

Poverty Solutions, Detroit Partnership on Economic Mobility

Detroit, MI

Two funded internships are available for Summer 2022 in Detroit, MI, working with the Detroit Partnership on Economic Mobility, a signature initiative of Poverty Solutions at U-M. The interns will report to Patrick Cooney, Assistant Director of Policy Impact at Poverty Solutions, and Afton Branche-Wilson, Assistant Director of Community Initiatives at Poverty Solutions.

Summary

The Detroit Partnership on Economic Mobility is a partnership between Poverty Solutions at U-M, the City of Detroit, and community-based organizations across the city, focused on reducing poverty in Detroit. Poverty Solutions staff – together with our faculty experts – conduct action-oriented research to help inform, enhance, and evaluate collective efforts to improve economic opportunity in the city, and galvanize collective action from government, philanthropy, and non-profits around core economic mobility issues. We have a Detroit-based team that works closely with City departments and community groups across the city; we employ a team of Economic Mobility Fellows that work directly with City departments on strategic projects; we engage undergraduate and graduate research assistants from across the university to support our work; and we fund faculty research projects that shed new light on some of the most persistent problems facing Detroit residents, as well as potential solutions.

We pride ourselves on working in partnership with community in everything we do, co-creating our research agenda based on the concerns and needs of both residents and city leaders.

In addition, we view poverty as the result of many interlinked systems that fail to operate as they should for those with low incomes. Therefore, we work not in one area, but within and across a variety of systems, enabling us to intervene in a number of domains to make concrete improvements in the lives of Detroit residents with low incomes.

The Detroit Partnership on Economic Mobility is seeking research interns to work on Partnership projects in the summer of 2022. The interns will work with Poverty Solutions staff on action-oriented projects that may include:

- Researching national leading practices to reduce poverty and improve economic well-being;
- Conducting research into the “right to counsel” programs nationally, to inform nascent efforts to expand access to counsel in Detroit for tenants facing eviction;
- Researching innovative financial products that cities have used to give residents a boost in economic mobility;

- Analyzing the economic impact of under-investing in regional transit in the Detroit metropolitan region;
- Supporting collaborative efforts between Poverty Solutions and the United Way focused on eviction prevention and financial well-being;
- Researching barriers to employment and job stability faced by Detroit residents;
- Researching the impact of the City of Detroit's inclusive development provisions;
- Assisting with data and research projects as needed.

Applicant Requirements

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Ability to work well under the direction of others and to take ownership of projects independently;
- Experience collecting a large amount of information, and distilling results into action-oriented policy briefs;
- Strong skills in Excel, and ability to master new software applications;
- Ability to maintain a high level of accuracy in collecting and analyzing data;
- Effective organizational skills.

Location

As of now, these positions will be operating remotely, though there will be opportunities to work out of the U-M Detroit Center.

Application Process

Students interested in being considered for these internships should submit a resume and a one-page statement of interest. In your statement, you are encouraged to identify your interest in working on poverty reduction and improving economic well-being, and the skills/experience you would bring to the team. You may wish to describe your career interests and discuss your previous work and educational experiences demonstrating these interests. Materials should be submitted at <https://airtable.com/shryU8uASfgsAZ2cW> to Patrick Cooney (cooneypb@umich.edu) and Afton Branche-Wilson (aftonb@umich.edu) by Monday, March 28, 2022.

The position will be paid at a rate of \$16/hr, in-line with our pay rate for all graduate students. The individual employed in this role can work up to 40 hours per week, and can work as many weeks as he/she is able to between academic terms. Poverty Solutions and the chosen candidates will come to an agreement on the exact term of employment.

Transportation, lodging, and expenses for the internship are the responsibility of the student. The internship is available to graduate students from the University of Michigan. Poverty Solutions will work with units on campus to ensure the internship meets any designated internship requirements.