PPIC's Summer Intern Program provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students interested in a public policy career to work in a policy research environment. Intern projects are proposed by PPIC staff members and designed around a specific set of tasks and deliverables that can be accomplished within the term of the internship.

The application period is now closed. We expect to make the selection decisions for intern projects by mid-April.

Location, Compensation, and Time on Project

The 2024 intern program will be conducted remotely or via a hybrid setup if circumstances allow. Compensation is $23 per hour. This full-time internship will last up to eleven weeks, ideally beginning June 10, 2024.

PPIC values the wide variety of backgrounds and experiences of our staff, and key elements in the consideration of qualified candidates include excellence; diversity of talents, backgrounds, and viewpoints; and a strong fit with the institute's mission, values, and priorities.

The Research Environment

Interns are offered the opportunity to participate in the collegial atmosphere of PPIC through daily interaction with all aspects of the institute. They are invited to join the staff in their regular meetings and to attend PPIC's outside events, including the institute's public affairs programs and research briefings. PPIC offers access to the Institute of Governmental Sciences library at the University of California, Berkeley, allowing interns to work with many important databases, journals, and statistical datasets. The intern program also includes a discussion of California state policy by PPIC's government affairs staff.

Each intern's project will include an initial meeting with research staff and towards the end of the project, a briefing by the intern on the goals, findings, and significance of the project. Interns are encouraged to discuss their work throughout the course of the project, to meet with research staff to discuss careers in research, and to meet with communications staff to learn about outreach and building an audience of policymakers.

# # #

Project 1: Water Policy and Management in California

Project Directors

Caity Peterson and Letitia Grenier

Project Summary

This internship will provide foundational research support to the Water Policy Center's ongoing efforts to connect nonpartisan, objective research to real world water management debates, with the goal of putting California water policy on a sustainable and constructive path. Potential areas of focus may include:

- Climate adaptation for freshwater ecosystems, including legal and regulatory frameworks
- Coastal issues, such as sea level rise and urban supplies

Responsibilities

The intern(s) will work with a research team to gather and organize data and information on various topics (such as water use and its economic returns, water market design and marketing activities, and ecosystem management priorities and outcomes). This project may include reviewing documents, manipulating large datasets, developing graphics, designing and implementing surveys, and participating in interviews and workshops with relevant stakeholders and decision makers. The intern(s) will also present a summary of this work to PPIC staff at the end of the summer.

Qualifications

The ideal applicant(s) will bring undergraduate or graduate training in a field related to economics, ecology or environmental policy, agriculture, public policy, or a related field.

The intern(s) for this project should have:

- Data management experience, for example in Excel, STATA, Python, or R
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- (Preferred) Familiarity with California's water policies and agricultural systems, as well as basic understanding of farm economics and/or the state's ecosystems

- (Preferred) Strong computing and analytical skills, including ArcGIS or a similar spatial analysis program
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

# # #

Project 2: Golden State Pathways Programs in California

Project Director

Olga Rodriguez

Project Summary

The investments made by the state in the Golden State Pathways Program (GSPP), the K16 Collaboratives, and the expansion of dual enrollment are well positioned to increase the number of students who graduate from high school prepared to enter college and a career. The recent executive order on Career Education further crystalizes these efforts by mandating that all public K16 segments work together to align investments and initiatives in support of building and strengthening college and career pathways in California. This project aims to conduct a landscape study to better understand the challenges and opportunities to implementing a largescale college and career readiness reform, like GSPP, in high schools across the state. The research will be comprised of a literature review, a review of GSPP grant awards, and interviews with early implementers of pathways programs. A central goal of the research is to provide an understanding of the initiatives that have led the state to GSPP, provide insights into what makes the work in GSPP promising, and help illuminate policy and practice opportunities as well as the challenges that remain.

Responsibilities

To inform PPIC's landscape study of the Golden State Pathways Program, the summer intern on this project will work on a literature review of high school college and career pathways programs and collect and assemble information from GSPP grant awards (if the documents are available by summer 2023). With guidance from the project supervisors, this data will be coded and analyzed to better understand how grantees are planning to operationalize GSPP, including how they will build on efforts to expand college and career pathways, which students they will prioritize, how they are structuring academic and non-academic supports, and how they address issues of equity. Over the course of the summer the intern will develop insights into the diverse ways high schools across

California are implementing pathways reforms. The intern will create periodic summaries of the work for the supervisor and will prepare a presentation summarizing this work for presentation to PPIC staff at the end of the summer.

Qualifications

The intern for this project should have:

- Training in sociology, education, economics, public policy, or a related field
- Strong analytical and organizational skills
- Experience mining qualitative and quantitative data
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently as well as seek feedback and direction when appropriate
- Interest in California education policy, and educational equity

# # #

Project 3: Early Implementation of TK Expansion: Has Equity Improved?

Project Directors

Laura Hill and Manny Prunty

Project Summary

California has provided public preschool at K-12 schools to a subset of four year olds since 2012, but is now in the midst of expanding the program to all four year olds. Now that we are a year and a half into the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten (TK), it is time to start assessing if there have been improvements in the apparent equity of TK offerings and if a diverse set of California families are participating in TK. Using data from the first 3 years of the 4-year expansion, we will report on the characteristics of districts and schools offering TK and the characteristics of families taking it up, controlling for where it is offered. In PPIC's pre-expansion examination of TK, we found that Dual language learner (DLL) students were more likely to be in TK than non-DLL students, but this was largely explained by expanded TK offerings in just a few large districts. Further, not all DLL language groups/ethnicities were well represented. This project will use the latest data possible to examine the program as it nears "universal" status.

Responsibilities

The intern will critically read and analytically summarize key documents relevant to the project Other responsibilities will include downloading of public TK data and performing basic analyses in order to assist in replicating and expanding the earlier study. These data will also be used by the intern to help identify potential school districts to interview about successes and challenges of TK expansion, and the intern may help develop interview questions for interviews to be conducted in the fall In addition, the intern will also participate in frequent research team meetings to discuss project updates and get feedback on their work.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will bring graduate training in a field related to education, economics, sociology, public policy, or a related field. An intern working on this project should have:

- Strong analytical skills using STATA, R, or Python
- Experience cleaning and managing large scale datasets
- Strong research and communication skills
- Ability to work independently and with a team, handle feedback well, and change direction when necessary
- Excellent writing, verbal communication, and organization skills
- Interest in Transitional Kindergarten, low-income communities, communities of color, and Dual Language/English Language Learners

# # #

Project 4: Impact of Child Care Development Fund Payment Policies and Practices on Access to Child Care in California: A Survey of Child Care Coordinators

Project Directors

Laura Hill and Caroline Danielson

Project Summary

California families eligible for subsidized childcare have faced a variety of provider payment rates and family co-payments in recent years. In this research, a partnership between the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), we aim to understand: (1)

how fee waivers during COVID impact access to high quality, CCDF-funded child care?, (2) how increased provider payment rates and payment practices impact access to high quality child care?, and (3) how does California's move to universal pre-kindergarten (UPK) change the supply of providers and access to quality care?

We take a mixed-methods approach to answering these research questions, relying on a combination of publicly available data, linked individual level data, as well as online surveys and focus groups. This focus of this internship is working with PPIC researchers to launch, field, and analyze an online survey of local coordinating groups whose roles include planning for child care needs and assisting families and providers in accessing CCDF-funded subsidies. The survey will help us learn more about local-level variation in implementation of payment structures, alignment of payment practices across subsidized and unsubsidized providers, and perceptions of changes in access due to policy changes.

Responsibilities

The intern will bring strong analytical skills and contribute to data analysis. This includes working to ensure high response rates to a survey of child care coordinators to be fielded during the internship. Tasks will include monitoring responses, ensuring survey incentives are distributed, and calling potential respondents in order to encourage responses—including working with respondents to fill the survey out by phone (if necessary). The intern will also perform data cleaning of the survey. Experience with both statistical analysis and qualitative research is preferred. The intern will participate in frequent research team meetings to discuss project updates and get feedback on their work. The intern will present a summary of this work to PPIC staff at the end of the summer and will participate in intern program events.

This internship is supported with funding from the through grant award #90YE0302 from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will bring graduate training in a field related to education, economics, sociology, public policy, or a related field. An intern working on this project will ideally have:

- Strong analytical skills using statistical software like STATA, R, or Python
- Familiarity with Qualtrics
- Experience cleaning datasets

- Ability to work independently and with a team, handle feedback well, and change direction when necessary
- Excellent writing, verbal communication, and organization skills
- Interest in childcare / early childhood education

# # #

Project 5: Digital Marketing and Outreach

Project Director

Steven Bliss, Director of Digital Strategy

Project Summary

The digital marketing and outreach intern will collaborate with PPIC's communications team and other staff to help develop new strategies and tactics for building the institute's audience and increasing engagement. The intern's work will cut across a range of digital tools, which may include social media, email, website, video, data interactives, podcasts, and others, depending on the intern's skills and interest and organizational needs.

Responsibilities

In the coming year, PPIC's research team will produce new analyses on the key economic, political, social, and environmental trends that are driving change in California. This emerging body of work is an opportunity for PPIC to explore innovative ways to reach and retain our core audiences as well as to engage new audiences.

The digital marketing and outreach intern will work closely with members of PPIC's communications team to build greater understanding of the institute's existing reach and engagement and to explore new digital marketing and outreach approaches. Central goals of this project are to use digital tools to expand the diversity of our audiences across age, race, ethnicity, and region and to ensure that our work contributes to better public policy that improves well-being across all regions and communities in California.

Key Qualifications and Attributes

The ideal candidate is creative and curious, with a collaborative and solutions-oriented mindset. This person should have:

- Interest in investigating the evolving roles of email, social media, video, interactives, podcasts, artificial intelligence, and other tools within a nonpartisan, nonprofit, policy-oriented context.
- Ability to generate collaborative solutions and strategies for improving outreach to broad and diverse policy audiences.
- Experience with at least one facet of digital marketing, such as social media, email, website, video, content marketing, podcasts, or others.
- Strong research, writing, and analytical skills.
- Interest in public policy and a commitment to presenting facts and information in a nonideological, nonpartisan manner.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.

The ideal candidate will have working proficiency in two or more of the following:

- Social media management tools (Sprout, Hootsuite, Buffer, e.g.)
- Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and website analytics
- WordPress or other major website content management systems
- Standard design software (Illustrator, Photoshop, Canva, e.g.)
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tools (Salesforce, HubSpot, e.g.)
- Email marketing software and processes

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Project 6: Accessing and Presenting Data for Public Policy Analysis

Project Directors

Eric McGhee and Hans Johnson

Project Summary

Understanding California's Future (UCF) is an initiative at PPIC dedicated to tracking important developments and trends in the areas of demography, housing, governance, and climate change. One of the key features of the initiative is a commitment to nimble,

responsive, and accessible analysis and presentation of data. Given the wide range of topics within UCF, it can be challenging to stay on top of all the data sources and ensure we have a properly formatted version of each ready in a timely manner for influencing policy conversations.

The goal for the summer project is to identify some of these disparate sources and design a process for acquiring, extracting, and formatting the necessary data that is as systematic and automated as possible. The intern will work with the project directors to understand each data source, the information required, how the final data set should be structured, and what information is routinely required for updating existing publications. The intern will work to develop code that implements this process, and that will be easy to manage for researchers working in the UCF area moving forward.

Responsibilities

The intern will work with project leaders to:

- Identify important data sources and understand their value
- Design code that will, to the extent possible, automate the downloading and formatting of the data
- Design code that will conduct simple analysis with the data, including visualizations and charts, for the sake of updating past analysis

The intern will be a member of the Understanding California's Future policy group.

Qualifications

The intern for this project should possess:

- Strong experience with and understanding of web scraping and analysis tools like Python and R
- Experience with data analysis and data visualization
- Ability to work independently, handle feedback well, and change direction when necessary
- Training in economics, political science, demography, public health, public policy, sociology, or urban planning a plus

# # #

For current openings, visit the PPIC Career page: https://www.ppic.org/about-ppic/careers/