

Mellon/ACLS
PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM 

Job Title:	Policy Analyst
Organization:	New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
Location:	Newark, NJ
Start Date:	September 1, 2020

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Institute's mission is to empower urban residents to realize and achieve their full potential. Established in 1999 by Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein, the Institute is known for its dynamic and independent advocacy aimed at toppling load-bearing walls of structural inequality to create just, vibrant, and healthy urban communities. The Institute employs a broad range of advocacy tools to advance our ambitious urban agenda, including research, analysis and writing, public education, grassroots organizing, communications, development of pilot programs, legislative strategies, and litigation. Using a holistic approach to addressing the unique and critical issues facing New Jersey's urban communities, the Institute advocates for systemic reform that is at once transformative, achievable in the state, and replicable in communities across the nation. Learn more at <https://www.njisj.org/>.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Reporting to the Director of the Economic Justice Program, the Policy Analyst combines rigorous research and policy analysis to carry out community-driven advocacy campaigns to help advance racial and social justice on behalf of New Jersey's urban communities. The Institute's Economic Justice Program works to ensure equality of economic opportunity for residents in urban communities through building and strengthening systems that provide access to wealth, including (1) meaningful employment that pays a living wage; (2) affordable, fair, and quality housing in safe and healthy neighborhoods; (3) fair lending and student loan practices; and (4) other reparative policies and practices to help close New Jersey's stark racial wealth gap.

People in New Jersey's urban communities experience high levels of poverty rooted in structural discrimination, driven by persistent unemployment and under-employment, segregated housing, a lack of affordable, integrated housing options, and a lack of access to credit and asset-building. While New Jersey is one of the wealthiest states in the nation, it also ranks in the top ten worst states for income inequality and for racial disparities in homeownership. The Policy Analyst will be instrumental in helping develop and conduct advocacy and public education strategies to advance the Institute's mission to expand racial and social justice in New Jersey. This role would prepare the analyst to work thoroughly in the fields of public policy, legislative advocacy, public service on a legislative or administrative staff, political campaigns, and community-based organizations.

The Institute values a diverse workforce and an inclusive culture and seeks a fellow to bring fresh perspectives to our work. The Institute's staff have a broad range of professional and educational backgrounds. This variety of experiences informs creative analysis and responses to policy problems. The Institute's policy work uses a range of humanities, arts, policy, legal, and other methods for analysis and public presentations.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Develop and conduct original research, reviews of existing research, and policy analysis pertaining to issues of economic justice, including the Newark jobs initiative, racial wealth gap, student loans, fair housing, et al., particularly as they affect communities of color and urban communities in New Jersey.
- Work with Institute attorneys and staff to develop, incubate, and advocate for bold and innovative policies.
- Research and draft op-eds, position papers, reports, testimony, data briefs, and advocacy materials pertaining to legislation, administrative rules and regulations, and state and local government policies.
- Engage in public speaking, including with the media and at community events for both expert and lay audiences.
- Engage in community outreach to identify and deepen relationships with community stakeholders and key policymakers. Coordinate with partner organizations and community leaders, including serving as primary liaison with community-based organizations and coalitions.
- Track national, state, and local policy developments in employment, housing, and access to credit

QUALIFICATIONS

Required

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences.
- Ability to build and work effectively with diverse coalitions and community groups and to work across political ideology, race, ethnicity, socio-economic circumstances, religion, gender, and sexual orientation.
- Outstanding research, writing, and oral communication skills; superior attention to detail; ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously; good problem-solving skills and a positive, professional attitude with excellent judgment, flexibility, determination, and grace in a fast-paced office.
- Integrity, honesty, and a balanced, non-partisan approach.
- Ability to think creatively and develop innovative research, policy, and advocacy strategies.
- Ability to participate in teams, including a willingness to circulate widely, communicate openly, listen well, and learn from others.
- Outstanding interpersonal skills; tenacity, flexibility, resilience, and high energy.

Preferred

- Ability to translate technical analyses into compelling advocacy messages.
- Willingness to learn or hone quantitative skills to analyze policy proposal costs.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

Each 2020 Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow receives an annual stipend of \$70,000, as well as access to employer-based health insurance through the host organization. In addition, ACLS provides funds for relocation and professional development. Fellows receive professional mentoring and participate in career development programming, both in-person and virtually.

APPLICATIONS

- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS online application system (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 18, 2020, 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Visit <http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellowscomp> to learn more about the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows program. This position is *only* available through this program; please do *not* contact the host organization directly.