Position Announcement

Director of Applied Research

Woodstock Institute

Background: Woodstock Institute (www.woodstockinst.org) is a leading nonprofit research and policy organization that works locally and nationally to create a financial system in which lower-wealth persons and communities of color can safely borrow, save, and build wealth so that they can achieve economic security and community prosperity. Based in Chicago, the 44-year-old organization is a nationally recognized economic justice leader and bridge builder between communities and policymakers.

The Director of Applied Research designs and conducts applied research projects to examine the relationships between economic and demographic characteristics and disparities in access to economic opportunity and to support Woodstock Institute’s policy advocacy. The research encompasses equitable lending and investments, wealth creation and preservation, and access to safe and affordable financial products, services, and systems, and how they impact lower-wealth persons and communities of color. The position gives a qualified research professional an unusually good opportunity to see the results of his/her research have an impact in policy changes. The Director also collaborates with local and national colleagues on research; convenes and participates in regional coalitions; makes presentations and conducts communications, media, and advocacy outreach; supervises other staff researchers and interns; and, plays a major role in foundation, corporate, and contract fundraising. The Director is a member of the senior management team and reports to the President.

Qualifications

- Experienced researcher with a graduate degree in economics, urban planning, policy, or related field, with strong quantitative research and analysis skills.
- At least 5 years’ experience in research and policy advocacy in areas of fair lending, wealth creation, community development and/or financial systems reform, including work with HMDA, CRA, mortgage, small business, and consumer lending data, and public data at the local level.
- Demonstrated commitment to economic justice issues. Familiarity with economic and racial justice research, practitioners, and thought leaders.
- Warm and collaborative interpersonal skills. Comfortable with diverse groups, including community groups, nonprofit advocates, funders, policymakers, regulators, and academics.
- Self-starter with ability to work independently and juggle multiple tasks and deadlines.
- Excellent writing, public speaking, and presentation skills. Demonstrated ability to write, edit, and publish research reports and related policy recommendations.
- Fundraising and grant writing/reporting experience.
- At least 2 years’ experience in hiring, training, and supervising junior staff and/or interns.
- Willingness to travel frequently within the state and across the country.
Salary, benefits, and other information

- Salary will depend on experience. Likely range between $60,000~$90,000.
- Generous benefits package, including 6 percent contribution by organization to retirement plan.
- Position is based in downtown Chicago office of Woodstock Institute.

To apply: Please submit resume and cover letter by February 28, 2017, to David Erickson-Pearson Executive Search at epdavid@earthlink.net. Preferred start date: April 17, 2017

Woodstock Institute is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages qualified applicants from diverse backgrounds and protected classes to apply.