



376 West Main Street, Suite 130, Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
Phone: 269-925-1137 • Website: [www.swmpc.org](http://www.swmpc.org)

## Associate Planner

**The SWMPC** - Our world demands that we approach the challenges of the day like housing, mobility, broadband access, the environment, and economic prosperity as opportunities for thoughtful, creative solutions. Every day, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) is at work preparing a more complete understanding of some of the most pressing challenges of our time and devising solutions. At our disposal, are tools to mine data and information to build understanding, and to use the power of digital communication to connect with the people whose lives will be impacted. Big, important challenges aren't solved by accident. They are solved with careful, methodical planning, that incorporates the embedded knowledge of people, skillful research, insight and understanding about the natural and built environment, and a rigorous dedication to process. We help the people and communities of southwest Michigan. Our work results in a healthier environment, cleaner water, transportation networks that function better, and focused citizen engagement.

**The Opportunity** - If you are looking for a professional opportunity to translate your skills into practical, person-focused, strategic, and data-driven planning, the SWMPC is interested in you. We are looking for an Associate Planner and the SWMPC is open to candidates who have followed a different pathway to get here. We welcome candidates from diverse educational and professional backgrounds. Whether you come from a background in the social sciences, data science, economics, communication, journalism, or planning, we encourage you to apply. At SWMPC, we value diversity and recognize that a range of perspectives and experiences contribute to innovative problem-solving and planning. If you are excited about the prospect of using your skills to develop practical solutions that positively impact communities, we invite you to join our team.

**Our Region** - The SWMPC serves a region in the heart of Michigan's fruit belt; a location celebrated for its magnificent peaches, blueberries, apples, and grape vineyards. The region is home to a burgeoning hotbed of craft breweries, craft spirits, and wineries. Due to our unique climate and soil conditions, vintners and brewers cultivate their own vineyards and hops, resulting in world-class beverages. Our location is just an easy train ride away from Chicago, making it a convenient and accessible getaway while feeling like a world away. The region also offers an abundance of four-season recreational activities, including downhill and cross-country skiing, ice rinks for hockey and pleasure skating, and indoor and outdoor soccer. Residents and

vacationers alike appreciate the beautiful destination beaches that line our region. At SWMPC, we take great pride in serving such a vibrant and dynamic community.

**Compensation:** \$52,000 plus excellent healthcare, dental, vision benefits, and SWMPC-funded retirement contribution.

For further details of the SWMPC, please visit our website <https://www.swmpc.org/>

Applications will be accepted until the close of business on April 28, 2023.

**Please scroll down for more information on the job and how to apply.**



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### **Job Duties:**

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) seeks a career professional to fill the position of Associate Planner. You will be welcomed as a peer in a cooperative environment. Expect your skills to be utilized.

- Assistance in production of SWMPC products across multiple media platforms (digital, video, hardcopy)
- Data Research
- Data Visualization, Infographics, Data Dashboards
- Comfort with multiple software platforms, or competency in learning new (R, Python, ARCGIS, etc)
- Public Speaking, public meeting planning and execution
- Social media outreach
- Grant research and coordination
- We function within the MS 365 suite of software.

### **Experience level:**

- The successful candidate requires graduation from an accredited college or university with at minimum a bachelor's degree in urban/regional planning or a related field including the social sciences, data science, economics, communication, and journalism.
- Will be expected to collaborate with the executive director and senior planners.
- The applicant must be a citizen of the United States.

### **Current Projects:**

- Examples include: US Dept. of Commerce - Economic Development Administration Economic Development District planning, local government master planning, transportation long range planning, rideshare coordination, non-motorized trail planning, metropolitan transportation planning, GIS mapping, heritage route planning.

**Date of required response:** end of business day April 28, 2023 or until position filled

### **Salary level:**

- \$52,000

### **Benefits package:**

- The SWMPC has excellent family healthcare coverage with Michigan-based Priority Health plus vision & dental. We also offer a retirement fund with generous SWMPC contribution.

### **West Michigan Regional description**

- The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission serves a region in the heart of Michigan's fruit belt; a location celebrated for its magnificent peaches, blueberries, apples, and grape vineyards. Additionally, the southwest region is lined with beautiful destination beaches appreciated by vacationers and residents alike. We are one and a half hours or an easy train ride from Chicago while feeling like a world away.

### **The SWMPC is:**

- A three-county regional planning organization that assists its member municipalities in southwest Michigan that also serves as MPO to two of southwestern Michigan's metropolitan areas.



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**To Respond:**

Send Resume and Cover Letter to  
K. John Egelhaaf, AICP  
Executive Director  
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  
376 W Main Street, Suite 130  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Or, Email Resume and Cover Letter to:  
[egelhaafj@swmpc.org](mailto:egelhaafj@swmpc.org)