



# POVERTY SOLUTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## **Research Assistant for Detroit Homeowners Insurance Project**

**Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan**

**Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy**

**Hours per week: 5-10 hours**

**Starting Rate: \$16 per hour as an undergraduate student, \$18 per hour as a master's student**

### **OVERVIEW**

Launched in October 2016, Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan is an interdisciplinary initiative that is a leader in informing, identifying, and testing new strategies for the prevention and alleviation of poverty in Michigan, the nation and the world. While rooted in an understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty, the focus of Poverty Solutions is an action-based research agenda. The initiative partners with community and policy makers to inform and test strategies for the prevention and alleviation of poverty.

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 community leaders. We seek to confront and eliminate racism of all kinds through these research priorities and practical engagement. 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 people with low incomes.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Detroit Partnership on Economic Mobility, a Poverty Solutions program, is seeking a Research Assistant to work on the Detroit Homeowners Insurance Project. This project will investigate why a disproportionately high number of Detroit homeowners lack insurance. A lack of homeowners insurance can have costly negative impacts both for the individual homeowner and for the larger community. Poverty Solutions will conduct individual homeowner interviews and collect survey and background research data to highlight areas where policy intervention could make a meaningful difference in the lives of Detroiters.

Working closely with Poverty Solutions staff and faculty experts, the Research Assistant will be involved in activities such as:

- Researching existing literature and data
- Contacting participants to schedule interviews and administering interview incentive payments
- Conducting qualitative research interviews with residents
- Assisting with cleaning, preparing, and analyzing interview and survey data
- Contributing to the drafting of research briefs

Other responsibilities are flexible and can potentially be tailored to align with RA's interest & expertise.

#### **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Interest in cross-disciplinary approaches to poverty alleviation– applicants from all units across campus are encouraged to apply.
- Proficiency in Microsoft and Google Office Suite
- Punctual and accurate communicator, responsive to email, phone calls or other communications from manager
- Excellent organization with demonstrated attention to detail
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Ability to work both as part of a team and individually while meeting deadlines
- Interest in being a part of a fast-paced initiative, with desire to be flexible and adapt to evolving priorities.
- Works with initiative and proactively looks for new opportunities
- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to work cooperatively and professionally with faculty and staff across the University of Michigan campus, with local and national partners, including members of the community, and to serve as a representative of the initiative.

#### **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Has access to own transportation
- Ability to meet participating residents at public locations in Detroit
- Previous experience analyzing qualitative data

#### **Hours**

5.0 to 10.0 hours per week

#### **Compensation**

Undergraduate rate is \$16.00 and Graduate rate is \$18.00

**Time Frame**

Beginning Winter 2025, potential to extend to Summer and Fall 2025 depending on Research Assistant availability

**Contact Person**

Sam Stragand

**Email Address**

stragand@umich.edu

Interested candidates can apply by completing the Research Assistant Application Form at this link: <https://airtable.com/shryU8uASfgsAZ2cW>

Please follow the instructions below when applying:

- Under “Application,” select “HOI RA Job Posting Winter 2025”
- Please specify whether you meet the preferred qualifications in your cover letter

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Sam Stragand at the above email address.