Health Labs Title: Executive Director

Who we are:
Persistent disparities in health outcomes across segments of the United States population and the soaring cost of health care have created an urgent need to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the nation’s health care system. Our health care system remains compartmentalized and often fails vulnerable patients—particularly those with multiple chronic health problems—in addition to straining government resources. Health care reform has created exciting new opportunities in health care access and health care delivery, but policymakers and practitioners are still working to understand how it can sustainably and reliably improve health outcomes for underserved populations including the homeless, the elderly, and those in the criminal justice system.

The University of Chicago’s Health Lab finds and tests promising programs and interventions in health by leveraging rigorous research methods such as randomized controlled trials, large datasets, and partnerships with government agencies and nonprofits. As a part of the Urban Labs, we focus on the social determinants of health to conduct applied research projects in health and at the intersections of health, homelessness and criminal justice. We also actively support the work of the Center for Health and the Social Sciences (CHeSS) at the University of Chicago, focusing on reducing healthcare costs and improving outcomes.

The Health Lab places a deep emphasis on partnership with city and state agencies. To date, we have active projects with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Cook County Health and Hospital System, the Chicago Department of Public Health, the Cook County Sheriff’s Office, the Chicago Fire Department, the Chicago Police Department, the Illinois Department of Human Services, and Chicago’s Continuum of Care (All Chicago). Our goal is to rigorously answer questions that these agencies have about public health programs and policies in order to improve human life at scale. For examples of our work, please see: http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/

The Role:
The UChicago Urban Labs is seeking a full-time Executive Director to lead the Health Lab. Reporting to Faculty Director David Meltzer and supporting Health Lab co-Director Harold Pollack and other Health Lab faculty, the Executive Director is the operational leader of the Health Lab. The Executive Director manages relationships with city and state agencies, funders, and key contacts within the University of Chicago. Currently, the Executive Director leads a team of 10 staff members and manages an annual budget approaching $1,500,000. The role requires leadership and management within the organization and with external partners. The Executive Director is the principal spokesperson and lead advocate for the Health Lab’s work.

This position requires a person who can work as a part of a small research team running multiple projects concurrently. The position offers the opportunity to work directly with leading social policy researchers at the University of Chicago, as well as a team of administrative staff, project managers, research analysts, and student research assistants.
Responsibilities:

- Coordinate major activities of the Health Lab, a research center conducting rigorous scientific inquiry to address fundamental urban health challenges, particularly for the most vulnerable members of society.
- Cultivate and manage key stakeholder relationships to advance the Health Lab’s mission including with health policymakers, community-based nonprofits, scholars, public agencies, hospital leaders, and philanthropists.
- Develop and implement a robust fundraising initiative to diversify sources of revenue and raise funds from federal, local, and private sources.
- Act as principal spokesperson for the Health Lab, including outreach and communications.
- Manage Health Lab budget and supervise Health Lab staff.

Competencies: The ideal candidate will be an effective and energetic leader, who has passion and expertise in social determinants of health, healthcare delivery, and criminal justice, as well as a knowledge of rigorous research methods. The ideal candidate will also show a commitment to working with community partners and government agencies.

Education:

- Master’s degree or PhD in public health, economics, sociology, public policy or other relevant social/mathematical science field required.

Experience:

- A minimum of five year’s progressively responsible work experience and management in the public or non-profit sector.
- Experience working on field experiments preferred.
- Familiarity with randomized controlled trials 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 https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/External, requisition JR06882.