Community Building

Isabel Garcia
Housing Developer
The Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing

At Latino legislative day in Olympia

TYPE OF WORK
Perform all aspects of affordable housing development process to obtain capital construction funding for low income and farmworker housing in rural communities.
TYPICAL DAY: A typical day at work could include researching, collecting and analyzing data to determine low income and farmworker housing needs in selected communities. I complete a land search, determine ownership availability, value and features of property. I collaborate with architects, engineers, contractors, lenders, housing sponsors and public representatives on issues and challenges related to proposed housing developments. Conduct all parts of building from a feasibility analysis to securing funds through compliance monitoring and project reporting.

CAREER PATHWAY: I wanted a fulfilling career, not just a job. I wanted to help others in my community and have a meaningful purpose in life. I left my job as a Court Clerk to manage a multi-family apartment development. I fell in love with affordable housing work. I was promoted to single family housing specialist and within a year, to manager and built over 130 homes in an 11 year span. In 2016, I accepted the Executive Director role for Yakima Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity. In 2019, I transitioned to my current role working on six multi-family housing developments serving families that need affordable homes.

IMPORTANT SKILLS
2 years’ experience in planning, housing development laws, construction or related field. Experience working with nonprofits, public agencies and with community.

EDUCATION
Associate's Degree Housing & Community Development Certificate
Housing Development Finance Professional Certificate

SALARY RANGE
$50,000–$74,999

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
cell phone, lap top, a monitor, headset, mouse and stand up desk.

"I love going to work every day because I know the people we serve have hopes and dreams and an affordable home will provide them the platform and strong foundation for them to fulfill their dreams." - Isabel Garcia

One of Isabel’s affordable housing projects