

Mellon/ACLS
PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM 

Job Title:	Policy Analyst
Organization:	Reinvestment Fund
Location:	Philadelphia, PA
Stipend and Benefits:	\$68,000 annually with health insurance for the fellow, professional development funds, and relocation allowance
Start Date:	August 1 or September 3, 2019

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Reinvestment Fund is a 30-year-old Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) whose mission is to build wealth and opportunity for low-wealth people and places through the promotion of socially and environmentally responsible development. Reinvestment Fund is a national leader in rebuilding distressed places, through the innovative use of capital and information. Since our founding in 1985, we have invested more than \$2 billion in communities, supporting the creation of affordable housing, schools, community health centers, childcare centers, healthy food access, commercial real estate, and energy efficiency projects. The Policy Solutions (Policy) group in Reinvestment Fund assesses the impact of the organization's own investments, and conducts rigorous and objective analyses to help public and nonprofit sector clients make data-informed community development decisions. Policy is a small group of eight professionals with varying academic backgrounds and levels of experience. While we are small, we are a collegial, cohesive and supportive group. We collaborate regularly with each other to both develop skills and work through challenging substantive issues. Policy has regular gatherings around various research skills and techniques and our staff developed and maintain a library of online training venues we consider most helpful. Learn more at www.reinvestment.com.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Policy Analyst will provide essential analytic and organizational support on mixed-method research projects. This is a new position driven by our recent launch of a multiyear effort to produce a body of applied research on rental evictions in Philadelphia. This project, which will be the analyst's main focus, will involve qualitative and quantitative data collection and analyses. We will work closely with policymakers and practitioners, using the results to design data-driven changes in law, policy, resources, programs, and practices expected to mitigate the many ways evictions impact people, communities, businesses, schools, and other institutions.

Reinvestment Fund sought and was awarded in 2018 a multiyear grant to conduct applied research on evictions. The analyst will be part of our exploration of the many and varied ways that the lived experience of individuals and families is shaped by this threat to their home, and what can be done about it. The analyst also will connect with Reinvestment Fund's lending team to learn about the CDFI industry and how community development is financed. In particular, the analyst will engage around the evolving field of "Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing" (unsubsidized affordable housing). Reinvestment Fund expects to finance a significant number of these homes, and the analyst will participate in a multimethod research project to understand their people- and place-based impacts. Lastly, the analyst will

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have the opportunity to participate in other more routine activities and projects within Policy (e.g., our Market Value Analysis (MVA), childcare gap studies, preparation of grant proposals, etc.).

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Oversee discrete components of RF research initiatives;
- Have lead responsibility to produce at least one report or white paper within Policy's portfolio of projects;
- Contribute as a named author to several additional white papers;
- Craft policy responses;
- Present research findings to a variety of audiences, including public policy makers and administrators and the eviction research stakeholder group; and
- Participate in an advisory group of local and national experts that will meet quarterly to review methodologies, vet findings, and link research to policy.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
- Strong writing skills;
- General organizational skills including ability to meet deadlines;
- Experience with basic research design and data analysis;
- Experience gathering and critically analyzing academic and gray literature;
- Familiarity with best practices related to conducting interviews and making field observations, or a willingness to develop these skills;
- Facility with presenting complex material to diverse audiences;
- Willingness to travel occasionally; and
- Ability to self-start and work in a team environment.

Preferred

- Familiarity with at least two of the following areas: housing, community development, community-based organizations, civil legal services, public health/healthy communities/social determinants of health, and
- Experience in or familiarity with statistical or spatial analysis. (Additional training will be provided during the fellowship as necessary.)

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows Program:
www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS online application system (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 13, 2019, 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

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