

Title: Implementation Manager
Start Date: ASAP

Who We Are

Improving schooling outcomes for youth and reducing disparities in achievement are among our nation's most urgent challenges. Graduation rates of black and Hispanic youth remain far lower than those of their white counterparts, and this gap is mirrored by striking disparities between rich and poor.

We believe that the lack of progress in improving outcomes for low-income youth stems in part from not knowing enough about what works, for whom, and why. Consider the problem, for instance, of reducing cancer mortality among low-income populations. Surely more funding is necessary to ensure that everyone has adequate access to decent health care. But there is also another, perhaps even more fundamental barrier to progress: we desperately need a cure for cancer. We believe that a similar knowledge gap is a barrier to progress in reducing disparities in educational attainment, albeit one that is less visible.

The Education Lab does the most rigorous possible research in close collaboration with local government and nonprofits, to learn about what works and to help scale the most promising solutions. We believe the most promising way to have impact at scale is to carry out demonstration projects with philanthropic support, with the goal of using the results to guide public-sector dollars to those uses that generate as much social good as possible. Under the direction of leading social scientists, we work with partners to use data and evidence to make progress, including: leveraging administrative data to understand a program's impact, providing technical assistance to agency and nonprofit partners to inform operations and strategy, and conducting research using cutting edge methods and behavioral and social science. Our goal is to assemble a portfolio of evidence about what works, for whom, and why, and to conduct benefit-cost analyses to enable policymakers to prioritize resources for the set of strategies that achieve the greatest social good per dollar spent.

For more information about the UChicago Urban Labs, go to <http://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/>

The Project

Over the last several years, CPS students' growth rate in academics have been among the highest in the country, and the graduation rates have been increasing steadily over the past decade. And yet we know these gains are not equitably distributed across all students. Among high school students in CPS, approximately 1 in 9 touch an Options School at some point during the academic year. Students in Options Schools are more likely to be eligible for free and reduced lunch, have an individualized education plan, experience homelessness or housing instability, have been victimized, and be justice involved. In Options Schools, the graduation rate hovers around 30%, less than half what it is in non-Options CPS schools, suggesting that the current programmatic response does not adequately address the varying needs of its students.

Chicago Public Schools and the University of Chicago Education Lab are collaborating to develop a comprehensive strategy to design, implement and evaluate a suite of best practices for serving students most likely to engage with the Options Schools system. This innovative approach will not only impact Chicago students, but has the potential to inform cities around the country struggling with serving this population.

The Role

The University of Chicago Education Lab seeks an Implementation Manager to work on the evaluation of a large-scale effort to ensure that Options Schools students receive high-quality supports across academic instruction, socioemotional supports, and postsecondary pathways. The Implementation Manager will be involved in a variety of project components including, but not limited to: assisting CPS and the Education Lab with program design, monitoring project implementation to ensure rigor and quality, and managing the relationships between the research team, social service providers, Options Schools operators and community members.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Builds and maintains strong relationships with research partners and all participating partner organizations, government agencies, nonprofits, and community groups.
- During Design Phase, travels to exemplar program providers around the country.
- Coordinates provision of services with partner agencies and serves as the point person for their communication with the research team.
- During Implementation phase, travels to program sites to monitor project development.
- Ensures partner agencies are working within the parameters of the evaluation: holds participating vendors accountable to the guidelines of the evaluation.
- Provides updates and feedback on study progress to internal and external partners.
- Coordinates effective collaboration between all project partners.

Education and Experience Required

- Bachelor's degree in public policy, education, social work or a closely related field required.
- Training or certification in trauma-informed counseling or social work in low-income, high-violence communities, or a closely related field highly preferred, but not required.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience working with or for organizations delivering social services to individuals living in disadvantaged communities.
- Previous experience teaching or providing supplemental educational services.
- Previous experience working with a research study preferred.

Competencies

- Outstanding interpersonal skills and the ability to develop and maintain positive relationships with various stakeholders required.
- Ability to work independently in a fast-paced environment required.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present complex ideas in a simple and straightforward way for non-technical audiences required.
- Demonstrated ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Knowledge of urban policy, social policy, crime policy, and workforce development preferred.
- Can communicate basic research methods and procedures to key stakeholders

Required Documents:

- Resume

- Cover Letter
- Three References

To Apply: please submit a resume, cover letter, and three references to UChicago's Workday system, search for requisition **JR04421**. Please find instructions on how to access the application below.

If you have questions about the Workday application system, please contact: https://uchicago.service-now.com/sso?id=ssc_sc_cat_item&sys_id=cf359d671316660030c0bcaf3244b02d.

If you have an active UChicago Workday employee account, you will need to complete the Internal Candidate application process. Internal Candidate instructions: Log into Workday and select the career worklet.

External Candidates should apply at <https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/External>

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