

Mellon/ACLS  
PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM



<b>Job Title:</b>	Senior Research Associate
<b>Organization:</b>	The Children's Defense Fund
<b>Location:</b>	Washington, DC
<b>Start Date:</b>	August 3, 2020

## ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Children's Defense Fund's Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

The Children's Defense Fund provides a strong, effective and independent voice for all the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. It pays particular attention to the needs of poor children, children of color and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble or suffer family breakdown. It is a national organization with the capacity to work for children at federal, state and community levels across the country. CDF's headquarters are in Washington, D.C. Learn more at <https://www.childrensdefense.org/>

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Senior Research Associate, reporting to the Policy Director, will join a team of policy experts working on a range of priorities, including child poverty, child health, early childhood care and development, education, child welfare and mental health, juvenile justice, immigration and gun violence prevention. The Senior Research Associate is responsible for a portfolio of research activities, statistical analyses and presentation of data on children and families. The portfolio will include leading the production of flagship publications and developing new research products related to the organization's policy priorities. The Senior Research Associate will lead these publications and products from preparation through completion, ensuring consistency and the use of timely, high quality and accurate data and research methodologies while ensuring the final product is accessible and engaging to wide audiences. The Senior Research Associate carries out research and statistical analyses in close coordination with others on CDF's policy and communications teams.

The Senior Research Associate will have the opportunity to diversify his/her expertise in a wide range of issues impacting child and family policy; develop a strong understanding of policy advocacy, lead from start to finish publication and research projects, attend a variety of meetings, briefings, workshops, and conferences to expand his/her policy expertise, advocacy techniques, and professional skills

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Maintaining and updating flagship publications, such as The State of America's Children; Ending Child Poverty Now; Protect Children, Not Guns and the Children in the States factsheets.
- Writing and contributing to issue briefs and factsheets intended to highlight CDF's core concerns, the data to support them, their impact on children, and effective policies and programs
- Proposing and leading research projects that advance the understanding of the state of children and policies that support children to the public and other key constituencies.

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- Ensuring CDF is using the most effective data to make the case for policy change to improve the odds for children by:
  - Keeping abreast, with CDF's Policy Team, on new data, research and reports across CDF's policy areas and ensure they are used appropriately.
  - Identifying compelling state, national and international data, research and comparisons that help make the case for the needs of children and expanded opportunities to address those needs as part of CDF's policy agenda.
- Supporting other CDF products by providing accurate, compelling and up-to-date research, data points for CDF's written communications and public speaking engagements. This also includes ensuring the data and research presented on CDF's website is up to date, relevant and easily accessible to varied audiences.
- Providing direct research support as needed, including assistance in developing research protocols and surveys, identifying appropriate data and research, preparing state by state impact data, etc.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### *Required*

- PhD in the humanities or humanistic social sciences
- A demonstrated commitment to and passion for children's issues and social justice in pursuit of CDF's mission.
- A demonstrated interest in many of CDF's issues and children's policy
- Excellent written communication skills, ability to write about complex policy issues in a way that engages a wide audience, and experience with editing, proofreading, and attention to detail. A commitment to a high standard of work product.
- Excellent research and analytical skills and the ability to synthesize extensive information and data into succinct clear written products.
- Experience with and understanding of how to use data and research for advocacy or communications with a non-academic audience. Ability to present data and research in a compelling and persuasive manner while maintaining the highest standards of accuracy.
- Strength in driving towards results with managing multiple, complex priorities often with tight deadlines.

### *Preferred*

- Familiarity with major federal data systems and other data sources that provide data about child outcomes, including the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, data from the Departments of Health and Human Services, World Health Organization, UNICEF and others.
- Expertise in a specific area of children's policy

## STIPEND AND BENEFITS

Each 2020 Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow receives an annual stipend of \$70,000, as well as access to employer-based health insurance through the host organization. In addition, ACLS provides funds for relocation and professional development. Fellows receive professional mentoring and participate in career development programming, both in-person and virtually.

## APPLICATIONS

- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS online application system ([ofa.acls.org](http://ofa.acls.org))
- Application deadline: March 18, 2020, 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Visit <http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellowscomp> to learn more about the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows program. This position is *only* available through this program; please do *not* contact the host organization directly.