



Position: Community Economic Development Specialist (Rural and Native Communities)
Schedule: Full-Time/Regular
Location: Hybrid (Seattle, WA) or Remote
Travel: 15-20%
Salary: \$90,000 - \$115,000 to start (DOE), plus 401(k), health insurance (no employee premium), paid vacation and sick leave, transportation subsidy (Orca card), performance bonus and periodic salary review

USE YOUR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND MARKET ANALYSIS EXPERIENCE TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR TRIBAL AND NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Big Water Consulting is a consulting firm located in Seattle, Washington that specializes in market analysis, economic development plan/strategy development, survey design and implementation, data analysis and visualization, resource mapping, and data-driven strategic planning and advocacy. Big Water's clients range from tribal governments and tribal programs to domestic and international nonprofit organizations to state and federal government agencies. We pride ourselves on promoting lasting capacity-building for our clients and filling data and research gaps for unique, diverse, and often underserved communities and ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest, the United States and throughout the world. At present, Big Water is managing several economic development and affordable housing-related projects at the tribal/reservation, state, regional and national levels, including projects funded by federal agencies, national Native and non-Native housing-focused nonprofits, and philanthropic entities.

We are seeking a smart, thoughtful, and detail-oriented individual to serve as the Community Economic Development Specialist in our office. The Community Economic Development Specialist will serve as co-lead for an eighteen-month long national tribal/Native training and knowledge-sharing project funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as well as other tribal and regional economic development projects. The candidate hired for this position will work directly with our Research Associates, Assistant Researchers, Project Manager and Managing Director to conduct community economic development-focused data collection operations, complete varied market analysis and targeted feasibility studies, develop local and regional economic development plans and strategies, and draft topic-specific as well as community-centered research reports. The selected candidate will also deliver presentations to facilitate economic development planning processes for our clients and tailor materials to further our clients' specific advocacy and policy-related efforts.

In addition, this position will require the patience, maturity, perseverance, and diplomacy necessary to operate within the complex and dynamic cultural contexts of tribal, rural, and urban areas as well as the "soft" skills necessary to build and sustain vital partnerships and coalitions, all while maintaining the highest standards of data analysis, reporting and presentation. The ideal candidate will be eager to travel to and work in very rural and remote areas, including tribal lands from Arizona to Alaska and Hawaii to

Wisconsin, and be excited to serve as a thought leader and the face of the organization at relevant meetings and conferences.

[Please note that application packages will only be reviewed if all of the required materials listed below are provided.]

**Required Experience,
Education and
Qualities:**

Experience

Advanced knowledge of the core principles and foundations of sustainable economic development and inclusive growth and the unique characteristics, opportunities, and challenges of implementing sustainable, inclusive, and culturally appropriate economic development in Native and rural communities

At least 5 years of direct experience working on economic development planning projects and plan implementation efforts involving local, state, federal and/or tribal community economic development programs

Expert level knowledge of local, state, federal, tribal, philanthropic and private sources of funding and financing for community economic development as well as the array of organizations, role players and programs involved in community economic development (e.g., Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC), Opportunity and Promise Zones, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), Tax Increment Financing, Community Development Bonds, Economic Development Districts (EDDs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs))

Extensive concrete experience analyzing markets, researching integrated community economic development and diversification strategies, and drafting economic development strategies/plans and market analysis reports or feasibility studies

Education

Ph.D. in economics, finance, planning, public policy/administration, or other related subject and at least 2 years of relevant post-doctoral professional experience; or

Master's degree in economics, finance, planning, public policy/administration, or other related subject and at least 5 years of relevant post-graduate professional experience; or

Bachelor's degree in economics, finance, planning, public policy/administration, or other related subject and at least 10 years of directly relevant post-academic professional experience

Qualities

Customer service-oriented, deadline-driven, highly organized, and able to properly prioritize a diverse workload

Desire and demonstrated ability to quickly absorb new information, adapt to changing circumstances, and build relevant new skills

Creativity to independently generate ideas for new projects, evaluation metrics, survey questions or organizational focal areas to facilitate client growth

Preferred Experience:

- Experience working with or in American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian and/or other culturally diverse communities
- Knowledge of relevant data analysis or visualization, mapping, graphic design, or other software, including R, ArcGIS or QGIS, Adobe Creative Cloud, LimeSurvey, Qualtrics or Fulcrum

Diversity and inclusion are fundamental to our work. Indigenous applicants, women, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community are highly encouraged to apply.

Application Process:

The following required materials should be sent to Kevin Klingbeil, Managing Director, at kevin@bigwaterconsulting.net:

1. Cover letter (outlining your specific interests in our work and relevant experience)
2. Resume or CV listing or highlighting relevant experience
3. Two brief but representative writing samples demonstrating your relevant economic development planning and/or market analysis experience
4. Two professional references familiar with your relevant community economic development experience

This posting will remain open until the position is filled.