ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2008, Deep Center’s mission is to empower Savannah’s young people to thrive as learners, community leaders, and agents of change. Through creative writing, cultural production, and art, Deep Center creates platforms for the city’s youth and the village of support around them, including their families and adult allies, to share stories, engage in debates, and make Savannah a more just and equitable place. Deep Center’s framework is anti-racist, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive. We promote a roots-cause model of youth and community development that works on three parallel tracks: direct service, systems change, and narrative change. Deep Center lifts up youth and their village, advocates for just policies, and disrupts dehumanizing narratives with firsthand stories about people healing, growing, and thriving through individual growth and collective action. Learn more at https://www.deepcenter.org/

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Research and Policy Analyst (RPA) will play a crucial role in conducting research and helping develop policy recommendations for Deep Center’s third annual policy brief. The annual policy brief is the culminating document produced after a year-long engagement with community partners – juvenile court workers, social workers, and other state and local officials, as well as the youth we work with and their families – to identify specific community needs and recommend concrete action steps to ensure lasting local and state change. The 2020 annual policy brief can be found here.

The RPA will meet weekly with their supervisor, the organization’s executive director, to review data and research, make strategic decisions about advocacy campaigns, and connect with local and national partners for input and strategic networking. The RPA will also periodically attend meetings of Deep Center’s Action Research Team, a youth-led advocacy team conducting participatory action research, and Deep Center’s Action Policy Team, an adult-led team of community stakeholders and allies. At the heart of this work is shifting longstanding racist and classist narratives while advocating for substantive change at the local and state level. Successful outcomes include: 1) publication of a policy brief that includes recommendations for a host of issues impacting low-income families, including education, housing, criminal justice, access to healthcare, and more; 2) a collaborative advocacy plan; 3) productive engagement with state and national policy partners. This is a full-time commitment for the fellowship year, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Sept-Nov 2021: Comprehensive review of past Deep Center policy briefs; advise on future evolution

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
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- Nov-May 2022: Begin work with Deep Center staff collaborating with youth and community members to identify structural barriers in Savannah and opportunities for reform
- Nov-May: Begin work with regional and national policy partners (e.g., Southern Center for Human Rights, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, Southern Poverty Law Center, etc.) to learn, share, coordinate with state and national efforts, and bring lessons-learned and expertise to Savannah
- April: Work with youth programs and community organizer to develop multigenerational education resources
- April: Work with staff to develop advocacy materials and campaigns
- June-Aug 2022: Write and edit policy brief and submit for publication in Sept 2022

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields here;
- Excellent research, writing, analytical and communication skills, including the ability to quickly understand complex socio-economic issues and communicate this knowledge to staff, youth, and stakeholders
- Experience working with communities, and proven ability working in coalitions and with allies
- Detail-oriented, with good organizational skills
- Excellent computer skills, including Microsoft Office Suite
- Able to be an active participant in an open and democratic work culture
- Has an assets-based framework for working with low-income populations
- Able to communicate effectively, passionately, and authentically with activists and community members in diverse ethnic, racial, social, and economic groups
- Committed to racial, gender, economic, and social justice
- Familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative analysis (position will not require sophisticated statistical methods but will require analysis of data and research)
- Excellent organizational skills and detail-oriented approach
- Strong project management skills and ability to work independently
- Ability to work under time pressure, meet deadlines, and prioritize tasks
- Enthusiasm for and alignment with Deep Center’s mission, vision, and values

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)
- Application deadline: 9pm EDT, May 6, 2021.