



ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship

Position Title:	Research Communications Director
Organization:	United Way of Massachusetts Bay
Location:	Hybrid (currently 1 day/week) in office, Boston, MA
Stipend:	\$70,000 in the first year, \$72,000 in the second year
Benefits:	Access to employer health insurance, professional development funds, and relocation funds
Start Date:	September 2024

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

[United Way of Massachusetts Bay](#) (UWMB) exists to build more equitable communities, together. With over 85 years of local impact in eastern Massachusetts, we work with and for our communities to build prosperity and enable everyone—across races and ethnicities—to share in the knowledge, wealth and resources available. We believe that the key to unlocking opportunity is uniting people, and we bring together individuals, community leaders, corporate partners, legislators and organizations to build a powerful engine of change. We believe UWMB can build shared prosperity throughout our region by focusing on systemic change in five Impact Areas: Economic Inclusion & Wealth Building, Early Education and Out-of-School Time Programs, Education & Career Pathways for Youth & Young Adults, Safe & Stable Housing, and Community-Centered Crisis Response. In each of these Impact Areas, we work to increase support and opportunities for community members to have a voice in making decisions that impact them, to change narratives about our community that perpetuate economic harm, to increase the level of coordination among organizations and systems that impact our community, to improve access to data that reflects the experiences of our community and increase its use by decision makers, to increase the availability of resources that sustain and scale models that are working for our community, and to change policies and practices that govern systems so that they have the capacity to promote the financial well-being of our community.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

UWMB partners with universities and other institutions to contribute to research that illuminates the relationship between the design of systems of service delivery and the experiences of members of our community to both identify the upstream causes of inequitable outcomes and cast vision to policy solutions. UWMB seeks a Research Communications Director who will collaborate with colleagues across the organization and with our research partners to disseminate findings from ongoing research efforts to a broad audience. They will do this by co-authoring reports, briefs, and other written content such as blog posts, co-producing webinars, training opportunities, and other events, supporting the publication of interactive dashboards and other digital media, as well as by developing processes for coordinating these efforts across departments.

UWMB is currently engaged in research on homelessness prevention, family childcare business sustainability, universal basic income, and implementation science. Within the next two years, UWMB also plans to engage in studies on equitable access to education, financial empowerment, and community leadership. Examples of projects with which the Research Communications Director would engage include but are not limited to evaluations of demonstration projects in UWMB's Impact Areas; research on the landscape of coordinating bodies, public data resources, funding, and policies and practices relevant to our work; and strategic learning efforts to promote shifts in practice at UWMB as well as

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.

among other community-facing institutions. This role is the first of its kind at UWMB and presents an exciting opportunity to increase our effectiveness in building shared knowledge rooted in research evidence among various audiences including participants in UWMB- and partner-led initiatives and other community members, partners in the nonprofit, corporate, philanthropic, and public sectors, policymakers and other civic leaders, journalists and other media professionals, donors, and other stakeholders. The fellowship tenure is 24 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 37.5 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Develop processes for coordinating efforts across UWMB departments to disseminate findings from research, evaluation, and other strategic learning activities.
 - Monitor third party publication of research evidence relevant to UWMB's work and support the organization in amplifying it as appropriate by authoring social media posts and other content.
 - Co-author reports, briefs, and other written content such as blog posts to disseminate findings to a variety of audiences.
 - Co-produce webinars, training opportunities, and other events that enable key audiences to engage with findings and the people who produced them in order to build shared knowledge and promote changes in policy and practice.
 - Support publication of interactive dashboards and other digital media that enable external stakeholders to engage with data that UWMB and our partners have collected and analyzed.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Strong interest in economic justice and commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Strong written and visual communication skills.
- Skilled in a strengths-based approach to framing social justice issues and related research.
- Experience writing and creating content for audiences including policymakers, practitioners in human services or education settings, institutional funders, and general public.
- Experience managing multiple fast-paced, collaborative projects on concurrent timelines.
- Ability to work as a member of a dynamic cross-functional team as well as independently.
- Ability to problem solve and develop improved workflows.
- Experience managing changes to organizational processes and behavior.

Preferred:

- Experience teaching adult learners.
- Experience managing a business social media account.
- Experience or interest in learning web development.

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.

This position is *only* available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program.
You may *not* contact the host institution to inquire about this position.