



## Policy and Research Assistant for Race and Opportunity (Graduate Students)

### Overview

Opportunity Insights is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization based at Harvard University and directed by Raj Chetty, John Friedman, and Nathaniel Hendren. We conduct scientific research using “big data” on how to improve upward mobility and work collaboratively with local stakeholders to translate these research findings into policy change. We also train the next generation of social scientists and practitioners to improve opportunity for all.

In collaboration with local stakeholders and policymakers across the country, our Policy team translates our research findings into interventions that improve future outcomes for economically disadvantaged children – and expand our collective understanding of what factors can help revitalize the American Dream.

### Policy and Research Assistant for Race and Opportunity positions

The Opportunity Insights Policy team seeks 1-2 graduate-level Policy and Research Assistants for Fall and Spring 2020 (September 3-April 30) to assist our policy team **part-time** or **full-time** by conducting and contributing research to a policy report that will serve as a companion to the 2018 paper *Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States: An Intergenerational Perspective*. The 2018 paper highlighted the enduring role that race plays in shaping the outcomes of African Americans. Specifically, this research highlighted that African Americans have substantially lower rates of upward mobility and higher rates of downward mobility than white Americans. The racial gap persists even among boys who grow up in the same neighborhood.

This forthcoming policy report will highlight the communities reversing these trends and the innovative approaches being implemented by leaders – inside and outside of government – to ensure all residents are able to compete on a level playing field. It will also shine a light on the findings from disciplines outside of economics, particularly sociology, that document the macro and micro forces that drive and reify the disparities that show up in Opportunity Insights data. Lastly, the report will outline actions that should be prioritized at the local, state, and federal levels to improve economic mobility for African Americans.

As the Policy and Research Assistant for Race and Opportunity you will contribute to this work in two specific ways:

- Conducting a literature review of the drivers – and inhibitors – of opportunity for African Americans, particularly African American men
- Conduct qualitative research in communities identified by the Opportunity Insights team to identify what programs, policies, or practices on the ground are driving outcomes we see in our data



The ideal candidates will be a graduate student pursuing a PhD in sociology, African and African American studies, history, urban studies, or another related field. The ideal candidates will also have experience conducting qualitative research.

Assistants will be paid \$18/hour, and we will accept students eligible for work study. Candidates must be eligible to work in the United States. There is the opportunity to begin the assistantship before September 3 and opportunity to continue working with the team after April 30. Applicants will be considered on a rolling basis. Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and short writing sample to Policy Deputy Director Laura Moore at [lmoore@opportunityinsights.org](mailto:lmoore@opportunityinsights.org).