

# Tonantzin L. Carmona

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## PROFILE

- Demonstrated practitioner in leading the development of inclusive and equitable policy design and implementation.
  - Committed to advancing policies that promote economic justice and racial equity.
  - Experienced professional with skillsets situated at the intersection of public policy, communications, public engagement and politics.
  - Research interests include public finance, race and ethnicity, economic inequality, and immigrant integration at the state and local level.
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Chicago Covid-19 Nonprofit Working Group** Chicago, IL  
*Consultant* August 2020 - August 2021

- Partnered with University of Chicago researchers to develop and implement a working group of 25 Chicago nonprofits serving marginalized populations to examine the challenges experienced by nonprofits during the pandemic and develop collective priorities to present to government and philanthropic stakeholders.
- Served as a research assistant and conducted qualitative interviews with nonprofit participants.

**Elizabeth Warren for President** Chicago, IL  
*Illinois Political Director* December 2019 – March 2020

- Led the statewide political strategy, managed the team's communications operations and media relations, and maintained national and local relationships with elected officials, delegates, and other key stakeholders.

**The Chicago Community Trust** Chicago, IL  
*Special Assistant to the President & CEO* May 2019 – December 2019

- Oversaw the operations of the President's Office and worked cross-functionally across the organization of The Chicago Community Trust, a community foundation with \$3.2 billion in total assets that is dedicated to advancing equity and opportunity in the Chicago region.

**Office of the City Clerk** Chicago, IL  
*Chief of Policy* February 2017 – April 2019

- Spearheaded the policy agenda for the Office of the City Clerk, which serves 1.3 million residents.
- Co-founded and led the Chicago Fines, Fees & Access Collaborative, which consisted of elected officials, City departments, researchers from local universities, such as the University of Chicago, and members from local and national organizations and advocacy groups, to evaluate municipal finance policies and practices.
  - On September 18, 2019, Chicago became the largest U.S. city to overhaul its ticketing and debt collection system with a 49-1 vote in City Council. Reforms included ending driver's license suspensions for non-moving violations, amending payment plans and late fee structures, and instituting an amnesty period to clear residents' debt for certain fines.
- Led the creation and launch of the Chicago CityKey, the first government-issued municipal ID in the country to serve as a transit, library, and prescription drug discount card; through this program, Chicago became the first municipality within the State of Illinois to recognize a third gender option, non-binary, on an ID.
  - Crafted the Chicago Municipal ID Ordinance, which was passed by the Chicago City Council.
  - Led a procurement process with a \$1 million budget to purchase software and mobile hardware to print ID's and maintain databases with privacy enhancing technologies.

**Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren** Washington D.C.  
*Deputy Press Secretary* June 2016 – January 2017

- Directed the daily operations of the press office, served as the media liaison for the Senator, and managed relationships with global, national and Massachusetts-based media outlets.
- Developed written communications for Senator Warren, including press releases, statements and talking points.

**City of Chicago Mayor's Office**

Chicago, IL

**Director of the Mayor's Office of New Americans and Deputy Policy Director**

April 2014 – June 2016

- Developed and launched more than twenty immigrant integration policies, programs, and initiatives during a two-year period, and collaborated with community stakeholders, government entities, civic institutions, and private sector partners to implement this work.
- Worked to ensure undocumented students qualified for the Chicago STAR Scholarship, which guarantees free community college tuition and books for Chicago Public School graduates.
- Secured matching grant funds to provide legal screenings and legal representation for unaccompanied child migrants from Central America.
- Led the Cities for Citizenship Campaign in Chicago, in coordination with NYC and LA Mayors Offices, to increase naturalization rates; directed the process to disseminate funds to local non-profits.
- Crafted the Language Access Ordinance, which was passed by the Chicago City Council to improve access to government for Chicago's limited-English proficient residents.

**Policy Associate**

September 2012 – April 2014

- Conducted research, led projects, and presented recommendations to senior leadership on a range of issues spanning sustainability, municipal solid waste, support for small businesses, and digital literacy expansion.
- Managed the City/County Collaboration, an initiative to save taxpayer dollars and streamline service delivery.
- Supported the policy development of the City's first Rideshare Ordinance, which permits rideshare companies such as Uber and Lyft to operate in Chicago, while introducing regulations and consumer protections.

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**EDUCATION**

**Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government**

Cambridge, MA

**Master in Public Administration**

May 2021

*John F. Kennedy Fellow*

**Northwestern University**

Evanston, IL

**Bachelor of Arts, major in Political Science, minor in Latino/a Studies**

June 2012

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**AWARDS**

- *Negocios Now Latinos* '40 Under 40' (2019)
- *Windy City Times* '30 Under 30' (2018)
- *Crain's Chicago Business* '20 in Their 20's' (2015)

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**REPORTS**

- City-County Collaboration: Smart, Efficient, Transformed Government (2013)
- Bridging the Language Gap: Recommendations from Chicago's Language Access Advisory Committee (2014)
- Chicago's New Deal for All Women & Girls: Policies, Recommendations, and Action Plan for Reaching Gender Equity (2019)
- Advancing Equity: First Steps Towards Fines & Fees Reform in Chicago (2019)

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**PRESENTATIONS**

- Panelist for "CityKey: The Chicago Municipal ID" at Chi Hack Night (2018)
  - Panelist for the National Partnership for New Americans Webinar on Naturalization (2015)
  - Panelist for FWD.US's event on Immigrant Entrepreneurship (2015)
  - Keynote address at the Conference on Higher Education Access for Undocumented Students (2014)
  - Panelist for WBEZ Chicago's panel "Midwestern state governments propose solutions to fix immigration issues" (2014)
  - Remarks at the "Cities for Citizenship" plenary at the National Immigrant Integration Conference in Los Angeles (2014)
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