

DARLAN DORSEY

DETECT AGENCY • AGENCY STREET #1 • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601
Phone: 606.606.6060 • E-mail: darlan@detecta.com

Monday, June 29, 2004

Ms. Belen
Illness Facilities Fund
One North LaSalle, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Ms. Belen:

My desire to inform public policy and advance the efforts of nonprofits through thoughtful research and analysis has guided both my career path and education choices and leads me to apply for the Research Project Manager position. I share the Illness Facilities Fund's vision for improving distressed and disadvantaged communities and I am eager to use my educational preparation, professional experience, and research background in this capacity.

I recently completed a Master of Public Policy at the Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies while working with the Center for Financial Services Innovation at Moody's. Advisory services on a variety of research projects pertinent to the financial services sector, interviewing industry experts and synthesizing complex analysis into forms accessible to a variety of audiences. (I am including an excerpt of a paper on financial services innovation in South Africa that I wrote for CFSI and which is awaiting publication.) Working with the Chicago Urban Network, I had the opportunity to analyze U.S. property tax policies with an eye towards developing a plan for Chicago and Illinois. This required in-depth analysis of state, county, and city property tax laws, administrative practices, and available data. My co-author and I managed the project throughout the process, coordinating the research of the Mutual Legal Aid Clinic, co-authoring, "Preliminary Analysis of Property Tax Exemptions for Low-Income Housing Providers," and presenting our findings to the Board of Directors. My coursework in statistics, cost benefit analysis, program evaluation, and community development complements these experiences, honing both my quantitative and qualitative abilities and enabling me to select appropriate research methods and design projects for IF.

I have long had an interest in research and have sought ways to balance my skills in this area. Prior to graduate school, I developed my research, data analysis, and writing skills while working with focus groups and analyzing data with Michael Rayman, Director of the Center for Community Capitalism. I also served as a liaison between clients, community groups, government agencies, and officials at Civic Assistance, a financial assistance nonprofit, witnessing first-hand the impact of investment or lack of investment on communities.

With much of these experiences, I have had the opportunity to work individually and on teams, planning for both the short- and long-term to consistently meet deadlines in a timely manner. I am eager to apply my research and nonprofit experience to the Research Project Manager position, fulfilling all of the responsibilities, acquiring new skills, and working to our mutual benefit. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Darlan Dorsey