



Princeton
Internships in
Civic
Service

PICS 2010 Internship Description

Organization Name: Poverty & Race Research Action Council

Internship Location: Washington, DC

Required Dates: Yes x No If yes, internship must end on July 30

Housing Will Be Available to Intern: Yes No x If yes, housing will be free: or housing will cost the student:

Expected working schedule for this internship:

Start Time: 9am End Time: 5pm

Lunch break: 1 hr (duration) (specific time, if applicable)

Additional Information, if necessary:

(Please indicate if any of the preparation work will take place outside of the regular work schedule)

Organization Description

Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size etc. Please also explain the benefit that will be derived by your organization by sponsoring a Princeton intern.

The Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) is a civil rights policy organization based in Washington, D.C. PRRAC's primary mission is to help connect advocates with social scientists working on race and poverty issues, and to promote a research-based advocacy strategy on structural inequality issues. PRRAC sponsors social science research, provides technical assistance, and convenes advocates and researchers around particular race and poverty 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). At the present time, PRRAC is pursuing project-specific work in the areas of housing, education, and health, focusing on the importance of "place" and the continuing consequences of historical patterns of housing segregation and development for low income families in the areas of health, education,

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employment, and incarceration. PRRAC's work is informed by an extensive national network of researchers, organizers, attorneys, educators, and public health and housing professionals.

PRRAC is a small office (3 professional staff plus part time administrative support staff) that is located within a larger public interest office suite with the Center on Law and Social Policy in downtown Washington DC. We collaborate with a wide range of civil rights and policy organizations and also work with outside consultants and researchers. Active projects of the organization are summarized on our website, www.prrac.org, under the "current projects" tab.

Internship Description

Describe in detail the work or project will do; please be as specific as possible. Please also explain the benefit that a student will obtain by interning with your organization.

It is very difficult at this point in time to identify the specific projects that will be "hot" during the ten week internship.. But they are likely to include research assistance (including, in some cases, limited fieldwork and interviews) on one or more of the following:

Civil Rights Task Force on Federal Housing Policy: This coalition is conducting research and advocacy on a variety of issues affecting federal housing programs, including the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act, the reauthorization of the HOPE VI redevelopment program, new rules for public housing demolition and replacement, and the Sustainable Communities Initiative. The goal of the task force is to promote expanded housing opportunity and integrated housing choices for residents of federally assisted housing, which has historically been highly segregated. See generally www.prrac.org/projects/civilrightshousing.php.

National Coalition on School Diversity: This coalition effort is seeing to influence the US Department of Education to expand K-12 school integration program through federal funding and leadership. Recent efforts have focused on the "Race to the Top" fund and the "Investing in Innovation" fund. Part of this effort involves a close look at charter school performance.

Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign: We are participating actively with a coalition in Baltimore that is working to a regional housing desegregation plan in the *Thompson v. HUD* public housing segregation case. Some of our work includes outreach and interviews with public housing clients participating in the mobility program, research in support of improving the client counseling program, etc.

Interdistrict Parent Organizing in Hartford: We will be continuing our research and organizing work with the Sheff Movement coalition in Hartford, Connecticut, where we are working with community activists and an organizer in an effort to bring city and suburban parents together in support of the regional desegregation

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remedy in *Sheff v. O'Neill* (a landmark state constitutional desegregation case). See www.sheffmovement.org

Towards a Health Mobility Policy: PRRAC is working to develop new approaches to improving health and health care access for families moving from high poverty inner city neighborhoods into low poverty, higher opportunity neighborhoods in suburban communities, including strategies to increase health care coverage and primary physician access in families' new communities; development of health and nutrition baseline assessments and family health improvement plans for participants; and targeting of specific "sentinel" conditions in the eligible population – such as asthma, lead poisoning, diabetes, hypertension, depression – for more effective intervention.

Intern Qualifications

Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern.

We are looking for someone with excellent research and writing skills, a strong curiosity about civil rights and structural racism issues, and an ability to juggle a large number of small and large assignments productively. Some facility with statistical research – or at least the ability to competently translate social science research into lay terms – is preferred but not necessary.

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