



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity

Job Description For: Research Associate for Policy

Job # 50034769

UAMS-State Title: Research Associate

Class Code/PS Group: Non-classified

Summary: The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) is a nonpartisan, independent health policy center whose vision is to be a trusted health policy leader committed to innovations that improve the health of Arkansans. ACHI at UAMS in partnership with PolicyLink (Oakland, CA) has established the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity. The RWJF Center provides expertise and support to organizations, policy-makers and communities. It aims to help shape and coordinate these groups' efforts and build a nationwide movement to solve this critical health issue.

Under the leadership of ACHI and PolicyLink, the RWJF Center focuses its efforts in five distinct teams. One team is to design and implement national, state, regional, and local policy agendas for reducing childhood obesity with an emphasis on the needs of low-income communities and communities disproportionately burdened by the obesity epidemic.

The Research Associate for Policy will primarily provide support to the RWJF Center Team Leader.

TYPICAL FUNCTIONS:

The Research Associate will:

- Report directly to and provide support to the Policy Team Lead.
- Be resourceful, entrepreneurial, and proactive in supporting the work of the team Lead.
- Think critically and strategically.
- Assist the team lead in tracking obesity-relevant policy changes at the local, state, and federal governmental levels and within industry practice and policies.
- Assist the team lead in gathering and synthesizing data to determine if policies enacted are successful/meeting goals.
- Assist the team lead in gathering and synthesizing data and information necessary to create a policy strategy map.
- Support the team lead in actively engaging others to develop policy targets and goals that contribute to the movement to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic.
- Maintain information and databases necessary to coordinate work with multiple stakeholders in the work arena.
- Assist the team lead with activities related to web-enabled data collection, data coordination and management, tracking new or evolving knowledge, scientific review, translation, and inventorying best practices, policies and legislation.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, and SKILLS:

- Understand factors that may influence childhood obesity prevalence and policies that prevent or contribute to the childhood obesity epidemic
- Ability to interact with individuals from multiple, diverse programs and settings
- Ability to work well independently and in a team environment
- Ability to collect and organize information from multiple sources
- Ability to track legislation and policies through the development, review, revision, and approval processes
- Ability to assist in communicating information by creating presentations and/or writing products for dissemination in conjunction with other team members
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Manage and prioritize multiple tasks/projects
- Work efficiently and meet deadlines

MINIMUM EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE:

- Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences or related field plus 2 years of related professional research experience OR Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences or related field plus 5 years of related professional research experience. Significant coursework in political science is a plus.

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