

Position Description

Quantitative Research Associate

Research for Action (RFA) is seeking an experienced quantitative researcher with particular experience in survey research, design, administration, and analysis to support the expansion of RFA's capacity to design and conduct mixed-methods policy and evaluation studies in educational settings.

Essential Functions/Responsibilities

- Design complex multi-method education policy research and evaluation projects that involve a multi-disciplinary staff and require data collection, analysis and reporting
 - Develop close working relationships with school districts, state education departments and postsecondary institutions to gain approval for research projects and obtain relevant datasets for longitudinal analysis
 - Work with local, state and national audiences including foundations, districts, education reform support organizations and other decision-makers to develop relevant evaluation and policy studies
 - Co-author major reports, journal articles, and papers for a wide diversity of audiences, including policymakers, academics, the media, educators, and parents and community members.
- Support leadership of quantitative research within RFA including:
 - Participation on project teams from inside and outside the organization
 - Ensuring quality control of quantitative research design, analysis and reporting across the organization

Skills & Experiences

- Ph.D. in relevant field such as education, sociology, psychology, or masters degree with advanced statistical training and experience
- Advanced statistical analysis skills such as multi-level modeling, growth modeling, factor analysis, and structural equations modeling.
- Advanced experience with survey design, including experience with and knowledge of psychometrics
- Experience working on research projects that include integration of qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Experience designing experimental and/or quasi-experimental research projects
- Experience working with school districts to secure district approval and datasets highly desirable
- Research interests in one or more of RFA's core areas;

- Teacher Quality
- Postsecondary education and policy
- School Governance Models
- High School Reform
- Literacy
- Civic engagement
- Youth Development
- Education policy
- Experience with secondary data analysis and managing large data sets
- Fluency with statistical software, including one or more of the following: R, SAS, STATA, LISREL or Mplus
- Good written and oral communication skills

Compensation: Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Research for Action is an equal opportunity employer. Please send resume and cover letter to info@researchforaction.org.

About RFA

RFA is a non-profit organization engaged in education policy studies and evaluation research focused on issues of equity and democratic participation in urban education. Based in Philadelphia, RFA conducts studies locally, regionally and nationally. RFA works with public school districts, educational institutions, foundations, and cultural and community organizations to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for urban youth.

RFA is nationally-recognized as an organization with an outstanding reputation for rigorous policy-focused research on issues related to teaching quality, school governance, high school reform, literacy and civic engagement. Its current staff has exceptional expertise in qualitative research methods and is experienced partnering with other researchers and research organizations to conduct multi-method research projects with major quantitative components. Evaluation studies, with a particular expertise in formative evaluation are another core competency of the organization.

RFA seeks to build upon its growing internal capacity to conduct complex quantitative research, including but not limited to rigorous longitudinal data analyses, value-added studies, and intervention studies using quasi-experimental designs. Its aim is to have an outstanding, full-service education research capacity that would allow the organization to engage simultaneously in a variety of rigorous research projects that address critical information needs to guide policy and practice at the local, state, national, and international levels. The quantitative research associate will play a central leadership role in shaping and accomplishing this goal.