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## About Us

### Overview

Find out details about SEMCOG, including our mission, what we do, and how we're structured.

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### Mission

SEMCOG solves regional problems by working together with member local governments to improve the quality of life in Southeast Michigan.

### What is SEMCOG?

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, is the **regional planner** in Southeast Michigan. SEMCOG plans in areas that cross jurisdictional boundaries in the Southeast Michigan region that encompasses Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. SEMCOG supports local government planning in the areas of [transportation](#), [environment](#), [community and economic development](#), and [education](#).

At SEMCOG, **local governments can deliberate on regional issues** such as improving transportation and water quality. SEMCOG assists local governments and educational institutions in planning for common needs and in recognizing regional opportunities. Policy decisions are made by local elected officials of SEMCOG's member governments, ensuring that regional policies reflect the interests and concerns of member communities.

SEMCOG **advocates for changes in state and federal public policy**, representing Southeast Michigan in Lansing and Washington as a single, strong voice for its local member governments. Advocacy

agendas for [state and federal legislation](#) are approved annually by SEMCOG's [Executive Committee](#).

SEMCOG is the **premier resource for data about Southeast Michigan**, gathering and analyzing information for public and private sector decision making on the region's economy and quality of life. [SEMCOG's library](#) has a specialized collection of more than 30,000 books and reports on regional planning issues in the areas of transportation, the environment, community and economic development, demographics, land use, and intergovernmental cooperation.

## What SEMCOG does

SEMCOG's mission is solving regional problems — improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the region's local governments as well as the quality of life in Southeast Michigan.

### Essential functions

- SEMCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs and in recognizing regional opportunities.
- SEMCOG facilitates cooperation among local governments, educational institutions, and state and federal agencies for mutual benefit.
- SEMCOG advocates for changes in public policy when state or federal legislative action is necessary.

### Accountabilities

A regional planning partnership established in Southeast Michigan in 1968, SEMCOG is accountable to local governments who join as members. [Membership](#) is open to all counties, cities, villages, townships, intermediate school districts, community colleges, and public universities in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties. Citizens are represented at SEMCOG through their local elected officials. Funding for SEMCOG is provided by federal and state grants, contracts, and membership fees.

### Responsibilities

SEMCOG supports local planning through its technical, data, and intergovernmental resources. SEMCOG's plans improve the quality of the region's water, make the transportation system safe and more efficient, revitalize communities, and spur economic development.

- As the region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, SEMCOG is responsible for regional [transportation planning](#).

- Under the federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Clean Air Act, SEMCOG is the designated planning agency for both [water and air quality](#).
- SEMCOG is responsible for specific [housing](#) and [land use](#) planning elements as authorized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- As the [Michigan State Single Point of Contact \(SPOC\)](#), SEMCOG reviews federal grant applications for a variety of local, regional, and state projects in relation to regional plans and policies.

### **Decision making**

All SEMCOG policy decisions are made by local elected officials, ensuring that regional policies reflect the interests of member communities. Participants serve on one or both of the policy-making bodies — the [General Assembly](#) and the [Executive Committee](#). Prior to policy adoption, technical [advisory councils](#) provide the structure for gaining input on transportation, environment, community and economic development, data analysis, and education. These advisory councils are made up of broad-based representation from local governments, the business community, environmental organizations, and other special-interest citizens' groups.

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For question regarding this site, e-mail [infoservices@semcog.org](mailto:infoservices@semcog.org)

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