

Internship Program 2011-2012

We welcome your interest in interning with us! We look forward to speaking with you to learn more about your interests and strengths, share what work opportunities we may have for your continued professional and political growth, and explain how internships work at the DataCenter.

DataCenter's internship program is unique in that it is primarily dedicated to the professional, political and personal development of the interns as future leaders of a Research Justice Social Change agenda. We believe that when harnessed and wielded by people who have first-hand experience with issues they seek to address, information is power for community-led social change. Community organizations and low-income communities of color build political power when they: have unfettered access to information, research and analysis of issues affecting their well-being; are able to effectively challenge structural barriers to information; engage influential institutions to redefine the legitimacy of community-generated evidence in public policymaking; and legitimize community knowledge and research methods so they are considered on par with mainstream approaches to research.

The internship program is a key component of our 2010-2014 strategic priority goal: To "Strengthen the Capacity of the Grassroots" by harnessing the power of research. Committed students (and non-students) serving as interns are poised to take their lesson of research as a powerful tool for grassroots organizing back into their fields and communities upon completion of the internship, as vehicles to fulfill this goal.

The Research and Policy intern will work on projects in partnership with grassroots and community organizing groups working for social change. DataCenter works with organizations that focus on a broad range of issues including workers rights, housing rights, environmental justice, indigenous people's rights, immigrant rights, youth strategy and criminal justice. We support their campaigns through capacity building and strategic research. We conduct trainings, plan community-based documentation project and conduct strategic research. Projects vary in terms of issue area and methodology and interns will be placed based on their interest and experience as well as organizational needs.

We put all kinds of research methods to use in order to empower the community voice:

- participatory research and community documentation because communities are experts in the issues they face;
- campaign and tactical research because information is key for strategy and analysis;
- and,
- everything in between, particularly when communities lack the time, energy or resources to conduct research and to accomplish their goals.

Recent Intern Projects

- *Designing and organizing DataCenter's research academy*- This summer's theme was Environmental Justice. Our intern played the important role of coordinating all aspects of the academy - outreaching to community organizations, designing curricula, putting together research binders, and facilitating aspects of the camp. The academy trains community organizers and members in key research methodologies.

- *Researching workers along the chain* - Our summer intern conducted an in-depth literature review of any works that dealt with worker mobility and career advancement along the food chain as well as gathering extensive government data on wages and salaries for workers. This research was the first ever comprehensive look at workers in any sector that deals with food and will culminate into a final report to improve worker conditions.

Key duties may include:

- Conduct targeted, strategic research (company profile, government data, literature reviews)
- Design research tools (surveys, interviews, focus groups, evaluation tools)
- Conduct data analysis and reviews
- Create summaries of research findings
- Conduct issue/policy analysis
- Convert information into community friendly materials
- Present findings to organizational partners and community members (through popular education tools)
- Conduct workshops and create curriculum

Skills

- Interest or experience in participatory research and grassroots organizing
- Interest or experience in popular education
- Ability to work independently and learn quickly
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer and Internet skills (experience with SPSS, NVIVO or GIS a plus)
- Competent at working within diverse cultural communities.

Interns must commit to a minimum of 10 hours a week for three months.

How to Apply

Interns are asked to:

1. Fill out the intake survey [here](#).

Or copy and paste this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DCinternintake>

2. Email your resume to Jay Donahue, jay@datacenter.org

Subject Heading: Research and Policy Intern

We will contact qualified candidates only for an interview.

People of Color Strongly Encouraged to Apply

We are looking forward to exploring this opportunity with you. If you do not see a program area or project listed here, ask us! We are involved in much more and would like to explore how we can fit into each other's plans. Thank you for all your valuable contributions to the cause of social justice!

If you have any questions, please email: Jay Donahue, Program Manager, jay@datacenter.org