

WISCONSIN CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mentoring and Professional Development

For Early-Career or Transitional Professionals



About

The mission of the Wisconsin City/County Management Association (WCMA) is to **develop and support professional and ethical local government management in pursuit of public service excellence** in the state of Wisconsin. While WCMA believes that the most efficient and democratic form of local government is the council-manager form, in which day-to-day operations are conducted by an appointed professional administrator, there are many communities that provide for professional local government management through local ordinance. This association is made up of hundreds of local public managers throughout Wisconsin to further develop their professional skills and knowledge, recognize best practices and services, and strategize new ways to provide services at the local level of government. In order to prepare the next generation of professional local government managers, WCMA offers to you a mentoring opportunity to help you grow professionally.

How can I get started and be more involved?

- 1.** Contact a public manager in your area or the area of interest to learn more about the profession. You are also welcome to contact your regional coordinator to seek out ways to be involved in WCMA or future career opportunities. Find your regional coordinator on the WCMA website (www.wcma-wi.org). The League of Wisconsin Municipalities may also serve as a valuable resource for you with an active job board (www.lwm-info.org).
- 2.** Become a member of WCMA. Applications are on the [WCMA website](http://www.wcma-wi.org). Members not in a public manager role (i.e. Assistants and entry-level professionals) receive a significant discount, only paying \$50 per year and still receiving all the great services (i.e. full directory of WCMA members and contact information for public managers in Wisconsin, discounts for conferences, access to further professional development activities, etc.).
- 3.** Members are encouraged to participate in a WCMA committee to network with public management professionals. The Emerging Leaders Committee is highly recommended for early-career professionals, but make sure to consider any of the committees listed on the [WCMA website](http://www.wcma-wi.org).
- 4.** For those looking for mentors or just connect with someone experienced as a public manager in the state/region, utilize one of the following ways to connect with another WCMA professional:
 - Contact one of the four senior advisors who are here to help provide personal and professional guidance towards experiences that a local public manager professional faces. Feel free to go to the [WCMA website](http://www.wcma-wi.org) to receive their contact information.
 - Contact one of the [regional coordinators](http://www.wcma-wi.org) or WCMA Executive Director Dawn Peters to match you up with a local public management professional. If you are a first-time conference attendee and would like to meet new members, ask Dawn to pair you up with another WCMA member to help you network.
- 5.** Feel free to always contact WCMA Executive Director Dawn Peters if you need help. Feel free to contact her at dpeters@niu.edu or call 815-753-0923.