Undergraduate Student Research Assistant (Qualitative)
The Northwestern Neighborhood & Network Initiative (N3)
The Institute for Policy Research (IPR) at Northwestern University

Hours: ~10-12 hours per week (variable and dependent on project needs and RA availability)
Pay: Hourly pay ($15-20/hour, commensurate with skills and experience)

Note: This posting is for Summer 2022, with the potential to continue into the Autumn and Winter quarters, and beyond. Most of the work will take place on-site at the N3 Lab located at 2001 Sheridan Rd. The majority of the RA’s time will be dedicated to supporting qualitative data collection and analysis for the N3 evaluation of the Neighborhood Policing Initiative (NPI) in Chicago.

About N3
The Northwestern Neighborhood & Network Initiative (N3) seeks to engage communities, civic partners, and policy makers in addressing core problems facing the residents of urban communities. Our research focuses on utilizing “network thinking” (an understanding of how relationships shape how we feel and behave) to improve neighborhoods, the city, and our region. We are currently working with partners in Chicago to evaluate a series of interventions focused on reducing gun violence and improving public safety in the city. For more information about N3, visit: https://n3networks.northwestern.edu/

Responsibilities
N3 is looking for a part-time undergraduate research assistant (RA) to start in Spring or Summer 2022 to support qualitative work on projects related to violence prevention, public safety, and policing. The RA will perform a variety of important activities to advance the qualitative study components of the NPI evaluation, including:

• Supporting qualitative data collection by scheduling interviews, focus groups, and related study activities.
• Supporting qualitative data analysis by de-identifying and coding data, and performing basic analyses.
• Assisting in the preparation of results for memos, spreadsheets, and presentations to funders, policymakers, and academic audiences.
• Notetaking at various meetings and events, as requested.
• Possibly performing qualitative research data collection activities, including field observations, interviews, and/or focus groups
• Other administrative tasks and responsibilities as assigned by N3 staff

Desired Qualifications
We are looking for a person who demonstrates the following characteristics and skills:

• A very high level of commitment to the work of N3, enthusiasm, an open mind, and a desire to learn
• Reliable and responsible, able to meet deadlines
• A flexible “team player” who is willing to step in and help where needed, even with the most “basic” tasks
• Strong verbal and written communication skills and enjoys interacting with people
• Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
• Ideally some experience with research, whether through coursework and/or in another lab/research center
• Will consider candidates from a variety of social science majors

Students of color and those with lived experience are strongly encouraged to apply.
Educational Value
This is an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on research experience in an innovative, partnership-driven research space. We aim to bridge traditional academic and community/government boundaries to improve public safety and well-being for residents living in some of the most disinvested areas of Chicago. We can train highly committed individuals in research design, data collection, and analysis, as well as community-engaged research approaches. Our work is action-oriented and policy-relevant: your efforts will contribute to an increased understanding of how policies and practices can be shaped to more effectively reduce gun violence and improve policing in Chicago. For this reason, we look for a high level of commitment from our undergraduate students.

Interested in Applying?
Please email resume and a brief letter of interest to Katie Pelech, Research Project Manager, by May 30, 2022 at kaitlin.pelech@northwestern.edu.