REGIONAL ECONOMIST

Location:	**Chesapeake, VA – Hampton Roads (Southeastern Virginia)**
Classification:	**Full-time, 40 hours per week; FLSA Exempt status**
Salary:	**Starting salary - $80's DOE/DOQ; Full Benefits**
Closing Date:	**Open Until Filled**

About the HRPDC

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), one of 21 Planning District Commissions in the Commonwealth of Virginia, is a regional organization representing this area's seventeen local governments.   The purpose of planning district commissions, as set out in the Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-4207 is …*to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing on a regional basis problems of greater than local significance*. The HRPDC serves as a resource of technical expertise to its member local governments. It provides assistance on local and regional issues pertaining to Economics, Emergency Management, Housing, Planning, and Water Resources, and provides a robust education and outreach program through its Communications department. The HRPDC staff also serves as the support staff for the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO), which is responsible for transportation planning and decision-making in the region. The HRPDC is an equal opportunity employer. For more information on the HRPDC, visit www.hrpdcva.gov.

The Position

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) is seeking a candidate for the position of Regional Economist to perform professional work in the collection and analysis of socio-economic data. This position is responsible for preparing analytical reports and findings to aid decision-makers on issues of regional importance. The Regional Economist will monitor forecasts of regional population, housing, and economic trends and apply advanced modeling tools and analytical methods to real-world applications in a region with a variety of social, environmental, and economic challenges and opportunities. Qualified applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

The Candidate

The ideal candidate will:

- Perform advanced professional work related to the collection and analysis of socio-economic data.
- Conduct research related to demographic, housing, land use, economic, and development patterns in the region, including development and analysis of new datasets.
- Track updates to various data sources to maintain an up-to-date picture of demographic, economic, and land use trends in the region.
- Support the work of staff responsible for improvement and operation of the agency's land use allocation model, which distributes forecasted growth to analysis zones in the region.
- Improve, maintain, and operate socioeconomic models, and produce on-demand forecast scenarios based on input assumptions; interpret the results and prepare materials communicating key findings to support local and regional planning initiatives.
- Have general knowledge of theories, principles and techniques of regional economics, econometrics and input-output analysis.
- Knowledge of local/regional governments and their unique challenges and needs related to land use, economic, housing and development patterns.
- Have knowledge of planning topics such as land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and sustainable development.
- Be able to work as part of a dynamic, collaborative, and interdisciplinary team focused on using data and technology to support informed regional planning.
- Have the ability to interpret and communicate model results to the general public, and experience working with big data.
- Have excellent writing skills with experience writing planning documents, research reports, and technical documentation.
- Have proficiency managing, analyzing, and visualizing both spatial and tabular data, specifically large datasets.
- Have the ability to conduct on-demand research about socioeconomic trends and projections for internal users, external parties, municipalities, and press requests.

Education & Experience

- Graduation from an accredited college or university with major course work in planning, economics, statistics, or a related applicable field with a Master's Degree preferred. Professional experience in the applicable program areas preferred.
- Bachelor's degree with significant, relevant professional experience will be considered in lieu of a Master's degree.
- Demonstrated proficiency with managing, analyzing and visualizing both spatial and tabular data, specifically large datasets.
- Proficiency with statistical data management tools, such as Stata, SPSS, SAS, EViews, R, Python, or PostgreSQL.

To Apply

To be considered, applicants must submit a letter of interest and résumé to Kelli Arledge, Deputy Executive Director, at karledge@hrpdcva.gov, or mail documents to:

> Kelli E. Arledge
> Deputy Executive Director
> HRPDC
> 723 Woodlake Drive
> Chesapeake, VA 23320

About Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads area is located in southeastern Virginia where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Chesapeake Bay. The region's land area covers approximately 2,907 square miles and includes an extensive system of waterways including the Intercoastal Waterway and the James, York, Nansemond and Elizabeth Rivers. Hampton Roads is rich in cultural treasures, reflecting the diversity of its communities and a variety of annual festivals celebrate the heritage of the region. History, music, drama, and art can also be found in a multitude of theaters and museums in the area. Norfolk is recognized as the Arts capital of Virginia, and is the home city for the Virginia Symphony, Virginia Ballet, Virginia Opera and the Commonwealth Theatre Company. The NorVa Theater, a downtown concert venue, offers concerts featuring national touring acts and well-known artists. The City of Virginia Beach is the number one vacation destination in Virginia. The City's three-mile boardwalk is only part of what makes the City so attractive to locals and visitors alike. From Croatan Beach to the south all the way to the North End beaches of the City, Virginia Beach reveals its vibrancy and laid back beach vibe, all wrapped up in a sprawling, park-like setting. The Mariner's Museum in Newport News is one of the most famous and complete maritime museums in the world. Also located in Newport News is the Virginia War Museum, featuring the largest collection of war relics and historical records in the United States. Nauticus, the National Maritime Center, is located on the downtown Norfolk waterfront and is home to the Battleship Wisconsin. Williamsburg and James City County offer a wide range of activities and historic destinations; whether it is Williamsburg and the Colonial Capital or Busch Gardens Amusement park. Facilities located along the James and York Rivers offer a variety of activities that include boating, fishing, camping, biking, and tennis. Washington, D.C. is 200 miles to the north, and Richmond, the state capital, is located 100 miles to the west.

Benefits

The HRPDC provides a complete package of benefits as part of your compensation package. Benefits for full-time employees include:

- Medical
- Dental
- Vision
- Life Insurance
- Virginia Retirement System with Associated Benefits
- Paid Time Off
- Paid Holidays
- Family Medical Leave
- Bereavement Leave
- Civil Leave
- Military Leave
- Flexible Work Schedules
- Flexible Spending Accounts