



PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM

Job Title:	Senior Program Associate
Organization:	Vera Institute of Justice
Location:	New Orleans, LA
Stipend:	\$67,500 with health insurance for the fellow
Start Date:	September 1, 2017

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Vera Institute of Justice is a national organization based in New York City that works to tackle the most pressing injustices of our day—from the causes and consequences of mass incarceration, racial disparities, and the loss of public trust in law enforcement, to the unmet needs of the vulnerable, the marginalized, and those harmed by crime and violence. Vera's work in New Orleans began in 2006, when the city council invited us to assess the criminal justice system and propose reforms as part of post-Katrina recovery efforts. Since then, we have become a nexus for advancing evidence-based reform and have demonstrated that change is not only possible but within reach. In partnership with people leading and working in the local justice system, city leaders, and community organizations, we are working to end unnecessary detention and develop innovative, collaborative projects that improve the delivery of justice in New Orleans. We do this by providing policy and data analysis and project facilitation to advance practices that achieve equality, dignity, and effectiveness in the administration of justice. We focus on the system drivers that lead to the over-use of local incarceration. To learn more, please visit www.vera.org/centers/new-orleans.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Senior Program Associate will assume primary responsibility for a particular project, with the support of other staff members, on one of several initiatives we are currently working on. There are several areas that this office has an interest in exploring further, including issues around race, policing, and mental health in the criminal justice system. If the selected applicant has a particular interest or expertise in one of these areas, s/he would have the opportunity to develop and execute a new project to complete during the two-year fellowship.

Key responsibilities are:

- Provide support to other Vera New Orleans staff on programs related to issues of race, culture, and community engagement.
- Conduct community-based research and help other New Orleans based staff with project development and policy analysis on issues of race and culture, specific to the New Orleans criminal justice system.
- Draft publications, blog posts, and other communications/media resource materials.
- Facilitate in-person and virtual steering committee meetings, roundtable discussions, and focus groups with local constituents.
- Maintain relationships with project partners and other community-based stakeholders in identifying, reaching, and assessing all communities impacted by the criminal justice system.

This position is *only* available through the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows program.
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

- Represent Vera New Orleans in speaking engagements, academic symposia, and conferences, as well as local community meetings.
- Take on discrete projects and assist with other program initiatives as requested.

QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences;
- Experience and/or interest in working with the criminal justice field;
- Familiarity with and/or interest in local issues important to communities in New Orleans;
- Experience managing projects, committees, or work groups, as well as supporting large-scale projects;
- Excellent analytic, problem-solving, and communication skills;
- Strong facilitation and diplomacy skills;
- Ability to work with people of diverse experiences and backgrounds;
- Ability to work under time pressure and other stresses involved in dealing with government entities, legislative bodies, and a broad array of political stakeholders with diverse priorities;
- Ability to work effectively with, or without, close supervision in a collaborative environment with colleagues who may work in a remote location;
- Solid organizational skills and the ability to manage work on multiple projects efficiently; and
- Willingness to travel as needed, up to 10% of the time.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows Program: www.acls.org/programs/publicfellows
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 22, 2017, 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

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