



Postdoctoral Applied Education Research Associate

Spring 2021

About the Organization:

Research for Action (RFA) is an independent, non-profit educational research organization with a mission of using research to achieve equitable educational opportunities and outcomes to help inform better policy and practice decisions. With three decades of experience, 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 the civic and community dialogue about public education.

Summary:

Research for Action (RFA) is seeking a **Postdoctoral Applied Education Research Associate** to contribute to research and evaluation studies in early childhood educational settings, under the mentorship of Dr. Alyn Turner and Dr. Dae Kim on several grant- and foundation-funded projects. The Associate will co-lead a **two-year federal randomized evaluation of a comprehensive pre-k curriculum**. The Associate is expected to 1) co-lead the evaluation and research components of the pre-k curriculum study to assess impact on children's kindergarten readiness; (2) co-author peer reviewed journal articles with study data; and (3) work closely with external partners and stakeholders to communicate study results to practitioner audiences. The Associate will have the additional opportunity to independently develop and contribute as a leader on emerging projects focused on **applied educational research and evaluation in a range of settings including out-of-school time, K-12, and postsecondary** for clients that include private foundations, government agencies, and non-profit intermediaries. In addition, the Associate will receive 1) mentored professional development on applied education research and evaluation; 2) project leadership experience including managing research staff and budgets; and 3) experience writing development proposals.

The salary range for this position is **\$55,000-\$65,000** with benefits, including health and dental insurance, paid holidays, and 21 PTO days annually, plus 7 paid holidays and company-wide paid winter break (Dec 25-Jan 1). **Location is negotiable** given that RFA staff are currently working in remote conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This position will be expected to keep East Coast business hours to align with RFA's home location in Philadelphia.

Job Qualifications:

- ABD or recent Ph.D. (awarded in 2019 or later) in a relevant field such as education, sociology, psychology, economics, or public policy with a strong training in causal research design, data collection and management, and statistics.
- Research experience and publications in the field of early childhood education.
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to and enhance our team's equity-focused practices in research design, data collection, analysis, and reporting.

- Strong interpersonal and collaboration skills, including ability to work with team members on projects and ease at building rapport with clients and colleagues with diverse backgrounds.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills to engage audiences that include academics, policymakers, community members, and practitioners.
- Ability to work independently, with limited direction, as well as within a team environment.
- Periodic local and national travel required for client meetings and fieldwork. ***Please note that RFA takes Covid-19 precautions seriously. Therefore, RFA researchers will not be asked to travel until federal/state/local health authorities deem it safe.

Application:

Review of applications will begin March 29, 2021 and will continue until the position is filled, with an anticipated start date in June 2021 (or earlier). The candidate must have their completed PhD by the start date. This is a **24-month position**, with the possibility of renewal or promotion to full-time staff contingent upon mutual fit, satisfactory performance, and availability of funding.

Complete an [online application](#) with the following required documents:

- Cover letter that briefly summarizes qualifications, research experience, and career goals, in particular experiences in working in and/or studying early childhood education. **We also requested that applicants include a description of how their unique perspectives will contribute to the diversity of our team.**
- CV/resume, with two professional references that can speak to your qualifications as a researcher
- A recent publication or writing sample

For questions about this position, please contact **Alyn Turner, Director of Quantitative Research**, at aturner@researchforaction.org. For questions about the application process, please contact **Breanna Ockimey, HR Manager**, at hr@researchforaction.org

Research for Action is fundamentally committed to the diversity of our staff. We believe diversity is excellence expressing itself through every person's perspectives and lived experiences. We are an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family medical or genetic information.