

OVERVIEW

Designed by United Way for Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) in partnership with University of Michigan's Poverty Solutions, the [Detroit Financial Well-Being Innovation Challenge](#) is a multi-phase grant challenge that seeks to catalyze concrete action to improve financial well-being in Detroit. The Challenge provides seed funding and technical assistance to organizations over five years to refine, test, pilot and scale new and innovative community initiatives. The goal of the Challenge is to help local organizations drive systemic change that help Detroiters thrive financially.

RESPONSIBILITIES

UWSEM and UM Poverty Solutions are seeking multiple Research Assistants from a variety of disciplines to provide research support to grantees as they plan to design and pilot their community projects. Research Assistants will work closely with grantees on 1-2 deliverables to provide research support to inform the development of community projects covering the following topics:

- Housing (low-income housing, housing quality and energy efficiency)
- Financial counseling, economic mobility counseling
- Innovative real estate and community development strategies (community investment trusts, community land trusts, housing/community cooperatives)
- Financial and technology products

The full list of community projects can be found [here](#).

Research Assistants will perform the following activities:

- Conduct research answering grantee organization questions using academic journals, resources from non-profit, governmental, and academic sources, news articles, and other sources.
- Analyze quantitative or qualitative data related to target demographic of community projects
- Write at least one document summarizing research findings and analysis, conclusions, and implications for community initiative models.
- Contribute to annotated bibliography of research sources.
- Attend bi-weekly meetings with Poverty Solutions staff and occasional meetings with grantee organizations.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Familiarity with researching and analyzing large amounts of information and synthesizing and summarizing research findings
- Familiarity with writing, presenting, and discussing research findings and their implications concisely
- Familiarity with compiling and organizing large amounts of information

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Excellent organization with demonstrated attention to detail
- Punctual and accurate communicator, responsive to email, phone calls or other communications from supervisor
- Ability to work both as part of a team and individually while meeting deadlines
- Research Assistant will report to multiple supervisors and must be able to successfully manage a workload with multiple priorities.
- Interest in being a part of a fast-paced initiative, with desire to be flexible and adapt to evolving priorities.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work cooperatively and professionally with University of Michigan staff and employees and community partners
- Applicants from all campus units are encouraged to apply.

Hours

4 to 10 hours per week, remote.

Compensation

Graduate students: \$18/hr

Undergraduate students: \$16/hr

Time Frame

Winter semester 2023

Contact Persons

Leonymae Aumentado, Project Manager

Afton Branche-Wilson, Assistant Director of Community Initiatives

Email Address

lfaument@umich.edu, CC: aftonb@umich.edu

Interested candidates should email a resume and short writing sample (less than 3 pages, double-spaced) to Leonymae Aumentado, Project Manager at lfaument@umich.edu, CC: Afton Branche-Wilson, Assistant Director of Community Initiatives at aftonb@umich.edu. **Application materials for this position are accepted on a rolling basis until January 25, 2023.**