

# Whitman County

## Equal Employment Opportunity Plan



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### **1. Purpose:**

The purpose of the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEOP) is to identify organizational components and job categories within Whitman County’s workforce in which under representation occurs in proportion to availability in the labor force, and to devise and implement programs to pursue goals in achieving equitable representation.

### **2. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO):**

Whitman County is an equal employment opportunity employer and believes that every employee has the right to work in surroundings free from unlawful discrimination.

Whitman County seeks a workforce representative of the surrounding community, and will not discriminate against any employee in an unlawful manner. The County treats all applicants and employees equally and without regard to race, religious creed, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy, political affiliation, marital or veteran's status, or any basis prohibited by local, state or federal law. Whitman County will make reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals if it can do so without undue hardship.

All activities related to employment such as: recruitment, selection, salary administration, working conditions, benefits, application of policies, transfer, promotion, demotion, layoff, recall, termination and training shall be conducted in a non-discriminatory manner (except as required by a bona fide occupational qualification). Therefore, as openings occur, applicants will be allowed to advance within the County in accordance with their skills, abilities, and experience.

The policies of equal employment opportunity also apply to the selection and treatment of independent contractors, personnel working on Whitman County premises who are employed by temporary agencies and any other persons or companies doing business for or with the County.

It is the policy of Whitman County to foster and maintain a harmonious non-discriminatory working environment for all employees. Toward this end, the County will not tolerate racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual slurs or comments demeaning national origin or disability by any employee or about any employee or applicant.

### **3. Diversity:**

It is the policy of Whitman County to be fair and impartial in all of its relations with employees and to recognize the dignity of the individual. Whitman County's EEOP is a tool to ensure equal opportunity in all phases of county programs, employment, recruitment and post employment activities.

This diagnostic tool is used to evaluate the workforce and compare it with the composition of the relevant labor pool outlining practical steps in which to address under utilization of specific groups in all departments and offices throughout the county.

Whitman County views the principle of equal employment opportunity as a vital element in the employment process and as a hallmark of good management. Employees will be treated impartially and allowed, without prejudice, to advance in the organization, as their abilities warrant and as openings occur. Whitman County will promote and afford equal treatment and service to all employees and citizens.

Whitman County commits to:

- Recruiting, hiring, training, and promoting people in all job classifications without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, veteran status or any other non-job-related characteristic.
- Making promotion decisions in accordance with equal employment opportunity requirements by imposing only valid, job-related requirements for promotional opportunities.

- Administering all personnel actions relating to compensation, benefits, transfers, terminations, training and education in a nondiscriminatory manner.

#### **4. Grievances:**

Employees of and applicants to Whitman County will not be subject to harassment, intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination because they have engaged or may engage in filing a complaint, assisting in a review, investigation or hearing or have otherwise sought to obtain their legal rights related to any federal, state or local law regarding EEO. Any employees of applicants who feel that they have been subject to such behavior because of their EEO status may file a grievance.

Grievances may be made to the appropriate department head/elected official or the Human Resources Director. All grievances shall be investigated immediately. While Whitman County cannot guarantee complete anonymity, it will maintain confidentiality to the extent possible.

Harassment based on the protected classes described in the EEO policy and EEOP is a violation of federal and state law. Harassment is prohibited in all Whitman County workplaces and while conducting work for the County.

Retaliation and/or harassment against an employee who files a grievance and any witnesses to an investigation are strictly prohibited.

Violators of this policy shall be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

#### **5. Administration:**

The Whitman County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) shall be ultimately responsible for the progress of this plan. They shall support the plan's intent and review its progress every year in cooperation with the Human Resources Department.

The Human Resources (HR) Department shall be responsible for the administration and maintenance of the plan. HR shall be responsible for:

- Conducting a continuous review to ensure that County personnel processes meet EEOP requirements
- Internal and external communications regarding protected classes
- Reviewing and updating the EEOP plan every two years
- Receiving and investigating complaints against the County
- Implementing an audit system that will: (1) measure the effectiveness of the EEOP; (2) indicate the need for any remedial action; and (3) determine the degree to which the County's objectives have been met
- Serving as liaison between Whitman County and enforcement agencies
- Reviewing employment related requests prior to approval/acknowledgement by the BOCC

Department heads/elected officials are responsible for knowing the plan and promoting equal opportunity at Whitman County. All personnel actions shall conform to applicable policies/procedures and the EEOP, the basic purpose of which is to further the utilization of the underrepresented with respect to the terms of benefits and privileges of employment, etc. It is expected that all elected officials, department heads and supervisory personnel:

- Assist in the identification of problem areas, formulating solutions, and establishing departmental goals and objectives when necessary
- Review the qualifications of all applicants and employees to ensure qualified individuals are treated in a nondiscriminatory manner when hiring, promotion, transfer and termination actions occur
- Review the job performance of each employee to assess whether personnel actions are justified based on the employee's performance of his or her duties and responsibilities

All employees are responsible for being aware of the plan's intent and cooperating fully in making it a success.

## **6. Dissemination:**

This plan shall be disseminated by the following methods:

### Internal:

- Equal Employment Opportunity posters shall be posted appropriately throughout County facilities
- Non-discrimination clauses included in union contracts
- Whitman County Personnel Policies and Procedures Guide available on the Human Resources (HR) web page, in HR and through each department
- A summary of the plan at all new employee orientations
- Sent to all employees upon update
- Periodic re-emphasis to department heads/elected officials of EEO policy through standard communications and appropriate reports

### External:

- Provided to the public upon request
- Linked to the Human Resources web page
- Applications and announcements for employment shall contain an EEO policy statement "Equal Opportunity Employer" or "EEO"
- All recruiting sources, including State employment agencies, minority and female organizations, educational institutions and social service agencies shall be informed of Whitman County's policy concerning the employment of the underserved populations including qualified individuals with disabilities and qualified protected veterans and have been advised to actively recruit and refer qualified persons for job opportunities
- Contractors or agencies providing personnel services shall be notified in writing of the County's policy and a request shall be made for their EEO policy, as well
- All contractors shall be notified of Whitman County's EEOP including the employment of qualified individuals with disabilities and qualified protected veterans
- All employment openings posted with the appropriate office of State Employment Services
- All requests for bid and proposals will contain EEO language. Federally funded bids will include non-discrimination requirements in the selection of sub-contractors and encourage solicitation of quotes from Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

Requests for this plan, questions and concerns may be directed to Whitman County Human Resources, 400 N. Main Street, Colfax, WA 99111 or by calling (509) 397-5243.

## **7. Labor Market Analysis:**

The Whitman County EEO plan includes: analysis of the county workforce and community labor market; identification of specific areas of underutilization; objectives to overcome those underutilizations; and steps the county will take to achieve the plan's objectives. Community statistics for Whitman County are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau report "State and Local Government Job Groups by Sex, and Race/Ethnicity for Worksite Geography, Total Population."

**Table A** shows the Labor Market Analysis comparing the available labor force to the county's workforce. Comparisons are made in race, ethnicity and gender. Underutilizations for each group are shown in bold on **Table A** and listed on **Table B**. The analysis shows underutilization in 40 of the groups. This is down two groups from the 2016 EEOP. Underutilization ranges from -1% to -42%.

**Table C** shows all underutilizations for each job category translated in to full time equivalent (FTE) positions. Overall, the number of underutilizations and the number of FTE's needed to correct them dropped. With the exception of one job category, Service Maintenance, all FTE's needed for each group stayed the same or dropped. The Service Maintenance category rose by 1.10 FTE's.

**Table D** then summarizes the significant underutilizations for each job category, ethnicity and race. Significant underutilization is defined by a requirement of three or more FTEs to eliminate the underutilization. A requirement of two or less FTEs is not significant.

As seen in **Table D**, the number of job categories with significant underutilization has not changed since the preceding EEOP, and the number of FTE's to correct those underutilizations has dropped by 2.97 positions. Within each job category, most underutilization remains insignificant by race, gender and ethnicity. Those areas showing significant underutilization are in the white male professional, white female protective services, and white female skilled craft worker categories.

Job category descriptions are listed in **Appendix A**. Ethnicity and race descriptions can be found in **Appendix B**.

**Table A: Labor Market Analysis**

	Male						Female							
	White	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native			
	19	70%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	8	30%	0	0%	0	0%
	95	58%	85	3%	45	2%	0	0%	20	1%	875	30%	90	3%
	12%		<b>-3%</b>	0%	<b>-2%</b>	0%	<b>-3%</b>	0%	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	0%	0%	0%
	13	31%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	27	64%	1	2%
	40	46%	100	2%	95	2%	0	0%	50	1%	1965	34%	95	2%
	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	0%	<b>-6%</b>	0%	<b>-1%</b>	30%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	8	89%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%	0	0%
	10	49%	0	0%	25	2%	0	0%	0	0%	425	41%	0	0%
	40%		<b>-2%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>-30%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>-3%</b>
	29	94%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%	1	3%
	100	66%	0	0%	4	1%	0	0%	4	1%	100	33%	0	0%
	28%		0%	<b>-1%</b>	0%	0%	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-30%</b>	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%
	25	45%	4	7%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	25	45%	0	0%
	5%		<b>-7%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	2	5%	0	0%	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%	33	83%	0	0%
	75	34%	95	2%	0	0%	210	4%	0	0%	2480	51%	60	1%
	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	0%	2%	<b>-4%</b>	0%	0%	32%	<b>-1%</b>	0%	0%	2%	0%	2%
	42	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	05	83%	40	3%	0	0%	35	3%	15	1%	105	8%	0	0%
	17%		<b>-3%</b>	0%	0%	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	100	43%	70	1%	4	0%	100	2%	4	0%	2425	42%	170	2%

**Table B: Underutilization Summary**

Official/Administrators			
Male		Female	
Hispanic	3%	Hispanic	3%
Black	2%	White	1%
Asian	3%	Asian	1%
Two or More Races	1%		
Professionals			
Male		Female	
White	15%	Asian	6%
Hispanic	2%		
Black	2%		
Asian	6%		
Two or More Races	1%		
Technicians			
Male		Female	
Black	2%	White	30%

		Asian	5%
		AIAN	3%
<b>Protective Services-Sworn</b>			
Male		Female	
AIAN	1%	White	30%
Two or More Races	1%		
<b>Protective Services-Non-Sworn</b>			
Male		Female	
Hispanic	7%		
<b>Administrative Support</b>			
Male		Female	
White	29%	Hispanic	1%
Hispanic	2%		
Asian	4%		
<b>Skilled Craft Worker</b>			
Male		Female	
Asian	3%	White	8%
Hispanic	3%	Asian	1%
NHOPI	1%		
Two or More Races	1%		
<b>Service Maintenance</b>			
Male		Female	
Hispanic	1%	White	42%
Black	1%	Hispanic	3%
Asian	3%	Black	1%
Two or More Races	2%	Asian	1%
		Two or More Races	2%

**Table C: Underutilizations by FTE  
(Includes all groups: gender, ethnicity, race)**

<b>Job Category</b>	<b>1/1/2012</b>	<b>1/1/2014</b>	<b>1/1/2016</b>	<b>1/1/2018</b>
Official/Administrators	1.62	3.70	4.90	3.32
Professionals	14.00	11.84	15.24	13.37
Technicians	2.72	3.40	3.59	3.59
Protective Services-Sworn	2.13	6.99	10.90	9.98
Protective Services- Non-Sworn	1.30	0.74	1.04	0.15
Administrative Support	12.16	20.20	19.16	

				14.73
Skilled Craft Worker	5.06	8.17	9.35	7.23
Service Maintenance	2.04	2.28	1.68	2.78
	41.03	57.32	65.86	55.15

**8. Significant Underutilizations and Objectives:**

As described in **Table D**, the significant underutilizations are in the following areas:

**Table E: Summary of Significant Underutilizations**

Race/Ethnicity	Gender	Job Category
White	Females	Protective Services – Sworn, and Skilled Craft Workers
	Males	Professionals

Whitman County’s primary objective is to eliminate all underutilizations and increase representation of all races, genders and ethnicity groups to better reflect the local labor market. The significant underutilizations indicate needed improvement in the areas of white, male professionals and white, female sworn protective service and skilled craft workers. The County will continue its focus on recruitment for all races, gender, and ethnicities with specific objectives geared toward interest groups promoting professional men, and women in the protective service and skilled craft worker industries.

**Table D: Significant Underutilizations by Full Time Equivalent (FTE)**

	Males							Female							Totals			
	White	Hispanic	Black	AIAN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or More Races	White	Hispanic	Black	AIAN	Asian	NHOPI	Two or More Races	FTE Total	2012 FTE Total	2014 FTE Total	2016 FTE Total
Officials/Administrators		*	*		*		*	*	*			*						
Professionals	6.37	*	*		*		*				*	*			6.37	7.70	3.48	7.08
Technicians			*				*	*			*	*						
Protective Services-Sworn				*			*	9.16							9.16		6.37	10.22
Protective Services-Non-Sworn		*																
Administrative Support	*	*			*				*									
Skilled Craft Workers		*			*	*	*	3.30				*			3.30	4.14	3.87	4.40
Service Maintenance		*	*		*		*	*	*	*		*		*				
<b>FTE Totals</b>	6.37							12.46							18.83	11.84	13.72	21.70

**Notes:**

Significant Underutilization equals at least three or more FTEs required to eliminate the underutilization  
Cells with numerals indicate significant underutilization  
Blank cells indicate no underutilization  
Minor underutilizations indicated by a \*  
Per DOJ, underutilization of white males in administrative support should not be identified as significant

**9. Steps to Reach Objectives:**



1. Provide information and training to department heads and elected officials regarding diversity in the workforce, this EEOP and alternative recruitment resources such as women and minority groups.
2. Create annual reports on the EEO status of applicants, new hires, interviewed, disciplined and terminated employees. The reports will be reviewed for areas of concern regarding equal employment opportunity.
3. Review applicant flow data and advertising practices
4. Advertise job openings in newspapers, journals, electronic media and web sites that target specific diverse populations. This includes providing recruitment materials to outreach organizations.
5. Review pre-employment materials to ensure information requested is job related.
6. Evaluate selection methods to identify any disparate impact and ensure they are based on job necessity.
7. Include the phrase (“Equal Employment Opportunity Employer” or “EEO” on all employment advertisements.
8. Place recruitment advertisements, as appropriate, in local minority and women’s interest media.

#### **10. Auditing and Reporting:**

Whitman County’s audit and reporting system is designed to evaluate personnel activities; identify problem areas and measure the effectiveness of the EEOP. The following activities are reviewed by a combination of elected officials, department heads, and Human Resources to ensure nondiscrimination and equal employment opportunity for all:

- Recruitment materials and procedures
- Personnel actions such as hiring, termination, layoff, promotion, etc.
- Compensation
- Training
- Other conditions and/or privileges of employment as deemed necessary

Documents maintained as a part of Whitman County’s audit process included:

- Applicant flow logs showing the name, race, gender, date of application, job title, interview status and action taken for all applicants. This includes totals for applicants by race and gender.
- Summary of job offers, hires, promotions, resignations, terminations and layoffs by job group, gender and minority group
- Maintenance of employment applications in accordance with the Washington State Retention Schedule
- Records related to the County’s compensation system.

An annual report will be compiled by the Human Resources Department concerning applicant flow and progress toward its objectives stated in the EEOP. Comment shall be solicited from department heads and elected officials, as well as any EEO problem areas. The report will be filed with the County Commissioners and all required federal, state and local agencies.

## **Appendix A: Job Category Descriptions**

**Officials and Administrators:** Occupations in which employees set broad policies, exercise overall responsibility for execution of these policies, or direct individual departments or special phases of the agency's operations, or provide specialized consultation on a regional, district or area basis. Includes: department heads, bureau chiefs, division chiefs, directors, deputy directors, controllers, wardens, superintendents, sheriffs, police and fire chiefs and inspectors, examiners (bank, hearing, motor vehicle, warehouse), inspectors (construction, building, safety, rent-and-housing, fire, A.B.C Board, license, dairy, livestock, transportation), assessors, tax appraisers and investigators, coroners, farm managers and kindred workers.

**Professionals:** Occupations which require specialized and theoretical knowledge which is usually acquired through college training or through work experience and other training which provides comparable knowledge. Includes: personnel and labor relations workers, social workers, doctors, psychologists, registered nurses, economists, dieticians, lawyers, systems analysts, accountants, engineers, employment and vocational rehabilitation counselors, teachers or instructors, police and fire captains and lieutenants, librarians, management analysts, airplane pilots and navigators, surveyors and mapping scientists, and kindred workers.

**Technicians:** Occupations which require a combination of basic scientific or technical knowledge and manual skill which can be obtained through specialized post-secondary school education or through equivalent on-the-job training. Includes: computer programmers, drafters, survey and mapping technicians, licensed practical nurses, photographers, radio operators, technical illustrators, highway

technicians, technicians (medical, dental, electronic, physical sciences), police and fire sergeants, inspectors (production or processing inspectors, testers and weighers), and kindred workers.

Protective Service Workers-Sworn: Occupations in which sworn workers are entrusted with public safety, security and protection from destructive forces. Includes: police patrol officers, firefighters, guards, deputy sheriffs, bailiffs, correctional officers, detectives, marshals, harbor patrol officers, game and fish wardens, park rangers (except maintenance) and kindred workers.

Protective Service Workers – Non-Sworn: Occupations in which workers are entrusted with public safety but do not need to be sworn. Includes: animal control workers, crossing guards, lifeguards and other protected service workers.

Administrative Support (Including Clerical and Sales): Occupations in which workers are responsible for internal and external communication, recording and retrieval of data and/or information and other paperwork required in an office. Includes: bookkeepers, messengers, clerk-typists, stenographers, court transcribers, hearing reporters, statistical clerks, dispatchers, license distributors, payroll clerks, office machine and computer operators, telephone operators, legal assistants, sales workers, cashiers, toll collectors, and kindred workers.

Skilled Craft Workers: Occupations in which workers perform jobs which require special manual skill and thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the processes involved in the work which is acquired through on-the-job training and experience or through apprenticeship or other formal training programs. Includes: mechanics and repairers, electricians, heavy equipment operators, stationary engineers, skilled machining occupations, carpenters, compositors and typesetters, power plant operators, water and sewage treatment plant operators and kindred workers.

Service-Maintenance: Occupations in which workers perform duties which result in or contribute to the comfort convenience, hygiene or safety of the general public or which contribute to the upkeep and care of buildings, facilities or grounds of public property. Workers in this group may operate machinery. Includes: chauffeurs, laundry and dry cleaning operatives, truck drivers, bus drivers, garage laborers, custodial employees, gardeners and groundskeepers, refuse collectors, construction laborers, park rangers (maintenance), farm workers (except management), craft apprentices/trainees/helpers, and kindred workers.

## **Appendix B: Race and Ethnicity Definitions**

(As stated by the US Department of Justice)

**White** – All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.

**Black or African American** – All persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

**Asian** – All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent. For example, China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and the Philippine Islands.

**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI)** – All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

**American Indian or Alaskan Native (AIAN)** – all persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

**Two or More Races** – All persons who identify with more than one of the above races.

**Hispanic or Latino** – All persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.