EPA Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Assistant


Research Opportunity Description
EPA Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Assistant
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA-SSP-0009-3

Project Description:

The EPA Environmental Research and Business Support Program has an immediate opening for a Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Assistant with the Office of Research and Development at the EPA’s facility in Duluth, Minnesota.

The Office of Research and Development at the EPA supports high-quality research to improve the scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues and help EPA achieve its environmental goals. Research is conducted in a broad range of environmental areas by scientists in EPA laboratories and at universities across the country.

The National Health Effects and Environmental Research Laboratory (NHEERL) is responsible for scientific research on the effects of contaminants and environmental stressors on human health and ecosystem integrity. The impact of the Laboratory’s efforts can be felt far beyond the EPA as our research enables state and local governments to implement effective environmental programs. NHEERL also collaborates with governments and organizations on issues of environmental importance. NHEERL’s Mid-Continent Ecology Division (MED) in Duluth MN conducts research through the Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Program to help communities make decisions that lead to a more sustainable society and environment.

The selected candidate shall provide data collection, transcription, and qualitative analysis services. He/she will also have the opportunity to learn about and contribute to environmental decision making for a real-world problem revolving around ecological outcomes and socioeconomic benefits of restoration and redevelopment of an urban river corridor. He/she will work with other members of MED’s Sustainable and Healthy Communities team to conduct participatory community research.

General duties include but are not limited to:

- Attending meetings,
- Preparing meeting and/or interview transcripts,
- Coding and analyzing interview data, and
- Assisting in background research, writing, and dissemination of results.

Data collection and analysis responsibilities will include:

- Assisting a multi-disciplinary research team with field research, qualitative analysis, surveying and interviewing, and
- Coding and analyzing transcripts, notes, and other documents (i.e., planning documents, grant applications, work plans, etc.).

Communications-related responsibilities will include:

- Interacting with other members of the development team, as well as EPA scientists, and
- Co-authoring poster presentations for scientific conferences.

Location: This job will be located at EPA’s facility in Duluth, Minnesota.

Salary: Selected applicants will become temporary employees of ORAU and will receive an hourly wage of $24.09 for hours worked.

Travel: Travel related to this position will be local, and mostly limited to the City of Duluth, MN.

Expected Start Date: The position is full time and expected to begin January 2016. The selected applicant will be a temporary employee of ORAU working as a contractor to EPA. The initial contract
period is through May 14, 2016. EPA may elect to renew the contract for an additional two 12-month optional periods.

**Working Conditions:** This position will involve work in an administrative and other indoor settings. The work environment involves everyday risks or discomforts that require normal safety precautions typical of places such as offices, meeting or training rooms, or commercial vehicles.

*For more information, contact EPAjobs@orau.org. Do not contact EPA directly.*

**Qualifications:**

**Eligible applicants must:**

- Be at least 18 years of age and
- Have earned a Bachelor’s Degree and have completed at least 1 year of coursework and research towards a Master of Science (or equivalent) degree, in anthropology, geography, environmental education, urban studies, urban planning, sociology, public health, or a related field from an accredited university or college within the last 24 months and
- Be a citizen of the United States of America or a Legal Permanent Resident.

*EPA ORD employees, their spouses, and children are not eligible to participate in this program.*

**Required Knowledge, Skills, Work Experience, and Education**

The applicant shall:

- Have demonstrated education and/or experience in field research and/or qualitative analysis,
- Have experience conducting research on a broad range of topics such as community development, outdoor recreation, environmental perception, and/or social dimensions of place attachment,
- Have introductory knowledge of survey and interview techniques,
- Have demonstrated organizational skills and ability to work independently, as well as have experience working in teams, and
- Have strong written, oral and electronic communication skills.

**How to apply:**

Submit application and supporting documents by clicking on Apply Now button.

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