Health Lab Title: Research Director

Start Date: ASAP

Location: Remote to start; Chicago

Who We Are:

The Health Lab’s mission is to partner with civic and community leaders to identify, rigorously evaluate and help scale programs and policies that improve health outcomes, particularly for low-income and disadvantaged urban residents. To accomplish our mission, we seek to identify and engage vulnerable people so they can access services and opportunities that will improve their safety, health and vitality. We work closely with partners, including persons with lived experiences, to learn directly from them about their challenges. We evaluate interventions that seek to address these challenges and advise our partners using data-driven results. We are deeply committed to understanding the impacts of policies, programs and interventions.

Like the needs of those we seek to serve, our partnerships are vast. While these partners represent many communities and community-based organizations, they also include medical and social service providers, emergency service providers, members of the corrections, policing and other law enforcement communities.

We believe that two key obstacles prevent cities from mobilizing and coordinating their rich resources across sectors. First, cities lack evidence about the multi-sector impact of their efforts. Second, cities lack coordination mechanisms and incentives to collaborate across sectors. The Health Lab dedicates our work and our resources to these two issues. Our primary goal is to generate high-quality evidence about interventions that can sustainably improve urban health and be widely scaled.

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), in addition to a growing number of partners nationwide. 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 University of Chicago Health Lab is seeking a full-time Research Director to contribute to the scientific and intellectual leadership for the Health Lab. The Research Director will partner with Health Lab faculty, executive, and associate directors as well as affiliated faculty within and outside the University of Chicago to provide scientific direction for a portfolio of applied research projects and to ensure the rigor and quality of the Lab's work.

Responsibilities:

- Work with Health Lab staff and affiliates to manage an existing and continue to build a portfolio of applied research projects focused on urban health and healthcare, including potentially social determinants of health, health systems management, the interactions of health and criminal
justice involvement, and health and homelessness.

- Manage and mentor research and project staff, providing scientific direction and ensuring the rigor and quality of all work. The Research Director will manage at least three full time analysts.
- Contribute to strategic conversations about which new projects and initiatives should be taken on by the Health Lab
- Work collaboratively with practitioners and policy makers to develop and implement applied research projects
- Contribute to, and be able to lead, development of scientific content and research proposals
- Disseminate research findings to both research and practitioner/policy maker audiences
- Serve as a member of the Health Lab’s senior leadership team, with primary reporting to the Health Lab Faculty Directors and Executive Director
- Oversees contractual negotiations between Urban Labs, University Research Administration (URA) and external data sources. Serves as a dedicated resource to advise on processes and procedures for obtaining access to confidential data
- Coordinates with external partners, Urban Labs staff, and the URA to submit and process new data sharing agreements and amendments to existing agreements; monitor the status of pending agreements
- Develop, build and advise on data transfer protocols and systems with partners in accordance to data sharing agreements

Competencies:

- Expertise in all aspects of the research design, methods, and evaluation of research projects in the area of health 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, healthcare delivery, or financial stability preferred

Education:

- Ph.D. in public policy, economics, statistics, computer science, or other relevant field highly preferred, or a Master’s Degree plus at least 5-years demonstrated managerial experience leading scientific or technical work teams

Experience:

- Experience working with interdisciplinary research teams and agency and community stakeholders preferred
- Managerial experience required, experience managing analysts and research assistants preferred
- Demonstrated experience in mixed methods including statistical analysis and predictive modeling (e.g. machine learning) will be highly valued
- Experience addressing social determinates of health, race or gender disparities is a plus
**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:** To apply, click [here](#).