Job Description:
Participant Engagement and Research Fellow
Drexel School of Public Health - Center for Hunger-Free Communities

The Center for Hunger-Free Communities, established in 2004, is an award-winning research, advocacy and policy center at the Drexel University School of Public Health in Philadelphia, PA. The Center engages in multi-faceted research and action with the goal of developing innovative, empirically-tested solutions to the challenges of hunger and economic insecurity.

Our Mission
The Center for Hunger-Free Communities works with partners from public and private organizations, universities and the community to:
- Find science-based solutions to hunger and economic insecurity;
- Report on and monitor the health consequences of poverty and hunger;
- Engage those who have experienced poverty as full partners in developing research, programs and policies that work;
- Establish and support opportunities for an on-going national dialogue on poverty.

The Center employs the Sanctuary Model® in its implementation of programs. The Sanctuary Model® is an evidence-supported, trauma-informed practice designed to facilitate the development of structures, processes, and behaviors on the part of staff, clients and the community-as-a-whole that can respond to the wounds of traumatic experiences and extended exposure to adversity of program participants. This person should have some knowledge and/or interest in learning about this organizational culture model.

Position Summary
The Center seeks a highly-motivated, caring individual to be the Participant Engagement and Research Fellow to assist the Building Wealth and Health Network team, Children’s HealthWatch Site Coordinator, and Policy Director with the Center's participant engagement and research activities, particularly including those activities supporting the Building Wealth and Health Network and Children’s HealthWatch.

Building Wealth and Health Network (the Network) is a peer-group microfinance demonstration project in Philadelphia’s most underserved neighborhoods. In the spirit of the Center’s primary goal—to find science-based solutions to hunger and economic insecurity—this project seeks to investigate how access to conventional banking, financial literacy, group savings and peer support may improve the economic security of low-income parents. The goals of this project are to improve economic security for low-income parents, make a positive impact on family health and wellbeing, and to transform the existing welfare system.

Children’s HealthWatch is a nonpartisan network of pediatricians, public health researchers, and children’s health and policy experts who are committed to improving children’s health in America. They collect real-time data in urban hospitals across the country on infants and toddlers from families facing economic hardship. The findings are analyzed and shared with academics, legislators, and the public. The findings help policymakers and the public better understand the social and economic factors that impact children’s health so they can make well-informed policy decisions that can give all children equal opportunities for healthy, successful lives.
The Participant Engagement and Research Fellow will assist with the engagement of participants from both programs, provide research support, assist with the dissemination of information collected for the Network and Children’s HealthWatch, and provide other support of the Center at large.

**Key Roles and Responsibilities:**

*The Network*
- Support the Network Team in preparation for recruitment, classes, events, meetings, etc.
- Engage with Network participants to collect qualitative data about their experiences with the program.
- Lead efforts to create an Advisory Committee that will be made up by Network Participants to help advise the program as it grows.
- Connect with community partners to help support recruitment for the classes.

*Children’s HealthWatch (CHW)*
- Identify and enroll study participants from the St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children Emergency Department.
- Assist the CHW Site Coordinator in carrying out the research protocol by:
  - Interviewing families using a research survey instrument,
  - Measuring the recumbent lengths of children
  - Identifying families in need of outreach
  - Reviewing medical records
- Work with CHW Site Coordinator and Policy Director to create a system to engage with current and past research participants who are willing to participate in advocacy or public speaking.

*Policy & Communications*
- Assist the Policy Director in disseminating research conducted and information gathered by the Network and Children’s HealthWatch.
- Write policy briefs or factsheets to help educate legislators about the findings of the research.
- Create content for the Center’s blog and social media platforms about the Network and Children’s HealthWatch

*Other Duties As Assigned (including but not limited to):*
- Help to support the general work at the Center as the need arises.

**Qualifications**

Applicant must have
- Excellent interpersonal, writing, networking, and computer skills
- Excellent communication, facilitation, and teaching skills
- Superior organization skills
- Demonstrated interest in poverty and hunger
- Motivated individuals who is able to work in a team environment
- Ability to handle multiple project simultaneously
- Ability to work independently
- Experience working with people of varying literacy skills and diverse backgrounds
- Flexibility and sense of humor
- Good listening skills
- Bilingual (Spanish) strongly encouraged to apply