

Research Assistant, Graduate Student
Poverty Solutions in partnership with the Opioid Research Institute
Ann Arbor, MI

Poverty Solutions at U-M is partnering with the Opioid Research Institute and is seeking a graduate-level research assistant starting in the Winter 2025 semester, with the possibility of extending into the summer months (Spring/Summer 2025 semester). The position will report to John Bulat, Data and Policy Analyst at Poverty Solutions.

Summary

The Opioid Research Institute (ORI) was launched by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the Medical School Office of Research in 2023 to bring together students, trainees, faculty and clinicians from across U-M's three campuses who are doing opioid related research. Through collaborative, innovative, and interdisciplinary research that spans the translational spectrum, ORI's mission is to reduce overdose deaths and other morbidities.

In addition to internal collaborations across our U-M community, ORI also has strong partnerships with external groups and state agencies. The Institute strives to make a statewide and national impact with a health equity lens by catalyzing and expanding high-impact research, evidence-based programs, and varied partnerships to prevent opioid-related harms.

The mission of Poverty Solutions is to partner with communities and policymakers to find new ways to prevent and alleviate poverty. As we've grown with our partners, we've come to view poverty as the result of interlinked systems – housing, education, criminal justice, labor markets – that fail to function as they should for people with low incomes, inhibiting their ability to live healthy and productive lives.

The partnership between Poverty Solutions and the Opioid Research Institute provides a unique opportunity for a graduate student to focus on issues tied to the opioid epidemic and its impact on our communities, including under-served populations and historically excluded groups.

The research assistant will work with Poverty Solutions staff in coordination with the Opioid Research Institute on action- oriented projects that may include:

- Researching national leading practices to reduce opioid related overdose deaths;
- Identifying policies and issues (housing, transportation, cost, etc.) that create barriers to access to opioid and substance use disorder treatment and how stigma affects certain populations from receiving appropriate treatment;
- Writing research briefs on innovative solutions that can be deployed at the community level to ease barriers to treatment and reduce/prevent opioid related harms;
- Collaborating with the Opioid Research Institute in researching and writing policy recommendations;
- Assisting with other data and research projects as needed; and
- Completing other tasks and duties as assigned.

Applicant Requirements

- Enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Michigan;
- 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; and
- Effective organizational skills.

Location

This position will be remote, with an option to use Poverty Solutions' offices in Detroit or Ann Arbor if the candidate prefers.

Compensation

The position will be paid at a rate of:

- \$18/hr

The individual employed in this role is expected to work 10-15 hours per week during the Winter 2025 academic term. If the position is extended into the Spring/Summer semester, the individual employed in this role can work up to 40 hours per week if they are not enrolled in any courses. Poverty Solutions, in consultation with the Opioid Research Institute and the chosen candidate, will come to an agreement on the exact terms of employment.

Other Items

Transportation, lodging, and expenses for the position are the responsibility of the student. The position is remote, but individuals can work from the Detroit Center at 3663 Woodward Ave if they prefer. The position is available to graduate students from the University of Michigan and, if applicable during the summer months, Poverty Solutions will work with units on campus to ensure the position meets any designated internship requirements.

Application Process

Students interested in being considered for this position 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. Please also highlight policy areas that are of particular interest to you. You may wish to describe your career interests and discuss your previous work and educational experiences demonstrating these interests.

Materials will be reviewed as they are received and should be submitted by **Friday, January 10, 2024**. Submit materials using [this link](#).