ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Title:</th>
<th>Research and Data Coordinator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
<td>Operation Shoestring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Jackson, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipend:</td>
<td>$62,500 in the first year, $65,000 in the second year, plus health insurance and professional development funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>September 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Operation Shoestring provides year-round academic, social, and emotional support to children in central Jackson from pre-K – 12th grade while supporting and providing resources to their families. The aim is to empower the children and families we serve to create their own success, and that of their community, so we all rise together. Operation Shoestring’s mission is: “Investing in the hearts and minds of our children and their families to promote health and self-sufficiency, and faithfully extending the hand of hope and opportunity to empower the needy, uplift our target neighborhoods and the larger community, and brighten the future for us all.” Our current projects include Project Rise and Parent Initiatives. Operation Shoestring’s Project Rise afterschool and summer program for pre-K-5th graders provides engaging, intensive educational, artistic, and social-emotional development activities. Shoestring’s parent engagement initiatives help parents and guardians develop tools and resources to best support their children and their families along their path to success. This includes workshops focused on parenting, education, stress management, health and wellness, basic finance, advocacy and more. Learn more at operationshoestring.org.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Operation Shoestring works hand in hand with service recipients, neighborhood residents, faith communities, businesses, policymakers, and interested individuals to carry out our current model of providing year-round academic, social, and emotional support to children in central Jackson from pre-K – 12th grade, while also supporting and providing resources to their families.

The Research and Data Coordinator will focus on researching and archiving the oral history of our constituent neighborhoods of Midcity, Georgetown and Midtown. This area is predominantly Black, and has a high rate of poverty and unemployment. In these neighborhoods, the average median household income is $19,023 and 53% of all employable adults are unemployed. This research should be able to be utilized by the residents of the area and allow Jackson residents to obtain a clearer understanding of the current strengths and challenges of these neighborhoods. Subtopics of this research should include Operation Shoestring’s role and relationship with these neighborhoods and the broad civil rights history of the Shoestring constituent area. Through this project, community members will be able to tell their own stories and Operation Shoestring will also be able to more effectively evaluate our overall impact in this neighborhood area.

The research and data accumulated by the Research and Data Coordinator will directly support and enhance our year-round services to the families within our neighborhood while also documenting the history of an underserved and marginalized community. Despite these areas having a rich history, little information exists about the individual or interconnected stories of these neighborhoods. Even less information is readily available to the actual residents of these areas. By conducting this research, the

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.
You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
Fellow would be empowering residents of these areas to tell their stories, see themselves represented in the historical dialogue, and be made “visible” within the larger Jackson and Mississippi historical narrative.

The Research Manager and Data Coordinator will work within the Communications Department, supervised by the Communications Director. This position will also work with the Parent Program Coordinator, the Project Rise Coordinator and the Community Resources Coordinator, and collaborate and interact with different departments on a daily basis. Crucially, the RMDC will synthesize and convey information found in oral histories and research to relevant Shoestring staff members and to the residents of the neighborhoods our work takes place in. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Creating a virtual or physical repository of oral histories from the families in our programs and from other residents in Mid-City, Georgetown and Midtown.
- Conducting interviews with participants in Operation Shoestring programs and evaluating effectiveness of programs through these interviews.
- Researching Operation Shoestring’s history and the history of the areas it supports while identifying photographs, footage, and documents of Operation Shoestring’s early history. This includes Operation Shoestring’s Civil Rights history and our relations to Civil Rights activists.
- Creating communications products that share oral histories with the residents of our neighborhoods and the Greater Jackson community
- Communicating findings on a regular basis to Operation Shoestring staff.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields in our FAQ;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Strong project management and organization skills;
- Alignment with Operation Shoestring’s values.

Preferred:
- Familiarity with oral history methodology and best practices.

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-leading-edge-fellowships/
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 28, 2022, 9pm EDT