Housing Law and Policy Fellowship at the Poverty & Race Research Action Council (D.C.)

The Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) is a non-profit civil rights law and policy organization based in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1989 by major national civil rights and poverty law organizations, PRRAC’s primary mission is to help connect advocates with social scientists working on race and poverty issues, and to develop innovative approaches to structural inequality issues. PRRAC also supports public education efforts, including the bimonthly newsletter/journal Poverty & Race, and the award-winning civil rights history curriculum guide, Putting the Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching (co-published with Teaching for Change). For more on our organization, go to our website, at www.prrac.org.

At the present time, PRRAC’s work is focused in the areas of housing, education, environmental justice, and domestic human rights, with a particular emphasis on the continuing consequences of historical patterns of housing segregation and development. Our housing work includes real-time research and advocacy on the racial impacts of federal housing policy (see www.prrac.org/projects/civilrightshousing.php). Our health disparities initiative seeks to develop new federal policy proposals to address social and environmental determinants of health (with an emphasis on environmental justice issues). Our education work focuses on the racial impacts of federal education policy, with particular attention to the impact of poverty concentration and racial isolation on school outcomes for low income children. Much of this latter work is addressed through our work with the “National Coalition on School Diversity” (www.school-diversity.org).

In addition to national-level law and policy research and advocacy, we are engaged in local technical assistance work in Baltimore and Hartford, in support of regional desegregation cases filed by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the ACLU. PRRAC is also working to support the development of a regional housing mobility program in the Philadelphia area.

The incoming Fellow will focus on our housing, community development, and environmental justice portfolios. The position is based in Washington, D.C., and the fellowship term will run through summer 2015 (beginning and end dates negotiable). The Fellow will receive a salary of $53,000/year in addition to full benefits.

The ideal candidate for the Law & Policy Fellow position would have excellent research and writing skills, a strong interest in federal policy work, and a demonstrated commitment to civil rights and poverty alleviation. Prior academic or clinical work in the areas of environmental justice, housing law and policy, or educational equity is preferred. To apply, please send a resume and brief statement of interest to Megan Haberle at mhaberle@prrac.org.