

Poverty Lab Title: Research Director

Who We Are:

Our Focus: Concentrated poverty remains an endemic feature of American cities. Residents of low-income communities suffer higher rates of crime victimization and greater exposure to environmental contaminants. Their children experience worse schooling outcomes and limited access to healthy food. Many struggle with irregular employment and unstable housing. The path to social mobility is foreclosed by limited opportunities to gain new skills, and limited availability of affordable financial products. While social enterprises work hard to address these challenges with innovative solutions, policymakers and practitioners struggle to make sustained progress due to a lack of evidence about what works. We launched the University of Chicago Poverty Lab in 2015 to test innovative approaches to addressing the intersecting challenges faced by low-income residents of our cities. We bring the best science and “big data” analysis possible to bear on the problem of policy design, leveraging government administrative data to guide local policy and to generate high-quality evidence about what works. We believe that carrying out this work in very close collaboration with policymakers helps keep us focused on the most important real-world problems, and increases the chances that our findings translate into real-world impact. Program areas currently include college access, workforce development, housing/homelessness, and financial stability.

The Role:

The University of Chicago Poverty Lab is seeking a full-time Research Director to provide scientific and intellectual leadership for the Poverty Lab. The Research Director, in partnership with senior faculty members at the University of Chicago and elsewhere, will provide scientific direction for a portfolio of applied research projects and ensure the rigor and quality of the Lab's work.

Responsibilities:

- Direct a portfolio of applied research projects either focused on homelessness/housing, workforce development, or financial stability or a cross cutting portfolio of work incorporating tools from predictive analytics and machine learning across the areas in which the Poverty Lab is doing work
- Manage and mentor research and project staff, providing scientific direction and ensuring the rigor and quality of all work
- Contribute to strategic conversations about which new projects and initiatives the Poverty Lab should take on
- Work collaboratively with practitioners and policy makers to develop and implement applied research projects
- Contribute to the scientific content or research proposals
- Disseminate research findings to both research and practitioner/policy maker audiences
- Serve as a member of the Poverty Lab's senior leadership team

Competencies:

- Expertise in all aspects of the research design, methods, and evaluation of research projects in the area of labor economics/social policy *or* expertise in machine learning/predictive analytics required. Expertise in both preferred
- Interest in finding and testing innovative solutions to urban problems
- Content expertise in workforce development, homelessness/housing, or financial stability preferred

Education:

- Ph.D. in public policy, economics, statistics, computer science, or other relevant field by fall 2018 required

Experience:

- Experience working with interdisciplinary research teams and agency and community stakeholders preferred

Required Documents:

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Writing Sample
- Reference Contact Information
- **Note:** When applying, all required documents **MUST** be uploaded under the **Resume/CV** section of the application

To Apply: please submit a resume, cover letter, writing sample, and reference contact information to UChicago's Workday system, search for requisition **JR02455**. Please find instructions on how to access the application below.

If you have questions about the Workday application system, please contact:
https://uchicago.service-now.com/sso?id=ssc_sc_cat_item&sys_id=cf359d671316660030c0bc0cf3244b02d.

If you have an active UChicago Workday employee account, you will need to complete the Internal Candidate application process. Internal Candidate instructions: [Log into Workday](#) and select the career worklet.

External Candidates should apply at <https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/External>

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