



## Quantitative 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 **Quantitative Research Associate** to contribute to applied research and evaluation studies in **educational settings, including early childhood, K-12, postsecondary, and out-of-school time**. The Associate will have a leadership position on emerging projects focused on programs, practices, and policies designed to improve educational outcomes and experiences for underserved students. The successful candidate will bring a critical lens and collaborative demeanor to a dynamic team of researchers. The successful candidate will conduct evaluations for clients that include private foundations, government agencies, and non-profit intermediaries. In addition to strong quantitative research and analysis skills, this position requires prior experience (either independently or with teams) developing and securing funding for new research projects; leading significant components of multi-year research and/or evaluation projects; facilitating meetings (in-person and virtual); and a high level of organization and an ability to juggle multiple competing priorities while meeting key deadlines.

### Projects Overview:

We are seeking candidates with broad interests in education research. A **sampling of current projects** includes the Philadelphia Education Research Consortium (PERC) with a focus on pathways to graduation for high school youth in Philadelphia's public schools; an evaluation of teacher professional development program focused on improving reading outcomes for K-3 students in NYC; and a national survey of high school youth experiences during COVID and perspectives on their wellbeing and preparation for life after high school. We expect successful candidates will have their own areas of expertise and will contribute to developing research projects in those areas, but also open to contributing to a variety of topic areas. **We are especially interested in candidates with experiences working with or studying the experiences of students of color, low-income students, English learners, and/or students with developmental delays or disabilities.**

### Job Qualifications:

- Ph.D. 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.
- 1-2 years of post-doctoral education research experience and publications (either peer reviewed or applied).
- 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.
- Candidates who are fluent in spoken and written Spanish are encouraged to apply!
- 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).

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 education. **We also request 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](mailto:aturner@researchforaction.org). For questions about the application process, please contact **Breanna Ockimey, HR Manager**, at [hr@researchforaction.org](mailto: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.