



Qualitative Researcher

Fall 2021

About the Organization

Research for Action (RFA) is an independent, non-profit educational research organization with a mission of using research to achieve equitable educational opportunities and outcomes to help inform better policy and practice decisions. With three decades of experience, our work is designed to strengthen public schools and postsecondary institutions; provide research-based recommendations to policymakers, practitioners and the public at the local, state and national levels; and enrich the civic and community dialogue about public education.

Summary

Research for Action (RFA) is seeking an experienced, full-time qualitative researcher to contribute to RFA's substantial body of research and evaluation work, which spans topics including K-12 education, out-of-school time programming, literacy, and educational initiatives aimed at closing racial attainment gaps in public education. Salary will be determined based on the experience and qualifications of the candidate.

Job Qualifications

- Ph.D. in an education field, such as literacy, child/youth development, sociology, or related field
- 1-2 years of post-doctoral education research experience and publications (either peer reviewed or applied)
- Master's degree with 5-8 years of applied research experience with experience in project direction will also be considered
- Strong research skills in qualitative or mixed-methodologies
- Demonstrated experience collaborating with research partners, funders, clients, and intermediaries in the field
- Demonstrated experience as a supervisor, particularly mentoring and growing the skills and experiences of colleagues
- Project management experience, especially managing complex projects with multiple external stakeholders and rigorous timelines
- Experience working with or studying the experiences of students of color, low-income students, and/or other vulnerable populations
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to and enhance our team's equity-focused practices in research design, data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Strong interpersonal and collaboration skills, including ability to work with team members on projects and ease at building rapport with clients and colleagues with diverse backgrounds
- Excellent written and oral communication skills to engage audiences that include academics, policymakers, community members, and practitioners
- Ability to work independently, with limited direction, as well as within a team environment
- Fluency in Spanish to support the development of research instruments and conducting interviews and focus groups a plus

Application

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled, with an anticipated start date in early January 2022, or sooner, depending on availability. Complete an online application with the following required documents:

- Cover letter that briefly summarizes qualifications, research experience, and career goals, in particular experiences in working in and/or studying education
- CV/resume

Please use this link to apply: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/679c7e20716948068a19d192f5e5b436>

For questions about this position, please contact Alison Murawski at hr@researchforaction.org.

Position Location

Most of RFA's staff are based in the Philadelphia metro region. Staff currently have the option of working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. RFA's Center City Philadelphia offices are also open for work. This position will require occasional travel for fieldwork in Philadelphia and in other states, as current and future project needs dictate. Due to the ongoing pandemic, RFA conducts virtual fieldwork when possible. Remote candidates will be considered.

Diversity Statement

Research for Action is committed to the diversity of our staff. We value and recognize diversity through every person's perspectives and lived experiences. We are an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family medical or genetic information.