



### CFE Fund Quantitative Research Internship

The CFE Fund partners with local governments – currently almost 70 across the country – to build resident financial stability by embedding financial empowerment work into government infrastructure. Key CFE Fund programs include supporting local efforts to expand banking access through [Bank On](#); embedding banking access and financial education into municipal Summer Youth Employment Programs through [Summer Jobs Connect](#); scaling the availability of high-quality, professional financial counseling as a public service through [FEC Public](#); partnering with municipal governments to launch offices of consumer protection through our [Local Consumer Financial Protection](#) Initiative; and working with municipal governments to kick start financial empowerment work as part of our [CityStart](#) initiative.

The quantitative research intern will be responsible for at least four distinct data gathering and analysis projects of varying size and complexity. Each project will involve:

- brainstorming with CFE Fund principals on methods, hypotheses and goals, then creating a project plan for approval;
- importing and cleaning data, transforming or calculating new variables;
- checking-in with a CFE Fund principal to gauge progress and make course corrections;
- summarizing the results in a report that includes narrative, tables and graphics; and
- presenting the report to CFE Fund principals, executives and other interested staff.

The projects, as currently defined:

- A. *Which community organizations refer large numbers of clients to municipal Financial Empowerment Centers (FECs), and what results do their clients achieve?* Using the CFE Fund's proprietary data on clients, attendance and outcomes, group clients by referral source and subgroup them by attendance and outcome achievement. The CFE Fund will use the results to shape further study about the impact of financial counseling on other aspects of their clients' lives, and to identify community partners that may be eligible to participate in future studies.
- B. *How do neighborhood characteristics relate to resident's use of and achievements at FECs?* Using the CFE Fund's proprietary data on clients' addresses, demographics, attendance and outcomes, and Census data on a variety of demographic and economic indicators, merge the data by clients' zip codes or Census tracts and calculate frequencies and correlations. With CFE Fund principals, identify meaningful patterns. If warranted, present the findings to FEC managers for discussion and potential decision-making.
- C. The CFE Fund's analysis of 2015 data showed that clients whose housing costs consume over 30% of their incomes (who are the majority of clients) are less likely to achieve financial outcomes than clients with affordable housing. *How can FECs best help clients with high housing costs to make progress towards their financial goals?* Building on the prior project, compare personal and neighborhood characteristics of housing cost burdened clients who did and did not achieve outcomes. The results will help the CFE Fund

shape further qualitative study. (Depending on the results and the intern's capabilities, the intern might also participate in the qualitative study.)

- D. *How do neighborhood characteristics relate to the number of safe and affordable bank accounts people opened and the way these accounts were used?* Using Federal Reserve data on account opening and usage and Census data on a variety of demographic and economic indicators, merge the data by zip code and calculate frequencies and correlations. With CFE Fund principals, identify meaningful patterns. If warranted, prepare the merged data with instructions for its use as a toolkit for local banking advocates.

Note that project definitions may evolve prior to the start of the internship, and other projects may be assigned depending on the intern's capabilities and time.

**Qualifications:**

- Intermediate to advanced proficiency in data analysis, including descriptive and inferential statistics and data visualization, is required.
- Use of R is strongly preferred.
- Interest in consumer / household finance, anti-poverty programs and/or urban planning is preferred.
- In addition, the successful candidate will be detail-oriented, highly organized, self-motivated and a team player.

**Compensation:**

Course credit when applicable; an hourly wage may be provided for qualified candidates. Applicants should be available full time for 6-8 weeks.

**To Apply:**

Please send a resume and cover letter via email describing relevant skills and comparable projects conducted in either work or academic settings, with subject line "CFE Fund Quantitative Internship," to [info@cfefund.org](mailto:info@cfefund.org).