime with a 35-hour work week)

Salary Range: Fulltime salary is \$60,000-\$80,000 (depending on qualifications) with a competitive benefits package.

Location: Hybrid work environment in Sandy Hook, CT

Closing Date: Open until filled or closed

About WestCOG

The Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG) is a metropolitan and regional planning organization that provides transportation, environmental, economic development, GIS and other planning services to 18 municipalities in western and southwestern Connecticut.

Job Description and Responsibilities

WestCOG seeks a qualified, experienced, and highly motivated individual to serve as a full-time **Data/ GIS Scientist**. The successful candidate will provide technical assistance to regional and local staff, support municipal GIS programs, and contribute to regional initiatives.

Initial Job responsibilities will focus on **improving municipal property data**, including parcel mapping and Computer-Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) integration. Parcel and CAMA data collected from towns are critical to broadband mapping, transportation planning, and emergency response. Enhancing the accuracy and usability of this data is an ongoing regional priority.

Job responsibilities may evolve over time and are expected to include:

- Georeference and digitization of parcel surveys into GIS
- Collection, organization, and processing of CAMA information to ensure accurate property data matching
- Creation, integration, and maintenance of databases and datasets
- Technical support of all agency programs and projects
- Development and provision of maps, charts, and other cartographic products
- Quality assurance and quality control
- Conduct research and analysis, including modeling exercises
- Prepare reports and related planning documents for technical and non-technical audiences
- Communicate with local, state, and federal officials
- Facilitate public and stakeholder engagement, and
- Other tasks as assigned.

Desirable Knowledge, Skills, and Experience

The ideal candidate should be innovative, creative, motivated, affable, and reliable. Candidates should have a minimum of three years of relevant work experience that provides the applicant with the desired skills, knowledge, and ability to perform the job. These include:

- Proficiency in one or more of the following: ArcGIS, QGIS, Python, or other data analysis/spatial modeling tools
- Ability to work within government structure and protocol
- Ability to work independently, while maintaining strong working relationships with

- supervisors, staff, elected officials, committee members, consultants, and members of the public
- Application development/ Automation
- Attribute and metadata
- Data collection
- Data integration
- Database design
- Desktop, server, and mobile GIS
- GIS best practices
- Network analysis
- Open-source solutions
- Parcel creation, editing, and maintenance
- Programming and scripting
- Raster and vector data and applications
- Spatial (and aspatial) analysis
- Statistics
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Strong project and time management skills, with the ability to manage multiple projects with overlapping deadlines and deliver actionable outcomes

Salary and Benefits

Title to be determined commensurate with experience, and corresponding salary of \$60,000-\$80,000, depending on qualifications. WestCOG offers a competitive benefits package including: health and dental insurance; retirement contributions; vacation time; personal time; sick time; flexible work schedules; telecommuting opportunities; employer-paid professional accreditations, memberships and conferences; and federal student loan forgiveness (employees of public agencies may qualify under Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness).

This position provides an opportunity to work in a collaborative, supportive, and motivating work environment. The employee will be stationed in WestCOG's office located in Sandy Hook, CT, with a flexible and hybrid work schedule (partial remote work). Fulltime employees may have an option to work a compressed schedule to take one day off per week. This area of Connecticut combines the rural charm of a small New England town with the sophistication and amenities of metropolitan suburbs and offers:

- High quality of life
- Close access to major cities, universities, world-class healthcare, cultural and recreational attractions
- Excellent school systems
- Access to recreational trails and many leisure activities

Applying for the Position

To be considered, applicants must have a driver's license, access to reliable transportation, and be legally able to work in the United States.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume, references, and salary requirements to Mr. Francis R. Pickering, Executive Director at westcog@outlook.com. Selected candidates may be asked to provide additional information or to appear for a personal interview. This position will remain open until filled or closed.