

Research Specialist and Senior Policy Associate -
Department of P20 Initiatives Network (39131)
Northern Illinois University

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Posted Jun. 6, 2023, set to expire Dec. 7, 2023

Job Title	Research Specialist and Senior Policy Associate - Department of P20 Initiatives Network (39131)
Department	Education Systems Center
Institution	Northern Illinois University DeKalb, Illinois
Date Posted	Jun. 6, 2023
Application Deadline	Open until filled
Position Start Date	Available immediately
Job Categories	Research Scientist/Associate
Academic Field(s)	Childhood/Youth Education
Job Website	https://employment.niu.edu/postings/71845

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Job Description

The Center for Early Learning Funding Equity (CELFE) was established to develop and promote research- and data-informed strategies to transform funding of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) programs for children ages 0-5. Housed in Northern Illinois University's Division of Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development (OERD), CELFE works in collaboration with academic, data and research partners across the NIU system through the Research and Data Collaborative (RDC).

CELFE began its work focused primarily on Illinois' ECEC system, in which our Director, Theresa Hawley, Ph.D. has spent almost 30 years in as a researcher, advocate, and a government systems change leader – working to improve ECEC polices with children and families at the center. Now, CELFE is building on that experience and the passion for systems-change of the diverse and skilled team of five (and growing) to focus more deeply on the funding adequacy and equity of the ECEC system. The scope and reach of CELFE is expanding to include all states and municipalities interested in transformation. CELFE is currently engaged in projects with Massachusetts and Colorado in addition

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to Illinois.

CELFE is in start-up mode and has the need to quickly scale-up our internal capacity to meet the growing need of states and clients interested in understanding how to transition their own ECEC systems through an equity lens, with children and families remaining at the center. As such, we are hiring a **Research Specialist and Senior Policy Associate** to support current projects and develop new client-based work

The Research Specialist and Senior Policy Associate will bring a diverse and extensive set of experiences that provides leadership to manage the current work of CELFE, while also generating ideas and strategies for additional work to build the ECEC field to see financing—and the mechanisms by which we distribute resources to providers and families - as a critical lever for transforming ECEC in the US. The successful candidate will bring a substantial track record of past work including data collection, analysis, and synthesis that resulted in policy proposals, change in program practice and/or a paper, policy memo or published article outlining the use of data and research to inform ECEC policy and practice.

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact