

Field Study Research Assistant

Part Time position for 2017-18 Academic Year

Who We Are:

By 2050, the global urban population will nearly double to 6.4 billion. This unprecedented growth in the global urban population creates incredible opportunities but also intensifies the most difficult problems cities face, such as concentrated poverty, crime, poor-quality schooling, and pollution. The University of Chicago founded Urban Labs to help address these challenges.

Urban Labs is a set of highly synergistic labs focused on undertaking inquiry and having impact on five essential dimensions of urban life: *crime, education, health, poverty, and energy & environment*.

Urban Labs partners with cities to identify and rigorously evaluate the policies and programs with the greatest potential to improve human lives at scale. Urban Labs' evidence-based approach gives policymakers and practitioners the knowledge they need to effectively achieve the greatest social good per dollar spent.

In sum, UChicago Urban Labs:

- Identifies promising solutions to urban challenges
- Tests the most promising urban policies and programs
- Scales-up the most effective and cost-efficient policies and programs

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

Role:

The University of Chicago Health Lab is seeking Research Assistants to help with study recruitment and data collection for our evaluation of the Supportive Release Center (SRC). The SRC is a facility a few blocks from the Cook County Jail that provides persons who are suffering from mental illness, substance use issues, or other vulnerabilities with a place to stay overnight upon discharge. Care coordinators at the SRC meet with participants to conduct needs screenings and create linkages to appropriate services in the community. The Health Lab is evaluating the SRC via a randomized controlled trial (RCT), the gold-standard in research.

Research Assistants will work with our nonprofit partner, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) in the discharge area of the Cook County Jail to recruit participants for the SRC intervention and study. This is a temporary position for the Academic Year and is part-time for approximately 17-19 hours per week.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Recruit, consent, and survey detainees at the Cook County Jail during discharge alongside TASC staff
- Ensure accurate and complete primary data collection by monitoring research-related activities in the field
- Check-in regularly with Health Lab staff for updates to study materials or recruitment procedures; relay updates to TASC staff in the field
- Assist with other activities as needed

Qualifications:

- Masters Degree preferred
- Strong interpersonal skills and strong written and oral communication skills
- Excellent attention to detail, good organizational skills
- Basic understanding of research design and human subjects research ethics
- Prior experience with fieldwork/ data collection preferred
- Interest in or prior experience working with criminal-justice-involved populations required
- Dependable and responsive to email

Requirements:

- Available to be onsite at the Cook County Jail between 2pm – 10pm at least two weeknights per week
- Able to complete Cook County Department of Corrections background check for jail access
- Personal vehicle preferred

Apply:

Please submit a resume and cover letter to Teresa Wisner, twisner@uchicago.edu