



With more than 40 years of administrative and supervisory experience, Cathy Willis is a seasoned professional. She provided strategic advice on a variety of operational and policy issues while working as an advisor to top leadership in a sizable eight-state regional organization. Because of her knowledge in a variety of functional areas, including human resources, ethics, finance, contracting, records management, and transparency, Cathy is a flexible and reliable resource. She contributed ideas that influenced program direction and was helpful in organizational planning and executive decision-making.

Cathy has also worked as a 911 dispatcher, where she honed her skills in maintaining composure under duress, communicating effectively, and organizing emergency response activities. She gained important knowledge about public safety communications and emergency operations from her time on the front lines. Furthermore, for five years, Cathy supported human resources for a Navy fire department, participating in hiring procedures and collaborating closely with the local union. She also gained direct experience of the local volunteer fire department's operations, including emergency response, training, and community support roles, thanks to her family's membership in the organization.

Because of all of this exposure, she is able to comprehend the different kinds of emergencies that the fire department responds to, the training that firefighters receive, and the different responsibilities that they play within the organization. Her appreciation for public service and her comprehension of the critical relationship between the fire department and the communities it serves have both grown as a result of these experiences.

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