JOB DESCRIPTION

Research Assistant (Student) - Cure Violence Evaluation (PAID; TIME FRAME NEGOTIABLE)

Summary of Project

The City of St. Louis is contracting with the Institute for Public Health at Washington University in St. Louis to conduct an external evaluation of Cure Violence in St. Louis. Cure Violence is a violence prevention program that views violence as a health concern, and more specifically as a contagious disease. Cure Violence attempts to disrupt the transmission of violence within communities, in real time, through disease control and behavior change methods. The program employs violence interrupters who work in areas identified by high rates of aggravated assault and homicide. These staff connect with and enroll those at highest risk of perpetrating violence. Participants are offered case management and linkage to employment and other needed services. Violence interrupters are also on the look-out for interpersonal situations in the community that have a chance of turning violent, and are available to offer de-escalation and mediation services to prevent violent acts. Further, Cure Violence staff distribute anti-violence education materials and hold anti-violence community events. The ultimate goal of Cure Violence is reduce violence in communities by shifting community norms toward anti-violence. Cure Violence St. Louis is being implemented in areas within the Dutchtown, Wells Goodfellow/Hamilton Heights, and Walnut Park neighborhoods.

The Institute for Public Health’s evaluation of Cure Violence St. Louis will be conducted over three years. In order to fully understand the impact of Cure Violence, the evaluation will include identifying and inventorying other violence prevention efforts that may be affecting rates of violence in St. Louis. Identifying violence prevention efforts happening alongside Cure Violence (e.g. community based programs, changes in the number of police dispatched, etc.) will add to the context of the results of this evaluation. This mapping effort will be included in the narrative of the final report of the evaluation.

Responsibilities

The Research Assistant will work with the evaluation team to investigate violence prevention interventions that may be impacting rates of violence in the City of St. Louis during the time frame of the Cure Violence evaluation. The student will map interventions out on a timeline of their implementation start/stop and write a narrative report describing each intervention’s objectives, target populations and geographic areas of interest. This report will ultimately be included in the final report submitted by the Cure Violence evaluation team. This is a paid position.

Desired Skills and Expertise

Knowledge of public health research and evaluation concepts. Excellent investigative skills using the internet, email and informal interviews exchanges with stakeholders. Excellent written communication skills. Critical thinking ability. Knowledge of violence prevention efforts in the City of St. Louis is strongly desired.

Contact

If interested, please email pryor@wustl.edu with “Cure Violence Research Assistant” in the subject line.