Summer 2020 Research Opportunity
Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan

Hours per week: Up to 40 hours
Pay: $16 per hour

NOTE: Applicants from all U-M academic units are encouraged to apply. Students may fulfill the requirements of their unit’s internship program and may work as many weeks as he/she is able/required to between academic terms. Poverty Solutions and the chosen candidate will come to an agreement on the exact term of employment. This position is based in our office in downtown Detroit, with occasional time spent in the Ann Arbor office. Transportation, lodging, and expenses for this position are the responsibility of the student.

Summary

The Detroit Partnership on Economic Mobility is a partnership between Poverty Solutions at U-M and the City of Detroit, focused on reducing poverty in Detroit. Poverty Solutions staff – together with our faculty experts – conduct action-oriented research to help inform, enhance, and evaluate the City’s efforts to improve economic opportunity in the city, and to galvanize action from collective stakeholders. We have a Detroit-based team that works closely with City departments and community groups across the city, to conduct solutions-oriented research to inform collective efforts to reduce poverty; we employ a team of Economic Mobility Fellows that work directly with City departments on strategic projects; we engage undergraduate and graduate research assistants from across the university to support our work; and we fund faculty research projects that shed new light on some of the most persistent problems facing Detroit residents, as well as potential solutions.

We pride ourselves in working in partnership with community in everything we do, co-creating our research agenda based on the concerns of residents, and the needs of policymakers.

In addition, we view poverty as the result of many interlinked systems that fail to operate as they should for those at the bottom of the income spectrum. Therefore, we work not in one single area, but within and across a variety of systems, enabling us to intervene in a number of areas where we can make concrete improvements in the lives of low-income Detroiters.

We are seeking a motivated student to work on Partnership projects in the summer of 2020. The student will report to Patrick Cooney, Assistant Director of Economic Mobility on action-oriented projects that may include:

- Researching national leading practices to reduce poverty and improve economic well-being;
- Writing Detroit neighborhood-level profiles based on key economic mobility indicators;
- Researching innovative financial products that cities have used to improve financial inclusion;
- Researching best-practices for improving access to the Earned Income Tax Credit;
- Researching innovative home repair programs in cities across the U.S.;
- Researching innovative national practices around water affordability;
- Assisting with data and research projects as needed.

**Applicant Requirements**
- Pursuing a Master’s degree with a strong interest in innovative approaches to poverty alleviation
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Ability to work well under the direction of others and to take ownership of projects independently;
- Experience collecting a large amount of information, and distilling results into action-oriented policy briefs;
- Strong skills in Excel, and ability to master new software applications;
- Ability to maintain a high level of accuracy in collecting and analyzing data;
- Effective organizational skills.

**Application Process**

Please submit a resume and a one-page statement of interest to Poverty Solutions using the application linked at poverty.umich.edu/students/work-opportunities/. In your statement, you are encouraged to identify your interest in working on poverty reduction and improving economic well-being, and the skills/experience you would bring to the team. You may wish to describe your career interests and discuss your previous work and educational experiences demonstrating these interests.

Materials should be submitted by Friday March 6, 2020 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.