

DIRECTOR – POLICY ENGAGEMENT

OUR ORGANIZATION

The American Dream – the aspiration that all children should have opportunities to climb the economic ladder – is at risk. In the 1950s, more than 90% of American children grew up to earn more than their parents did. Today, only 50% of children do so.

The mission of the [Equality of Opportunity Project](#) (EOP) -- a joint initiative of faculty at Stanford, Harvard, and Brown universities -- is to revive the American dream. We create and map, new powerful research to scalable policy solutions that will empower families to rise out of poverty and achieve better life outcomes. We do this by harnessing the power of big data through high quality research to learn from areas where the American Dream is still thriving. We study economic mobility through lenses such as education, neighborhood environments, and health to understand the drivers of economic opportunity in the country and give local policy-makers customized data and insights to help them craft effective policy solutions. (You can hear an overview of our work on this [Freakonomics podcast](#).)

The project's work to date has shaped policy discussions at the national and local level, with nearly a dozen of its studies covered on the front pages of major media outlets, such as the [New York Times](#) and [Wall Street Journal](#) and cited in congressional testimony and the President's State of the Union addresses. This work has led to direct impacts on a broad range of decisions by local policy makers, ranging from school districts to housing authorities.

Our team, led by MacArthur "genius" award winner [Raj Chetty](#), [John Friedman](#), and [Nathan Hendren](#), consists of leaders from academia, policy, and management, supported by a staff of approximately 40 members who share a passion to revive the American Dream. We are now seeking a Director of Policy who will serve on the senior leadership team of the Equality of Opportunity Project (EOP) and oversee all major partnerships between EOP and state/local government agencies. They will lead a team of 6-12 policy analysts and associates who will work closely with local policy makers using our data and insights to address major barriers to upward mobility

RESPONSIBILITIES

PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

- Serve as primary point of contact for new and existing partners
- Work closely with the research team to develop and deliver diagnostic analytics to partners
- Work alongside local partners to develop interventions and assist with implementation

POLICY PROJECT OVERSIGHT

- Serve as a strategic thought partner to the faculty leadership and oversee resource management within the policy arm, including assigning and managing policy associates, analysts, and other resources to projects
- Develop non-technical reports on impact and findings from partnerships with support from Strategic Communications

KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

- Assist in publicizing and spurring adoption of insights and tools generated by EOP, serving as one of EOPs public faces at conferences and in the media, where appropriate
- Lead conferences for journalists, policy-makers, and others on EOP research

REQUIREMENTS

BACKGROUND/EXPERIENCE

- Track record engaging senior municipal or state agency leaders on substantive issues of economic, housing, health or education policy
- Extensive quantitative research training
- Project management and leadership experience with complex initiatives
- Minimum of Master's degree

SPECIFIC JOB SKILLS

- Strong communication and relationship-building skills with local policy makers
- Capabilities to help translate research into actionable policy-relevant insights
- Ability to interpret econometric analyses

COMPETENCIES

- Entrepreneurship
- Adaptability
- Ability to influence
- Confidence and enthusiasm
- Results oriented
- Willingness to travel
- Personal obligation to uphold organization's expectations
- Strong sense of purpose in holding difficult conversations
- Leadership courage to make difficult decisions and recommendations if necessary
- Personal accountability for consistent application of processes and policies

REPORTING LINES

- Member of leadership team, reporting to Founding Director
- Direct reports: Policy Associates and Policy Analysts

LOCATION

- Cambridge, MA; Palo Alto, CA or Providence, RI

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a cover letter and resume to ellen_viruleg@brown.edu