Greater Philadelphia Data Journalist Internship

Organization: Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

Organization 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. To learn more, visit www.economyleague.org.

In this mission, the Economy League is currently building a new resource of independent and nonpartisan data and analyses geared towards the research needs of legislators, research organizations, journalists, community groups, and the general public – dubbed PolicyHub. The goal is for PolicyHub to ensure policymakers, journalists, local influencers, and the general public to "see and speak" Philly data. As a part of this initiative, the Economy League produces a regular *Leading Indicators* data brief for the general public.

Position Description:

The ideal candidate will be a regular writer/contributor to the *Leading Indicators* data briefs and will be asked to contribute at least a one-to-two-page data-oriented story on a weekly basis. The ideal candidate will also be able to collect, clean, and analyze various datasets using Excel, R/RStudio, or any other publicly available analytical software. The candidate will be taught how to effectively use various statistical and geographic analytical tools via tutorials with PolicyHub's project manager. The ideal candidate should have an interest in local policy issues of the Philadelphia region, be a consistent and strong writer, and have a passion for learning new skills.

Assigned duties may include:

- Contributing to a weekly one-to-two-page data brief covering a socioeconomic topic of interest
- Researching various local, state, or federal data sources for use in *Leading Indicator* data briefs
- Cleaning and analyzing various "big data" sources
- Tracking the status of various local or state policy initiatives
- Conducting research memos, literature reviews, or news roundups of socioeconomic topics
- Curating various articles or blogs from other reputable news sources
- Attending external professional meetings in business attire

Qualifications:

- Current graduate student in the social sciences, journalism, or related field (will consider undergraduate students based on skills and qualifications)
- Intermediate knowledge of Excel or other analytical software for data analytics and visualizations (knowledge of R/RStudio a plus).
- Strong written skills and comfortable with writing with strict deadlines
- Creativity, self-motivation and a willingness to ask questions

- An interest in big data, public policy, and civic engagement

Additional Information:

- Work-study and/or For-Credit students preferred, however, a stipend may be available upon experience and skills
- This is a part-time position (i.e. 15-20 hours a week) and we are willing to work around students' class and/or work schedules
- Candidates who apply will be asked to submit a sample of their written work
- **Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the mandated social distancing requirements, the candidate may be asked to work remotely**

Internship Duration:

- Start Date: September 14, 2020 (but we can be flexible based on applicant's program requirements and scheduling needs
- End Date: December 11, 2020 (but we can be flexible based on applicant's program requirements and scheduling needs)

To Apply:

Email the following items to mshields@economyleague.org with the subject line reading "PolicyHub Data Journalist Intern – FIRST NAME, LAST NAME":

- A cover letter describing why you're interested in this internship and how it'll fit your career trajectory/aspirations.
- A resume or CV
- A writing sample from a previous project or experience that highlights your ability to analyze and discuss data

Questions:

If you have any questions please email Mike Shields at mshields@economyleague.org with the subject line reading "Data Journalist Internship Question – FIRST NAME, LAST NAME]"