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[Home](#) > Senior Research Analyst

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Brief Description:

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Data Services Group seeks a Senior Research Analyst to conduct cutting-edge research and analysis in support of sustainable regional planning. The Research Analyst will integrate data from a wide variety of sources, conduct policy-driven analysis, and prepare information for presentation in a variety of formats. Applicants must have excellent quantitative abilities, strong communication skills, and familiarity with regional planning concepts. The ideal candidate will have expertise with scenarios modeling, experience with community engagement strategies, and a strong commitment to issues of equity and smart growth.

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This is an opportunity to work in a dynamic, interdisciplinary environment focused on using data and analysis to support regional planning and policymaking. MAPC is among the first regions to receive a federal Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, and one of only a dozen regions to receive a grant of \$4 million or more. The three year program, designed by Data Services staff, outlines a variety of projects that integrate data, technology, and decision support tools into local and regional planning.

Primary Responsibilities

- Policy-oriented research and analysis in areas such as demographics, land use, housing, health, education, environment, and economic development. Design and implement research studies addressing local, regional, and statewide issues impacting Metro Boston municipalities and disadvantaged communities. Present results in narrative

and graphical form for print and web applications.

- Scenarios modeling of alternative land uses and associated impacts on housing, employment, transportation, public health, and the environment. Engage public participants in understanding different tradeoffs implicit in alternative land use scenarios and related policies.
- Data collection and management: Research and obtain updates to MAPC's existing data sets as they are released from public agencies, the private sector, and other MAPC units. Clean and format data sets and prepare summary reports. Research and identify new data sources and integrate them into MAPC's data warehouse. Build relationships with other agencies and allied organizations to support ongoing data-sharing.
- Other tasks: Respond to email and telephone data inquiries from municipalities and allied organizations. Assist Data Center staff in presentation of reports and other information, both oral and written. Perform other duties as necessary

Qualifications

Experience in conducting independent research and in the creation and maintenance of various databases. The following are required qualifications for the position:

- A Master's degree in planning, public health, economics, computer sciences, or a related field or at least 5 years of experience in a related field.
- Demonstrated experience with data analysis, interpretation, report preparation, and presentation
 - Demonstrated knowledge of planning concepts, such as land use, zoning, housing, economic development, sustainable development, and public participation.
- Excellent written and oral communications skills, research reports, briefing papers, websites, and technical documentation.
- A high proficiency with managing and analyzing data using Microsoft Access and/or Excel
- Experience working with diverse data sets from federal, state, and local agencies.
- Demonstrated strategic and analytical capabilities, capacity for innovation, self-motivation, and goal-orientation.

The following are additional desired qualifications for the position:

- Experience with regional and community-based data collection.
- Experience with scenarios modeling and population and employment projections
- Experience in the utilization of technology to augment planning and policy discussions.
- Experience with Community Viz, Index or other Scenarios modeling software
- Familiarity with Census Data, including the American Community Survey, Central Transportation Planning Package, and other products.

ABOUT MAPC's DATA SERVICES GROUP

The MAPC Data Services Group is responsible for data management, data analysis, and policy research. The Data Center has a four-part mission:

- Provide data analysis, mapping, and policy analysis support to all other departments within the agency.
- Provide basic analytical services and data products "on demand" to municipal clientele and allied organizations and agencies.
- Undertake customized research projects or studies for external clients.
- Conduct independent research on emerging planning issues of regional significance to help educate public and private stakeholders about regional trends and policy alternatives. Over the past few years the Data Center has
 - Developed the Metro Boston Data Common, an on-line mapping tool and data viewer (in

partnership with The Boston Foundation.)

- Prepared demographic, employment, and land use projections for 164 municipalities in Metro Boston to support regional transportation planning.
- Developed a comprehensive model of regional growth and development to support regional planning and policy development.
- Pioneered the use of decision support tools such as Community Viz modeling, scenario visualization, immersive environments, planning video games, and wireless keypads.
- Conducted first-in-the-nation research on household transportation patterns, school walkability, and the influence of new school construction on enrollment.

Current and upcoming projects include

- Creation of a GIS-based platform for local scenario modeling that integrates local data and regional trends in a web and desktop application for public engagement
- Continued analysis of vehicle mileage data from the MA RMV to analyze the influence of location and the built environment on travel patterns
- Utilization of 3-D modeling to support local visioning and planning efforts around transit and in historic centers.
- Analysis of transportation and environmental impacts of alternative land use scenarios along the I-495 corridor west of Boston.

ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COUNCIL

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council is a regional planning agency serving the people who live and work in 101 cities and towns in Metropolitan Boston. Our mission is to promote smart growth and regional cooperation, which includes protecting the environment, supporting economic development, encouraging sustainable land use, improving transportation, bolstering affordable housing, ensuring public safety, advancing equity and opportunity among people of all backgrounds, and fostering collaboration among municipalities.

Our work is guided by our regional vision, "MetroFuture: Making a Greater Boston Region." Our Council members and staff work to advance this plan through technical assistance to cities and towns, data analysis and mapping, research, collective purchasing, public engagement, and advocacy for public policies that advance our mission.

We welcome to our staff team intelligent, thoughtful and entrepreneurial professionals who are committed to improving the quality of life in Metro Boston.

Funding for Council activities is derived from municipal, state, federal and private grants and contracts and a per-capita assessment on member communities approved annually by municipal representatives. The MAPC staff consists of approximately 40 FTEs, consisting of professionals and support staff, most located in a transit-accessible and bike-friendly office at 60 Temple Place, Boston.

Compensation and Benefits

Salary range: mid- to high-\$50's. Excellent state employee benefits package. Driver's license and legal authorization to work in the USA (citizenship or visa) required. Position open until filled. Review of applications will begin on February 11, 2011.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume and three professional references. MAPC is an EOE/ AA employer. Posted 1/14/11.

HOW TO APPLY

Send all application materials to: (Email responses strongly preferred)

Pay Scale: mid- to high-\$50's
Application Deadline: February 11, 2011

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