

Yale University President's Public Service Fellowship

Proposal for Fellowship Placement • Summer 2021

- Organization: City Plan Department, City of New Haven
- Full street address of organization (*Fellows must be provided with a desk and computer at placement site and cannot work remotely*): 165 Church Street, New Haven Ct
- Website: <https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/planning/default.htm>
- Name and title of person who will be the Fellow's direct supervisor (*the supervisor must be available to supervise Fellow daily*): Aicha Woods, Executive Director of City Plan.
- Phone number and e-mail address of proposed direct supervisor:
awoods@newhavenct.gov
203-745-6100
- Placement dates (*8-11 weeks between Tuesday, June 1 and Friday, August 13, 2021*):
- Are placement dates flexible? If so, please describe: Yes
- Proposed work schedule (*placements should be equivalent to full-time and not more than 37.5 hours/week*):

Work hours are 9-5 daily, with 1-hour lunch break. Position may require occasional evening and weekend meetings and events. Hours can be flexible to accommodate.

Placement Description

The City Plan Department facilitates the physical development of the City and encourages the development of sustainable, resilient and equitable land use, economic, and social policy. The department is responsible for the [Comprehensive Plan of Development](#), as well as other area-specific development plans.

The department works with stakeholders, city agencies, commissions, and boards to provide planning, zoning, and development information and advice, engaging with residents, businesses, and developers in shaping and achieving the City's development objectives.

New Haven Resiliency and Adaptation; Planning for Climate Change in a Coastal City

Like other coastal cities in the North East, New Haven faces particular and daunting challenges related to Climate change. These include threats from storms and coastal flooding events as well as increasing levels of stressors such as heat and increased precipitation. The impacts of these changes disproportionately affect our most vulnerable residents.

The City of New Haven has been a leader in addressing coastal challenges as well as setting climate and sustainability goals. The updated [Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (2005,2017) and the [Climate and Sustainability Framework](#) (2018) as well as the [Vision 2025 Comprehensive Plan](#) (2015) outline goals and potential actions for the city to take.

The City Plan Department, in collaboration with other agencies, is initiating a comprehensive resiliency and adaptation planning process, to develop specific land use policies and ordinances for the next century of change and shifting SLR projections. This includes developing a resiliency/adaptation strategy with a specific and actionable implementation plan. This will be built upon a stock taking of existing research and planning work both by City of New Haven and partner institutions, identifying gaps, updating data, and identifying best practices.

This project is a cross cutting endeavor that engages many areas of expertise as well as different levels of scale of inquiry and planning. Depending on the Fellow's particular interests or skill set the Fellowship project could range from on a broader research /analytic project such as adaptation assessment tools or concentrating on a

detail place-based water's edge design proposal. The specific assignment would be co designed with applicant and well defined prior to commencement of work.

Assignments might include:

- Review existing data sets, plans and initiatives by City of New Haven and partners to identify gaps as well as alignments between available knowledge and data sources.
 - Research best practices and policies from similarly situated cities.
 - Collect and analyze data regarding including mapping and measuring existing conditions and forecasting potential impacts and solutions using 3D GIS platforms or other climate scenario and visualization tools.
 - Assist staff with outreach and engagement to foster a collaborative and transparent process with stakeholders around climate change adaptation.
 - Use creativity and design to develop a specific solution to a place-based climate or resiliency challenge.
 - Focus on specific sector impacts such as transportation or waste managements.
- Specific skills/experience required for the project:

This position requires strong research, writing and data analysis skills as well as graphics and communications and interpersonal and creative problem-solving skills. The department is a lean and fast paced environment with a high-volume workload so the applicant must be resourceful and self-directed.

Students with a focus on urban studies, law, environmental studies, architecture, public health are especially encouraged to apply however anyone on with a passion for cities is welcome.

The City Plan department has a long history of hosting President's Fellows. Fellows have worked on neighborhood engagement, historic research, waterfront resiliency and data analysis among many other projects. We are currently working with two Urban Fellows from Dwight Hall who are assisting with staff on the zoning updates and community engagement process. The current City Plan director began her career with a President's Fellow internship at New Haven City Plan.