



Policy & Data Fellowship – Summer 2018

Organizational Overview

The Economy League of Greater Philadelphia addresses critical issues facing Greater Philadelphia by providing impactful research, connecting diverse leaders, and advancing shared solutions. We envision a thriving Greater Philadelphia region powered by informed and collaborative leadership.

Since its founding in 1909, the Economy League has believed that high-quality analysis and practical insight about the region's most important challenges and opportunities, combined with collaborative, cross-sector leadership are crucial drivers of prosperity in Greater Philadelphia. To learn more, visit www.economyleague.org.

Position Details

The Policy & Data Fellow will support the Economy League in developing a new economic indicators database for the Philadelphia region and developing a new quarterly report highlighting key trends in the Philadelphia economy. This is a full-time summer position. Duties will include:

- Identify and collect historical economic and demographic data;
- Clean the data to ensure accuracy and consistency;
- Read historical data into a relational database;
- Develop detailed documentation of data sources used, how to access the datasets, how the data was organized and cleaned, how to update the database with new data, and a calendar of data release dates
- Conduct background research on economic reports from Greater Philadelphia and other regions to identify potential structures for the Economy League report
- Work with staff to analyze data and identify key themes and trends to highlight for the first report
- Administrative and other duties, as assigned.

Qualifications

- Strong written and oral communication skills;
- Quantitative skills and experience with analytic and data management software
- Creativity, self-motivation and willingness to ask questions;
- Effective interpersonal skills, team player;
- Interest in public policy, state and local government, and the economy.
- Undergraduate upperclassmen and graduate students preferred.

To Apply

Please email a cover letter and resume to interns@economyleague.org.

OVERVIEW

Background and Opportunity

The Economy League of Greater Philadelphia has a long history of providing city and regional leaders with local market intelligence, built on in-depth quantitative and qualitative analysis. Projects in recent years—from an assessment of the regional export economy, to analysis of the local tech workforce, to in-depth industry and labor market research informing the City’s workforce development strategy—have further burnished the Economy League’s reputation for independent, clear assessment of trends across the local economy.

At the same time, these and other projects have also highlighted the opportunity to develop a more sustainable, systematic approach to economic data collection that would proactively position the Economy League to achieve three key objectives:

1. Reduce redundancy of data collection and improve analytical capabilities for special projects;
2. Position the organization to respond quickly to data requests from government, business, and nonprofit partners, as well as media outlets;
3. Provide the foundation for proactive, regular Economy League reports highlighting key economic indicators and framing economic trends for Greater Philadelphia policymakers and business leaders

Concept

Ultimately, the Economy League envisions developing a sophisticated relational database with detailed historical data across a range of economic and demographic topics, including labor force dynamics, business growth, population, tax revenue, and more. In parallel, the Economy League would develop a new product—tentatively referred to as the Economic Indicators Report—that would highlight key data points and identify the most important trends in the local economy. This report would be produced quarterly and could be published directly by the Economy League and/or with media partners, and could include a range of outputs, including written analysis, data dashboards, and other digital presentations.

Sample Datasets

- Employment and unemployment data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and state labor departments
 - Quarterly Census of Wages and Employment, Current Employment Statistics (industries)
 - Occupational Employment statistics (occupations)
 - Local Area Unemployment Statistics
 - County and Zip Code Business Patterns
- City tax data
 - Wage tax revenues
 - BIRT revenues
- Demographic data from Census products
 - Population Estimates
 - American Community Survey (trends by age, race and ethnicity, education levels, income)
- Real-time labor market data from Burning Glass and/or competitors

- Other business and economic indicators
 - Venture capital investment
 - Entrepreneurship

Next Steps

Building out a database and developing a new Economy League product is a substantial undertaking. The Economy League will hire a summer/fall 2018 fellow (current graduate student) with demonstrated quantitative analytical experience to support both efforts. With strategic guidance from Economy League staff, the fellow will:

- Identify and collect historical economic and demographic data;
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- Read historical data into a relational database;
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