



## Allegheny County Education Research (ACER Project) – Policy Research Fellow

November 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 children and students. Our work is designed to strengthen early education, 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 **Policy Research Fellow** to assist with our new Allegheny County Education Research project (ACER). 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 focuses on Pittsburgh and Allegheny County schools, the work is also expected to have statewide implications and impact.

The **Policy Research Fellow** 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 have strong connections to public education stakeholders in the Pittsburgh area.

This Research Fellowship is a two-year full-time position, with the possibility of extending into additional years, pending availability of funding. The position involves travel to Philadelphia and/or Harrisburg approximately 4-5 times a year.

### 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 a writing sample. 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!**