



Quaker Valley Council of Government
is hiring:
Multi-Municipal Property Database & GIS Intern
Summer 2017

Goals:

The goal of this project is to up the “Blight Fight” for communities by responding to changes in the funding landscape. Historically Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) have funded residential demolitions per municipal request but anticipated changes place requirements that projects be more competitive in terms of being multi-municipal; part of an overall blight strategy and recovery project; with a known redevelopment plan; having a positive relationship to economic development projects; and, entrepreneurial in approach that improves quality of life, economic activity, and cost reduction. Additionally, demolition should be the response of last resort for municipalities. How can the change in policy at the federal and county level translate into an opportunity to build a robust data driven multi-municipal blight fighting campaign? Through the implementation of a multi-municipal data collection and GIS strategy. In the end, if demolition is necessary, the projects will be competitive for funding. In the intervening time, municipalities get data to improve code enforcement, tax collection, community programs.

Community Impact:

Councils of Governments are positioned to assist members through the development of a multi-municipal online property database integrated with GIS. Member communities target particular blocks for the initial priority areas. A 2017 project to develop the database and conduct property rating would be accomplished through a shared intern administered by the QVCOG. At the conclusion of the project, municipalities will have a prioritized lists and, for those properties for which demolition will be the appropriate option (as determined by Boroughs and their solicitors), the municipalities will have met the requirements for CDBG funding. Added benefits would be the municipalities will receive a report recommending next steps, informed by the [“From Blight to Bright”](#) toolkit. Lastly, the database infrastructure would be in place to expand to additional geographic areas and keep costs down. The project will be multi-municipal and rely on ArcGIS online and ArcGIS Explorer to provide user access for municipal staff and contracted code enforcement personnel. Ongoing integration with the boroughs’ existing permitting and code enforcement system to be determined.

Learning Outcomes:

The successful applicant will benefit from real world experience implementing community development strategies which address the functions of municipalities and the needs of communities. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to research and build their knowledge of community revitalization strategies, planning, priority setting, databases & GIS, and sustainable development. This placement

provides ample opportunity to hone data management skills, make recommendations, interact with department heads, elected officials and the community. Our lean organization will allow the successful candidate function as part of a team—working directly with the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant as well as Managers and Secretaries in our area.

Why Us

Our small communities will provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to interface directly with both citizens and decision-makers. As a council of governments, we are leading an effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government while respecting local control. Blight is an inherently multi-municipal project. A declining neighborhood effects all around, regardless of municipal boundaries. Our internship is a special opportunity because of the communities we serve, as well. Our municipalities boast Main Streets, leafy residential neighborhoods, homes in every price range. With these attributes, our opportunity is ideal for the student who wants to put sustainable development principles to practice.

Candidate Requirements

Graduate and Undergraduate students with course work and/or majors in public policy, public administration, geography, planning, political science, GIS, or related disciplines. Interest and or experience working with community. Knowledge of ArcGIS, databases, Microsoft Office application. Strong Interpersonal and organizational skills. Ability and willingness to work outside; Physical demand requirements including standing and walking. Valid PA Driver's License. Availability between May 15 to August 15. Pay rate between \$9 - \$11 per hour DOQ.

Contact:

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The QVCOG is a non-profit organization that facilitates multi-municipal efforts and implements efficient, cost-effective programs on behalf of its members.

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