



**PHILLIP D. PETERS REGIONAL PLANNING FELLOWSHIP
2021 POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the Phillip D. Peters Regional Planning Fellowship Board of Directors are pleased to announce the availability of a fellowship during the calendar year 2021 to a qualified Master's degree graduate student in urban and regional planning or a related field.

The Phillip D. Peters Regional Planning Fellowship was established in 1999 to honor the late Phil Peters, the former Executive Director of the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC). Phil retired in 1999 after completing more than thirty years of extraordinary service to NIPC, during which time he played a major role in the development and implementation of the agency's innovative, comprehensive, and highly-regarded planning program for the Chicago region. The fellowship reflects Phil's dedication to NIPC and his personal interest in promoting careers in regional planning.

The summer of 2019 was a notable year for the Peters Fellowship. Not only did CMAP welcome the 20th Peters Fellow, but the 2007 Peters Fellow, Erin Aleman, was appointed the Executive Director of CMAP. The 21 Peters Fellows are currently serving in a variety of public and private sector roles in the Chicago area, as well as in other major metropolitan centers, such as Dallas and Washington, DC.

Since then, the pandemic has created new challenges and exposed deep-seated issues already identified in the region's long-range plan, ON TO 2050. CMAP has responded by providing critical data and analysis showing the pandemic's effect on transportation, municipal revenues, and the inequities facing essential workers, and by doubling down on three critical areas: building climate resiliency, ensuring an equitable transportation system, and growing an economy that works for everyone.

The 2020 Peters Fellowship was transformed into a remote experience that allowed the Peters Fellow, [Briana Gipson](#), to immerse herself in CMAP's evolving work. She writes, "CMAP was committed to offering me projects that aligned with my passions and interests. I worked on equitable transit-oriented development in the City of Chicago; participated in interviews of activists, advocates, and political leaders for a podcast that was designed to inspire and organize Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color in the region around the Census; facilitated a discussion on inequity and justice in the city for the Future Leaders in Planning program; and analyzed regional planning agencies' response to COVID-19 and racial injustices. As we work to address the climate crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and systematic racism, regional planning will be one of the most powerful tools we have to overcome if it is rooted in intention, equity, and justice."

The fellowship will be scheduled for a mutually convenient, consecutive period between **May and December 2021**, and will consist of a remote 10-work week experience at CMAP under the

guidance and mentoring of a senior staff member. The fellow will be compensated at the rate of \$20.00 per hour. The fellow must own a personal laptop to work remotely.

Selection will be based upon a combination of relationship of past coursework and employment to the current work and needs of CMAP, and an indication of a career interest in regional planning. Priority will be given to those students who are midway through their graduate program. An interview will be required for candidates selected as finalists for the fellowship.

Fellowship projects may include work in any of the following areas of planning: land use, transportation, climate, housing, and/or economic development, and involve responsibilities such as local and regional plan development, community engagement, policy analysis, communications, and/or data research and analysis. Many past Peters Fellows have worked on projects within CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program or on implementation of the comprehensive regional plan. Every effort will be made to match up the education and interest of the fellow with the agency's work program activities.

In addition, the Peters Fellowship Board of Directors and CMAP will ensure that the Peters Fellow is provided opportunities to participate in a broad range of regional planning activities, including those with partners throughout the region. This will include opportunities to interact with senior leadership at CMAP to gain insight into executive decision-making and policy development.

CMAP is the official regional planning organization for northeastern Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will. CMAP developed and now leads the implementation of ON TO 2050, metropolitan Chicago's comprehensive regional plan. See www.cmap.illinois.gov/about for more information.

Please note that the deadline for receiving all application materials is, **February 19, 2021**. The fellow will be announced in early April. Questions regarding the fellowship should be directed to Yesenia Ambriz at yambriz@cmap.illinois.gov.