Senior Researcher in Applied Microeconomics and Quantitative Public Policy

About the California Policy Lab

The California Policy Lab (CPL) creates data-driven insights for the public good. Our mission is to improve the lives of Californians by generating evidence that transforms public policy. We do this by forming lasting partnerships between government and California’s flagship public universities to harness the power of research and administrative data. We work on California’s most urgent issues, including homelessness, unemployment, poverty, criminal justice reform, and education inequality. We facilitate close working partnerships between policymakers and researchers at the University of California to help evaluate and improve public programs through rigorous empirical research and technical assistance. CPL recognizes the value of having a diverse staff at all levels of the organization. We are looking for equity-minded applicants who represent and understand the diverse racial and ethnic, gender identity, sexual orientation, educational, socioeconomic, cultural, and disability backgrounds present in California. When you join our team, you can expect to be part of an inclusive and equity-focused community.

The Position

This is an exciting role for a mid- or advanced-career researcher who wants to design and conduct policy-relevant research in partnership with state and local agencies in California. The ideal candidate has expertise in one or more of the following areas: homelessness, employment, workforce development, or the social safety net. The Researcher conducts independent quantitative research, including conceptualizing research questions and designs; overseeing the requesting, receiving, and cleaning of data files; creating and overseeing the implementation of analysis plans; conducting quality assurance reviews; summarizing results in documents for both academic and policy audiences; and generating replicability documentation. The Researcher can implement and defend multiple causal research designs, including randomized control trials, quasi-experimental designs, and non-experimental designs. The Researcher will write grant proposals to support research tasks and contribute to grant reporting.

The Researcher will also supervise junior staff. A successful candidate has demonstrated experience managing research projects, supervising research teams, mentoring junior staff, and supporting professional development of team members. They will also participate and help lead CPL hiring and organizational development.
The position will report to the Faculty Director, and will work directly with leading social policy researchers at UC and beyond, state and local government agency staff, and CPL’s leadership team. Researcher/Senior Researcher job title and campus title will be based on experience and qualifications.

**Required Qualifications**

- Training and experience that clearly demonstrates qualifications.
- Ph.D. in economics, public policy, or related social science field, or equivalent experience.
- Fluency in data-analysis packages from commonly used programming languages like Python, R, Stata, and SQL.
- Post-Ph.D. experience overseeing research deliverables.

**Preferred Qualifications**

- Record of independent research and publication, including leading research design, analysis, and writing for both academic and policy audiences.
- Experience managing research projects, including supervising and assigning tasks to project staff.
- Experience writing grant proposals, communicating with funders, and managing grant reporting.
- Expertise in one or more of CPL’s primary policy areas.
- Experience working with large and complex datasets, including administrative datasets.
- Knowledge of data management systems, practices, and standards.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work both independently and as a team member.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail and ability to multi-task with demanding timeframes.
- Experience collaborating with government agency partners.

**Salary & Benefits**

This position is full-time, and will start as a two-year contract. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The hiring range for this position is $105,000 to $155,000 per year.

For information on the comprehensive benefits package offered by the University visit [this site](#).

**How to Apply**

Go to [UCLA Recruit](#), click on applicants and search for JPF07962.

This recruitment will remain open until filled. Specific questions regarding the recruitment can be directed to Kelle Taylor: kelletaylor@ucla.edu
Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are core values at UCLA. Our excellence can only be fully realized by faculty, students, and academic and non-academic staff who share our commitment to these values. Successful candidates for our academic positions will demonstrate evidence of a commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and belonging.

**Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Statement**

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy see: [http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct](http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct).