



# ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship 2025

<b>Position Title</b>	Qualitative Research Manager
<b>Organization</b>	UpTogether
<b>Location</b>	Remote (based in the US)
<b>Stipend</b>	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
<b>Benefits</b>	Access to employer health insurance. Professional development funds provided by ACLS.
<b>Start Date</b>	September 2025

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2001, [UpTogether](#) is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization working to disrupt the status quo approach to ending poverty. Our vision is to change policies, systems, and underlying beliefs so that all people in the United States are seen and invested in their strengths and can build power, reinforce their autonomy, and drive their own economic and social mobility. We do this by activating our mission of investing in people in historically undervalued communities and amplifying their lived experiences, working together to influence policies and change systems so everyone can achieve financial freedom. For over 20 years, UpTogether has pioneered an approach to socioeconomic mobility centered on direct investment in people and families anchored in three core principles: Community, which recognizes and facilitates the natural exchange of social capital between people; Capital, which provides direct cash transfers to enable self-directed investment; and Choice, which honors people as experts in their own lives by offering unrestricted, unconditional financial support—all guided by the fundamental belief that people know what is best for themselves and their situation.

At UpTogether, we believe that poverty is a policy choice, not a personal failure. By challenging approaches to solving poverty and advocating for systems change, we're building a future where government and philanthropy trust and invest directly in people's innate capacity to drive their own economic mobility.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

After listening to and learning from hundreds of thousands of members over 20+ years, UpTogether knows that people can and will move up together when they are recognized for their initiative and supported in their self-determination. The Qualitative Research Manager will advance our systems-change movement by amplifying the experience of guaranteed income recipients, using qualitative data to elevate the power of investing in peoples' strengths rather than emphasizing deficits. Through interpretive analysis of member experiences, they will help build evidence for policies that trust and invest in people's capacity to drive their own social and economic mobility.

The Qualitative Research Manager will be key in bringing deep qualitative expertise to our Learning and Product team, helping us unlock insights from our extensive archive of historical and current member data. This data, shared by recipients of guaranteed income, captures member experiences navigating economic mobility, using resources to achieve personal and financial goals, building community, and overcoming systemic barriers. The Qualitative Research Manager will develop systematic approaches to organizing and analyzing over 20 years of qualitative data, creating frameworks to reveal patterns and innovations across member experiences. Working collaboratively with the Learning and Product team and under the direct supervision of the Senior Survey Research Manager, the Qualitative Research Manager will integrate qualitative research with quantitative data points to strengthen UpTogether's evidence base for guaranteed income as a cornerstone of the United States' economic policy. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.  
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Refine and adapt existing data visualization tools to integrate qualitative data, creating a searchable framework that supports storytelling, analysis, and policy development.
- Lead longitudinal analysis of archival qualitative data to identify patterns and themes in member experiences.
- Develop storytelling tools that transform qualitative data into compelling narratives for external audiences.
- Contribute to building ethically minded strategies and tools for text analysis, drawing on principles of cultural humility, interpretive skills, and a humanistic perspective to highlight member narratives while preserving voice and context.
- Collaborate with the Learning and Product team on projects with government and philanthropic partners to amplify members' voices.

**Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Knowledge of United States economic mobility and anti-poverty initiatives.
- Strong interest in collaborative, cross-functional research development, analysis, and delivery.
- Experience conducting research that examines changes over time, with the ability to situate findings within broader historical and social contexts.
- Demonstrated commitment to, or passion for, our mission; deep belief and trust in the innate capabilities of low-income families and communities and a willingness to engage in conversations aimed at addressing erroneous stereotypes about people facing financial hardship and people of color.
- Strong commitment to anti-racism and demonstrated interest in helping build systems that advance racial equity.
- Any level of familiarity with, or a willingness to learn R. This position is designed to be accessible to PhDs across disciplines, and we will provide training to ensure the fellow is confident in developing skills as needed.
- Interest in managing and analyzing large qualitative datasets.

*Preferred:*

- Knowledge of digital humanities.
- A desire to bring humanistic approaches to questions of algorithmic bias and automated text analysis.

**APPLICATIONS**

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System ([ofa.acls.org](https://ofa.acls.org))
- Application deadline: 9 PM EDT, March 12, 2025.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.  
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.