

**Title:** Project Director  
**Start Date:** ASAP

### Who We Are

Improving schooling outcomes for youth and reducing disparities in achievement are among our nation's most urgent challenges. Graduation rates of black and Hispanic youth remain far lower than those of their white counterparts, and this gap is mirrored by striking disparities between rich and poor.

We believe that the lack of progress in improving outcomes for low-income youth stems in part from not knowing enough about what works, for whom, and why. Consider the problem, for instance, of reducing cancer mortality among low-income populations. Surely more funding is necessary to ensure that everyone has adequate access to decent health care. But there is also another, perhaps even more fundamental barrier to progress: we desperately need a cure for cancer. We believe that a similar knowledge gap is a barrier to progress in reducing disparities in educational attainment, albeit one that is less visible.

The Education Lab does the most rigorous possible research in close collaboration with local government and nonprofits, to learn about what works and to help scale the most promising solutions. We believe the most promising way to have impact at scale is to carry out demonstration projects with philanthropic support, with the goal of using the results to guide public-sector dollars to those uses that generate as much social good as possible. Under the direction of leading social scientists, we work with partners to use data and evidence to make progress, including: leveraging administrative data to understand a program's impact, providing technical assistance to agency and nonprofit partners to inform operations and strategy, and conducting research using cutting edge methods and behavioral and social science. Our goal is to assemble a portfolio of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to generate new evidence about what works, for whom, and why, and to conduct benefit-cost analyses of different interventions to enable policymakers to prioritize resources for the combination of strategies that achieve the greatest social good per dollar spent.

For more information about the UChicago Urban Labs, go to <http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/>

### The Project

The Education Lab works closely with Chicago Public Schools (CPS) on a portfolio of projects aiming to support CPS students on their path to graduation and postsecondary education, improve academic outcomes, and reduce disparities in achievement for students. Existing partnerships include the evaluation of large-scale investments in personalized learning interventions as well as efforts to support socioemotional learning. Our current focus is on leveraging this partnership to identify and implement strategies to support students who are most at-risk of dropping out of school, experiencing homelessness, or becoming justice-involved. This partnership and the resulting innovation will not only impact Chicago students, but provide insight and guidance for other cities struggling to serve this population.

### The Role

The University of Chicago Education Lab seeks a full-time Project Director to oversee our portfolio of CPS projects and support the effort to ensure that all Chicago Public Schools students receive high-quality supports across academic instruction, socioemotional supports, and postsecondary pathways. The Project Director will:

- Develop a workplan for projects that sets intermediate deadlines and identifies key milestones and critical

interdependencies between workstreams.

- Along with CPS Project Managers, establish a governance structure that secures input from key stakeholders on the direction and progress of the projects.
- Build strategic partnerships with government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community organizations.
- Coordinate with Crime and Education Lab Executive Director and Education Lab Research Director to identify staff resources for projects.
- Manage research staff responsible for conducting the evaluations described above.
- Coordinate with Crime and Education Lab Executive Director to interface with funders on Education Lab project work.
- Ensure that all grant milestones are achieved.

### Education and Experience Required

- Bachelor's degree in public policy, education, social work or a closely related field required; a master's degree is preferred.
- A minimum of five years of full-time work experience in a professional setting, including at least three years of experiencing managing full-time employees.
- Strong project management skills including demonstrated success navigating various stakeholder interests to produce a common goal. Knowledge of or experience working with high needs or vulnerable populations preferred.
- Previous experience working with a research study preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to manage a large portfolio of projects with multiple partners.

### Competencies

- Outstanding interpersonal skills and the ability to develop and maintain positive relationships with a broad array of partners.
- Ability to work independently in a fast-paced environment.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present complex ideas in a simple and straightforward way for non-technical audiences required.
- Demonstrated ability to exercise sound judgment required.
- Demonstrated ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Understanding of research; ability to effectively communicate research to non-technical audiences.
- Knowledge of urban policy, social policy, crime policy, and workforce development preferred.

**To Apply:** Please submit, a list of references, resume, and cover letter to the University of Chicago's Workday System. Search for requisition number **JR03414**. **Note:** When applying, all required documents **MUST** be uploaded under the Resume/CV section of the application. Please find instructions on how to access the application below.

- 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>.
- If you have questions about the Workday application system, please contact: <https://uchicago.service->



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