



# **The Lab @ DC Research Assistant at the Metropolitan Police Department**

January 2020

The Lab @ DC and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) seek a part-time, paid Research Assistant whose primary responsibility will be to support MPD's investigation enhancements of unsolved sexual assault cases. This position will be based at MPD.

The Lab @ DC is an applied research team that aims to weave an agile, scientific approach to policy-setting and program operations into the fabric of day-to-day governance. We do this through randomized control trials, predictive modeling, and human-centered design work. The Lab @ DC is based in the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) and partners with many city agencies, such as MPD, to address their most pressing research questions.

## **Project Description:**

The District of Columbia seeks to enhance the investigation of unsolved sexual assault cases, while achieving the long-term goal of improving the criminal justice response to cases involving unsolved sexual assaults. MPD, along with the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) and the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO), was recently awarded federal grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) to support DC's multi-disciplinary response teams in effectively investigating and successfully prosecuting cold case sexual assault investigations.

The Research Assistant role would provide critical coordination amongst the agency partners, including (1) supporting the design and implementation of standard operating procedures to process these cases; (2) grant management; and (3) overseeing the collection and analysis of data to (a) assess and improve processes, and (b) determine the overall impact of this effort to the investigation and prosecution of cold case sexual assaults using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

## **What you'll do:**

- Track grant funds and performance measures and report as needed to project partners/BJA
- Oversee/coordinate testing requests
- Coordinate communication between the project team and the BJA training and technical assistance (TTA) provider.
- Enter all "criteria cases" into database before the end of the grant period to increase the chances of identifying and apprehending violent serial offenders that pose a serious threat to public safety.
- Develop and implement a process for standardized data collection to inform:

- Tracking of performance measures (including coordinating with partners at USAO and DFS to obtain relevant information)
- Process evaluation
- Impact evaluation
- Work with The Lab to design and implement the process and impact evaluation.
- Provide quarterly progress reports (written/oral presentation to relevant agency officials)
- Draft final report documenting performance and evaluation findings (if applicable to term)

**What we're looking for:**

- At least 1 year of professional work experience
- A Bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, political science, statistics, economics, mathematics, data science, or other social science field; and currently in pursuit of a Master's degree or Ph.D.
- At least 1 semester of statistical programming language (R or Python)
- Interest in government, public safety and justice, and/or research
- Excellent organizational skills, attention to detail, and ability to multitask
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Experience managing complex tasks under deadline pressures.
- Strong interpersonal skills, including the ability to develop and maintain relationships with a diverse range of agency partners.
- Ability to work effectively within a team as well as take the initiative/lead

**Target Start Date:** April 2020

**Term:** Minimum 6 months; can be extended through 2022.  
Preference for commitment of 8-12 months.

**Time Commitment:** 20 hours per week.

**Compensation:** This position is paid at an hourly rate of \$20-25 based on qualifications.

**To Apply:** Please submit the following application packet to [the.lab@dc.gov](mailto:the.lab@dc.gov) by February 10, 2020, 9AM ET. All documents should be saved as a single PDF named, "LAST NAME, FIRST NAME\_RA 2020:

- Resume
- One page cover letter that highlights your relevant experience and availability
- Brief (no more than 3-5 page) writing sample
- List of 2 references (professional and/or academic)

Please label the subject line as "MPD Lab RA Application."