Allegheny County Education Research (ACER Project) – Consultant

July 2019

About the Organization:

Research for Action (RFA) seeks to use research as the basis for the improvement of educational opportunities and outcomes for traditionally underserved students. Our work is designed to strengthen public schools and postsecondary institutions; provide research-based recommendations to policymakers, practitioners and the public at the local, state and national levels; and enrich civic and community dialogue about public education.

Summary:

RFA is searching for a **Consultant** for the Allegheny County Education Research project (ACER), a new project launching summer of 2019. ACER was conceived as a localized version of RFA's Pennsylvania Clearinghouse for Education Research project (PACER), which is designed to inform state education policy discussions through rigorous, objective research; regular policy briefs; and research-based commentaries in leading media outlets statewide. While the new ACER project will focus on Pittsburgh and Allegheny County schools, the work is also expected to have statewide implications and impact.

The **Consultant** will help RFA's research team ensure that ACER examines the most important education issues facing Allegheny County in a way that is nuanced and reflective of local context. The individual should be committed to improving access to high-quality education in the area, particularly to students who are traditionally underserved, hold deep expertise in Allegheny County education policy and practice, and strong connections to public education stakeholders in the Pittsburgh area.

Job Qualifications:

- Pittsburgh-based (preferred).
- Experience tracking Pittsburgh and Allegheny County education policy developments and familiarity with education policymakers and practitioners in the area.
- Experience with the various stages of mixed-methods research and with providing policy analysis in a variety of forms (policy briefs, legislative testimony, commentaries)
- Familiarity with publicly-available education datasets at the city, state, and national levels and general knowledge of the policymaking process and the existing legal framework of public education mandates.
- Strong interpersonal skills, including ability to work collaboratively with team members on projects and ease at building rapport with interviewees, clients, and colleagues of diverse backgrounds.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, and the ability to communicate effectively with academic, policy, and practitioner audiences.
- Demonstrated commitment to eliminating inequity and improving public education.

How to Apply: Please provide one PDF document including your resume, cover letter, and writing samples. Click here to apply.

As an equal opportunity employer, RFA values diversity. We strive to hire and retain top talent based on qualifications, merit, and business needs. Different makes us better!