

**Title:** Research Director

**Reporting to:** Kelly Hallberg, Scientific Director

### **Our Focus**

Cities like Chicago fuel remarkable opportunity. At the same time, decades of disinvestment and discrimination create real barriers for young people growing up in many of our neighborhoods. Many in government and the nonprofit sector are working to tackle these challenges. We launched the University of Chicago Poverty Lab in 2015 to generate rigorous research that results in expanded economic opportunity for communities harmed by disinvestment and segregation. We bring the best science and “big data” analysis possible to identify and highlight barriers to social mobility and racial equity, partner with policymakers, community-based organizations and others to generate rigorous evidence about how to remove these barriers, and work closely with policymakers and impacted communities to ensure this research leads to meaningful policy change. Our work cuts across traditional policy domains, including education, workforce development, housing and cash assistance programs.

### **Our Values**

*Conduct science in service of cities:* We feel a sense of urgency to do research that improves people’s lives. We select projects that lead to solutions for policy, practice, and increased investments on the ground. Our research is rigorous and informed by the historic and current contexts that shape urban residents’ lives.

*Foster lasting relationships:* We collaborate with policymakers, practitioners, and people with lived experience to understand multiple perspectives and figure out what works.

*Elevate equity & inclusion:* We aim to hire people with a range of personal and professional backgrounds, skillsets, and identities. We expand access to evaluation for a broad range of organizations and we conduct work that affirms the dignity of all people.

*Check our privilege:* We recognize the power and privilege we have as members of the University of Chicago. We practice humility and recognize that expertise comes in many forms and there are limits to our own.

*Embrace a growth mindset:* We invest in our people and develop our skills and content knowledge together. We work respectfully as a team to achieve our shared goals.

### **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:**

- Develop and direct a portfolio of applied research projects focused on homelessness/housing, workforce development, or cash assistance.
- 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 of 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.

**Education, Experience, and Certifications:**

- Applicants must have a Ph.D. in public policy, economics, statistics, computer science, or other relevant field.
- At least two years of experience leading applied research projects.
- Preference will be given to those with proven experience working with interdisciplinary research teams and agency and community stakeholders.
- Expertise in all aspects of the research design, methods, and evaluation of research projects in the area of labor economics/social policy required.
- Expertise in machine learning preferred.
- Interest in finding and testing innovative solutions to urban problems.
- Content expertise in homelessness/housing, workforce development, or cash assistance required.
- Ability to engage thoughtfully with issues related to race, identity, and equity and work across difference required.
- Demonstrated experience working with communities that have experienced segregation and disinvestment preferred.
- First generation college students and those with lived experience in communities experiencing poverty and disinvestment are encouraged to apply.

**Required Documents:**

- CV/resume
- Cover letter
- Writing sample
- Reference contact info

Candidates should apply to this position at:

[https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/External/job/Illinois-Chicago/Research-Director\\_JR09839](https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/External/job/Illinois-Chicago/Research-Director_JR09839).