

## **Catalyzing Communities Research Assistant Job Description**

### ***Project Description***

[Catalyzing Communities](#) is an innovative research-based approach to reducing disparities, decreasing obesity, and improving health in communities around the country. We are currently working closely with community partners in 5 states (MA, OH, SC, AZ, WI), and bringing on three new community partners in the next month. We work closely with stakeholders in these communities at all levels to catalyze and sustain a systematic, and holistic effort to improve the health and well-being of all children—now and for the rest of their lives.

The Catalyzing Communities initiative is based at [ChildObesity180](#), which is a national leader in childhood obesity prevention, blending scientific evidence and rigor with innovation and experience from the private sector to develop, implement, evaluate, and scale high-impact obesity prevention initiatives in the U.S. ChildObesity180 leverages experiences, insights, and assets from multiple sectors to address the complex, systemic factors that influence young people's health and wellness.

### ***Position Description***

Catalyzing Communities is seeking a Research Assistant (RA) to support this effort. The RA will work closely with the project team to support each of our partner communities to identify, implement, and evaluate evidence-based strategies to improve child health and address the complex drivers of health in their community.

### ***Key responsibilities:***

- Conduct research and compile literature on evidence-based strategies to equitably improve child health and reduce disparities, focusing on interventions in areas like youth physical activity, food access, advocacy and communications, mental health, stress, and screen time. This includes peer-reviewed and grey literature, formal consensus reports (e.g., from Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, National Academies of Medicine, CDC, etc.), toolkits (e.g., Community Tool Box), and other sources
- Help with the design and construction of a public-facing resource library that can be used by community partners to learn about and select interventions to equitably reduce obesity and improve health
- Conduct research on data collection instruments and evaluation tools that can be used by community partners to evaluate intervention impact
- Assist with creating presentations and other communication materials to present findings to community partners

### ***Required qualifications:***

- Must be 18 years or older
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Strong interest in developing research skills – e.g., conducting literature reviews, critically reading peer-reviewed publications and reports -- and synthesizing and communicating research findings to external audiences
- Strong interest in implementation and evaluation of public health and nutrition interventions that equitably reduce obesity and improve health

- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent organizational skills and demonstrated ability to manage multiple tasks concurrently

***Preferred qualifications:***

- Experience working with underserved and/or underrepresented populations
- Experience conducting evidence scans or literature reviews
- Experience with data collection and evaluation of public health and nutrition interventions

***Schedule:***

The RA will work between 10-15 hours/week beginning in September 2021 and continuing through May 2022, with a possibility of extension based on performance and project needs. Hours can be arranged to accommodate academic schedule and/or other commitments; however, we do expect that the RA will commit to a regular weekly schedule and be able to join team meetings during a standard work week (between 9-5 PM, Monday through Friday).

***To apply:***

Please send your resume and cover letter by September 15<sup>th</sup> to [Julia.Appel@tufts.edu](mailto:Julia.Appel@tufts.edu) be considered for the position.

Please save your resume and cover letter with your first initial and last name. For example, Resume\_D.Smith.pdf.

In your cover letter, please address the following questions:

- Please elaborate on your experience and/or interest in equitably improving health and well-being of children. How have you incorporated a focus on children's health (or related area; *e.g.*, community health) in your prior work and/or academic experience?
- Why are you interested in the research assistant position?
- What are you hoping to get out of this experience?
- What relevant experience, knowledge, or interests do you bring to the research assistant position?

Catalyzing Communities, ChildObesity180, and The Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy are committed to the recruitment of a diverse, inclusive staff, and thus, women, people of color and members of other underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply