



Director of Government Relations

About Center for Planning Excellence

The Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) is a unique non-profit planning organization that provides planning and policy services, drives collaborative statewide planning initiatives, and guides urban, rural, and regional planning and implementation in Louisiana. We provide best-practice planning models, innovative policy ideas, and technical assistance to communities that wish to create and enact a broad spectrum of plans, including master plans and those dealing with transportation and infrastructure needs, environmental issues, and healthy community design. CPEX brings together community members and leaders from across the state and provides guidance as they work toward a shared vision for future growth and sustainable development. CPEX continues to be on the cutting edge of climate, resilience, and healthy community design in Louisiana.

About the Role

CPEX seeks a Director of Government Relations to develop and lead the strategies, relationships, and communications needed to shape public policy and legislation that affects the ability of Louisiana communities to plan for a resilient, prosperous future. The Director of Government Relations must be able to build bi-partisan coalitions inclusive of business and industry, elected officials, and non-governmental organizations and drive progress towards shared policy goals and tangible policy wins at the state and local levels. This position will serve as CPEX's primary relationship manager with government leaders and public-sector partners, focused on building relationships and long-term partnerships that support resilient and thriving Louisiana communities.

The Director is responsible for ensuring that community needs and planning best practices are recognized in policymaking arenas, and will work closely with partners to advance policy that addresses these needs, reflects best practices, and creates meaningful opportunities for Louisiana communities to build sustainable economies and long-term resilience. The Director will cultivate and maintain a strong network of relationships across Louisiana's governmental, civic, and business communities, ensuring CPEX is a trusted resource and valued partner in conversations about the state's future.

The Director will be responsible for building skills and capacity within CPEX staff and leading a team in the execution of policy strategy. This role requires a strategic thinker with excellent people skills, a deep understanding of policymaking and legislative processes, and a high degree of confidence and efficacy navigating these processes to achieve desired goals. Success in this role will depend on the ability to develop authentic relationships, identify opportunities for collaboration, and effectively represent CPEX with a wide range of audiences and decision-makers.

Primary Responsibilities

- Build, strengthen, and maintain strategic relationships with elected officials, government agencies, legislative staff, local leaders, and other key decision-makers
- Help develop and lead execution of comprehensive government relations strategies at the state and local level
- Stay abreast of and lead engagement on legislative and regulatory activities that affect key issues such as housing, transportation, renewable energy and grid systems, land use, coastal resilience, economic development, and governance
- Build strategic relationships with a diverse network of individual and organizational stakeholders and decision makers
- Coordinate with partner organizations and individuals to align strategy and leverage influence
- Analyze and provide guidance on policy proposals and potential changes to existing laws and regulations
- Support development and implementation of strategic communications campaigns
- Draft policy position papers, testimony, and other advocacy materials
- Organize and participate in meetings, hearings, and events with government officials
- Prepare and deliver testimony to legislative committees and regulatory bodies
- Represent CPEX at legislative sessions, public meetings, and stakeholder convenings, serving as a trusted ambassador for the organization
- Provide strategic counsel to executive leadership on public policy and governmental matters
- Ensure compliance with all lobbying laws and regulations

Skills and Qualifications

- Bachelor's, Master's, or J.D. in public administration, political science, law, or a related field
- 10+ years experience and demonstrated success in government relations, public policy, or advocacy
- Strong network of contacts within Louisiana government, business, trade associations, and non-governmental entities
- Demonstrated ability to build and sustain productive relationships across political, geographic, and sector boundaries
- Excellent communication and leadership abilities, enabling effective collaboration with diverse internal and external stakeholders
- Ability to work effectively in a fast-paced, dynamic environment
- In-depth understanding of the legislative and regulatory process
- Possesses a working knowledge of clean energy, planning and land use, infrastructure and/or climate issues
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to travel as needed for meetings and events
- Excellent people skills

Additional Details

- CPEX's offices are located in Baton Rouge, La. We offer a flexible work environment including the option for some remote work after an initial fully in-office period. CPEX employees are occasionally expected to participate in workshops and events on evenings and weekends, with advance notice.
- This is a full-time, salaried position with a competitive benefits package.
- Salary range is \$90,000 - \$140,000 annually, commensurate with experience.
- Applicants must submit a resume and cover letter to apply@cpex.org with "Director of Government Relations" in the subject line. Candidates must be authorized to work in the United States. Qualified candidates will be invited for virtual or in-person interviews on an ongoing basis. The position will remain open until filled.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at CPEX

CPEX is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we aspire to do so intentionally, in every aspect of our work. We recognize that sustainable prosperity and community resilience cannot be realized in the absence of equity and inclusion for all Louisiana residents, and we are committed to efforts that help ensure that all Louisianans have a voice in decisions that impact their communities, region, and state. CPEX strives to integrate DEI into the fabric of our organization and our work, from our internal culture to how we partner with communities, to how we use our resources. A successful candidate will be equally committed to these goals and values.