



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

Position Title:	Research and Advocacy Associate
Organization:	The Milwaukee Turners
Location:	In person (5 days/week), Milwaukee, WI
Stipend:	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
Benefits:	Access to health insurance stipend, professional development funds, and relocation funds
Start Date:	September 2024

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Established in 1853, [the Milwaukee Turners](#) are the oldest civic organization in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and over the last two centuries have labored to build a more just society through our ideals of creating a "Sound Mind in a Sound Body". Our guiding and foundational principles of “liberty against all oppression; tolerance against all fanaticism, reason against all superstition, and justice against all exploitation” are embedded into formal programming endeavors which connect our 170-year history and make them viable in the twenty-first century. We seek to be the embodiment of a diverse community in practice that [confronts injustice](#); fosters wellness, community restoration, and civic empowerment that advances the residents of Milwaukee and its neighbors. This vision inspires us to create social justice programming, provide space for collaborative organizing with community partners, host open and accessible wellness and fitness opportunities, and conduct public policy research leading to the creation of educational forums informing the Turners’ broader advocacy efforts.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Milwaukee Turners seek a Research and Advocacy Associate to aid in our efforts to combat mass incarceration through the “Confronting Mass Incarceration” initiative. Under the supervision of Executive Director Emilio De Torre, and working closely with the Operations Manager Krissie Fung, the Associate will conduct research, critically assess policy reform efforts, and contribute to projects dedicated to challenging the systemic inequalities in Wisconsin’s carceral system. The Associate will develop and enhance Milwaukee Turners’ existing knowledge of mass incarceration policies as it impacts the development of legislative reform and programming efforts locally and statewide.

Since 2020, the Turners have implemented a series of programs in the “Confronting Mass Incarceration” (CMI) project. This multi-modal endeavor seeks to remedy the crushing impact of mass incarceration through four tailored interventions aimed at reducing incarceration rates and repairing trauma for system-impaired people. The programs under the CMI provide communal repair through (1) Prevention; (2) Education; (3) Inclusion; and (4) Conversation. The Associate will support the efforts of the CMI through monitoring and evaluating policies and laws at the state, county, and municipal level; conducting analysis of how these impact racial and economic disparities as seen in both systemic incarceration rates and policing practices; and providing advice on effective strategies addressing corrective measures. They will assist in creating documents and educational multimedia content influencing the public on the harms or solutions to the issues examined. The objectives are to inform community education, to author white papers for internal and external use, and to develop advocacy strategies with senior staff.

The Associate will design engagement forums in collaboration with system impacted individuals and staff. Among these initiatives, the Associate will collaboratively develop and facilitate programming that

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assists people with understanding how to navigate Wisconsin's legal system. These programs, strengthened by input from both community partners and formerly incarcerated individuals, aim to reduce the devastating impact of the school to prison pipeline in communities like Milwaukee. Additionally, the Associate will be responsible for expanding projects enhancing the physical and mental well-being of system impacted individuals as an element in the Milwaukee Turners holistic approach to building sound minds and bodies. They do not need a specific background in health or wellness work to support this program. The Associate will gain experience collaborating across diverse and varying community stakeholders, building a portfolio of research and policy analysis, while curating a professional career that connects their research to public engagement initiatives. Through the mentorship and support of the Turners Executive Director, the Associate will meet political leaders, community activists, and nonprofit organizations. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Develop and contribute to Milwaukee Turners' expanding expertise in mass incarceration policy.
- Critically analyze and connect existing research to policy proposals and/or legislative initiatives.
- Advocate for research based legislative reform by writing white papers, press releases, and reports.
- Co-create research informed programs for justice impacted individuals aimed at improving their lived and legal experience in the state of Wisconsin.
- Collaborate with Turners leadership team designing "Level Up" and "Sound Mind" curriculum and workshop trainings.
- Coordinate with system impacted community-based nonprofits to host regional events.
- Build strong relationships with community partners, policy makers, and other stakeholders.
- Assist Turners leadership team in researching and strategically developing future grant opportunities.
- Synthesize legislation and policies into clear language for the general public.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Knowledge of youth justice and/or mass incarceration issues.
- Strong project management and research skills.
- Experience working with, or member of BIPOC, gender diverse, neurodiverse, and system impacted individuals / communities.
- Political savvy and good judgment.
- Commitment to the mission of the Milwaukee Turners principles of liberty against all oppression; tolerance against all fanaticism, reason against all superstition, and justice against all exploitation.
- Commitment to diverse and collaborative working environment.

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: 9:00 PM EDT, March 13, 2024.

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