

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE POSITION

Evaluation of SNUG Social Work Initiative

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University at Albany School of Public Health invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate position to conduct a **process and outcome evaluation** of a new Social Work Initiative as part of New York State's SNUG ('guns' spelled backwards) Street Outreach program.

Program Description

The SNUG Street Outreach program is an evidence-based, violence reduction initiative that treats gun violence as a disease by identifying its causes and interrupting its transmission. At each of the 11 SNUG sites throughout New York State (NYS), outreach teams of credible messengers – individuals who are hired from the communities in which they work and who have backgrounds similar to those with whom they aim to connect – mentor the highest risk youth with an emphasis on conflict mediation and violence prevention. The SNUG Social Work Initiative aims to embed specially-trained social workers and case managers at all SNUG sites through an innovative partnership between the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS), allowing the SNUG program to better address trauma experienced by program participants and staff and improve access to victim services in the SNUG cities. The evaluation of the Social Work Initiative aims to monitor its implementation and assess its impact and will be led by Melissa Tracy, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University at Albany.

Responsibilities

The postdoctoral research associate will assist in the development of the evaluation protocol; manage data collection and analysis for the process and outcome evaluations; participate in site visits; communicate regularly with site and DCJS staff throughout implementation of the Social Work Initiative; mentor graduate student research assistants working on the project; and prepare deliverables for the project, including literature reviews, logic models, data collection protocols, quarterly presentations, and reports on each phase of the evaluation. They will also have opportunities to collaborate on and lead publications and conference presentations related to this project, including the use of novel complex systems approaches to supplement observational data collection and analysis.

Qualifications

Applicants must have a doctoral degree in social work, criminal justice, sociology, epidemiology, public policy, psychology, or a related discipline, completed within the past three years. Preference will be given to candidates with knowledge of, or practical experience with, program evaluation and with research interests in trauma-informed care, violence prevention, and/or the behavioral health consequences of violence exposure. Successful applicants will be detail oriented, independent, and highly organized; thrive in a collaborative environment and in a mentoring role; and have a proven publication record and excellent oral and written communication skills.

Salary and Benefits

This is a 12-month, full-time position; the initial appointment is for one year with the possibility of a second year contingent on the availability of funding. Benefits, such as health insurance and retirement, will be offered according to the University at Albany's policies.

How to Apply

Applicants must provide a brief letter of interest detailing their research experience and career goals and a current CV. If selected as a finalist for the position, three recommendation letters will be requested. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. Application materials, and any questions about the position, should be submitted directly to Dr. Melissa Tracy (mtracy@albany.edu).

About the University at Albany

The University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY), has a diverse population of more than 17,000 undergraduate and graduate students in the heart of New York's historic capital city. Convenient to Boston, Montreal, and New York City, Albany is also in close proximity to the Berkshires, Catskills, and Adirondack Mountains.