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LEO Project Development Senior Associate

LEO is looking for a proactive, self-starter who desires to be a part of solving one of the most critical issues our nation faces today--poverty. The Project Development Senior Associate will be responsible for attracting, vetting, and driving forward research partnerships with providers of service to the poor and vulnerable across the country.

Who we are:

The Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) is a research center at the University of Notre Dame dedicated to reducing poverty and improving lives in the United States through evidence-based programs and policies.

The Challenge:

In order to successfully reduce poverty in America, LEO must continue to produce best-in-class research on poverty-reduction programs to influence public policy and spending. This requires identifying effective and innovative nonprofits, conveying the importance of evaluation, and designing research based on their programs. Identifying these programs is integral to our theory of change, but it's not easy; there are thousands of providers scattered across the nation, and they are busy and often intimidated by the prospect of external evaluation.

Who we need:

We are looking for someone who wants to change the face of poverty in our country and believes that impacting poverty is possible. Top priorities include outreach and discovery, developing prospective partners into being "Research Ready," managing and deepening relationships, and integrating providers with our research team. Helping partners become research ready requires translating research and academic terminology into compelling and actionable steps for nonprofit service providers. The Project Development Senior Associate will focus on three areas:

Discover and establish relationships

- Forge relationships with potential partner agencies across the country and deepen relationships with current partner agencies
- Establish relationships with federal, state, and local government agencies, and national networks, that oversee and support anti- poverty programs
- Develop innovative approaches to identifying new partners, including launching and managing conferences, nationwide requests for proposals, and nonprofit award series.
- Develop innovative solutions to ensure a robust pipeline for poverty related research projects

Develop capabilities and readiness

- Communicate with providers and government agencies about how impact evaluations, in particular randomized controlled trials, work and how such evaluations can help them improve the effectiveness of their services
- Identify viable research projects with local service providers and government agencies that are innovative, scalable, and replicable
- Communicate evidence of program effectiveness to national networks of service providers and government agencies

Manage research project portfolio

- Effectively drive forward relationships with providers to ensure research projects are sustained throughout the various stages of research and integrate providers with Principal Investigators (PIs) and Research Associates (RAs) across the organization
- Lead current relationships with service providers already engaged in LEO impact evaluations

Qualifications:

Writing and communication skills

- must be able to distill complicated topics into interesting and easy to digest pieces.

Willingness and flexibility to travel

- LEO works with service providers all over the country, and an in-person approach is crucial to building trust and developing relationships.

Creativity and problem solving abilities

- we are a small team; the candidate must find creative ways to get things done elegantly and independently in a University environment.

Systematic and organized approach

- the ability to guide prospective partners through a structured approach, as well as to communicate to a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders.

Experience and Education:

- Master's degree or equivalent work experience in public policy, evaluations, economics, non-profit services, or related fields is required.
- Five or more years of work experience is required.
- Some experience with impact evaluations, particularly randomized controlled trials, is preferred.
- The candidate should demonstrate strong leadership, communication, writing, and presentation skills.
- A deep commitment to the mission of both LEO and the University is necessary.

This position will be based at the University of Notre Dame. For more information about LEO, please visit leo.nd.edu . For questions regarding this role, please contact Katie Kuka at kkuka@nd.edu.

Apply for this position via [ND.jobs](https://www.nd.edu/jobs).