



Cognitive Skills for Public Sector Code Officials

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This is a Basic Description:

- of the cognitive needs necessary in a local government code official;
- intended to provide an overview of the mental and psychological skills necessary to process the information being provided; and
- to process that information in a time-sensitive manner to determine the appropriateness of the proposal being presented.

What is “Cognition?”

- *faculty for the processing of information,*
- *applying knowledge, and*
- *changing preferences*

Includes Mental Processes As:

- *Comprehension,*
- *Decision-making,*
- *Planning,*
- *Learning,*
- *Perception,*
- *Action,*
- *Problem-solving*
- *Mental Imagery*

So—What Cognitive Skills Are Necessary for a Code Official?

- The ability to read, remember and quickly understand code meanings and their intents;
- The ability to apply the just-read code to a proposal being presented at the moment;

- The ability to understand and apply the code's intent to a particular proposal and determine quickly if they match;
- The ability to ignore rhetoric being presented that is intended to distract;

- The ability to rapidly sort through a seemingly meaningful, yet falsely-based premise that is being presented to make the rest of a proposal appear true;

New Proposals

- Review new proposals with the necessary cognitive skills, as an applicant will often attempt to talk a code professional into a new proposal that has not been listed/approved, or with the intent to distract for economic purposes.

In the Field

- The ability to make “on the spot” jobsite decisions on field work that may not represent what is on the “approved” plans, but still meets the intent of the applicable code(s).

During Plan Review

- The ability to present other options to other person that meets the intent of the applicable code requirements;
- The ability to make performance-based (intent and objectives) decisions that benefit both the other person and the public.

Thank you.

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