ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

**Project:** Reimagining Public Safety and Community Development  
**Organization:** Center for Court Innovation (New York, NY)  
**Location:** Remote  
**Stipend:** $60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding  
**Start Date:** September 2021

**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

The mission of the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) is to help create an effective and humane justice system by designing and implementing operating programs, performing original research, and providing reformers around the world with the tools they need to launch new strategies. The Community Development and Crime Prevention department (CDCP) at CCI leads a range of neighborhood-based public safety initiatives in New York City, including the Brownsville Community Justice Center, the Harlem Community Justice Center, the Queens Youth Justice Center, Neighbors in Action, S.O.S. Save Our Streets (South Bronx, Crown Heights, and Bedford-Stuyvesant), Legal Hand, and the Neighborhood Safety Initiatives. Learn more at [https://www.courtinnovation.org/](https://www.courtinnovation.org/).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In a time of growing calls to invest in non-policing approaches to community safety, the Leading Edge Fellow will be working with the Center’s CDCP department, which focuses on creating safe and thriving neighborhoods by establishing pathways out of poverty, healing trauma, establishing safe and vibrant public spaces, and solving neighborhood-level issues through deep engagement with resident stakeholders. The Leading Edge Fellow will work within neighborhood-based projects alongside CDCP staff in order to best understand, assess, and document community-led public safety strategies. The fellow will be supervised by Jillian Shagan, Director of Community Health and Safety Strategies.

In addition to helping to create and implement a community safety research strategy, the Fellow will also have opportunities to directly support the work of the community-based projects through virtual means. Depending on the fellow and their skills/interests, as well as the needs of individual projects and neighborhoods, this could include e.g. facilitating strategic planning efforts, helping to organize and convene residents and stakeholders, or supporting participatory action research activities. Despite COVID limitations, over the past year CDCP has been able to remotely organize and convene community members and guide them in a robust process to develop collaborative and creative responses to community challenges. The fellow could be a part of such efforts during their tenure. This opportunity is a full time commitment, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Conduct extensive literature review, studying the fields of community development and alternative crime prevention strategies to acquaint themselves with the field, including examining and documenting prior investigated research strategies and how these alternatives were measured to evaluate efficacy and impact.
- Immerse themselves within one or more of the Center’s community safety projects to analyze/document the ways in which CDCP’s public safety practices contribute to neighborhood improvement and crime reduction. This will include a focus on how these safety practices have adapted to meet community needs during the pandemic.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
• Develop a qualitative assessment of CDCP’s community safety projects, including an examination of a range of prevention activities and their links to real community change. This evaluation will suggest future research directions for documenting the efficacy of community development and crime prevention work.

Qualifications:

• PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#);
• Interest in community public safety strategies;
• Excellent writing skills, with an ability to write for diverse sets of stakeholders;
• Familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative analysis;
• Willingness to work in a collaborative community organization environment that is committed to equity.

Preferred:

• Previous research experience or advanced understanding of criminal justice and community public safety strategies.

APPLICATIONS

• Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: [https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships](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)
• Application deadline: 9pm EDT, May 6, 2021