

## Postdoctoral Researcher Position available at the Child Welfare Research and Training Project

**Overall Focus:** This Iowa State University (ISU) postdoctoral position functions on behalf of the Child Support contract between ISU and the Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS) and is within the Human Development and Family Studies (HD FS) department at ISU. This position will serve to provide conceptualization, data management, analytic, and research reporting support related to paternity establishment, child support payments, and intervention initiatives such as Parenting: It's a Life and Voluntary Paternity Establishment. Under the direction of the principal investigators/co-investigators (PI/Co-PIs), the Postdoctoral Researcher will manage data sets; design, organize and conduct highly specialized and advanced analyses using established scientific protocols and procedures and in some cases design/program new protocols; summarize findings and prepare results for technical reports and journal submission; and mentor and guidance to junior technicians, students and researchers. This postdoctoral appointment is temporary by nature and is designed to develop the postdoctoral scholar as an independent scientist and to enhance their professional skills. Funding is through a grant with the IDHS Child Support Recovery Unit. The position is available immediately and guaranteed through June 30, 2019 with possibility for extension based on grant renewal.

**Duties / Key Responsibilities:** As a team member of the Child Welfare Research and Training Project, specifically the Child Support Contract team, this position will contribute conceptual support to projects and quality research outputs. With the guidance of the PI/Co-PIs, and within the bounds of CW RTP contractual mandates, and specifically the Child Support Contract deliverables, the Postdoctoral Researcher will:

### *Research Conceptualization (25%)*

Work with state stakeholders and the ISU team to construct research design appropriate to policy needs. Conceptualize and conduct short-term tests and research activities in support of broad-based/longitudinal research projects; ensure consistency with established methodological approaches and models; adhere to project timelines, and complete documentation. Conduct studies of related literature and research to support the design and implementation of projects and development of reports, ensuring conceptual relevance, comprehensiveness, and currency of information. Design and implement research protocols; design data documentation procedures; adapt new procedures, methods or instrumentation relative to research procedure

### *Data Management / Analysis (40%)*

Collect, prepare and analyze research data; keep a detailed record summarizing data analysis steps and recording research data; maintain computer database of research data; tabulate and display data for presentation in technical reports, research conferences, and for manuscript preparation; use graphics and statistical software to analyze and present data. Perform statistical analyses, including selecting the appropriate analysis procedure, setting up data for analysis, judging validity and reliability of data, designing and writing programs to perform analyses, and producing written reports on the result of the analyses.

*Communication / Reporting (25%)*

Write research reports and manuscripts that highlight findings from research activities ensuring consistency with the standards of reporting and academic publication and follow the guidelines of the contract between ISU and DHS. Attend ISU-DHS contract meetings where research design is discussed and results presented. Communicate to Program/Project team developments/progress and results of research activities ensuring that relevant information and issues in the implementation of projects/analyses are captured in as comprehensive and timely manner as possible. Identify areas of improvement within the research structure using integrated and collaborative management approaches in pursuit of capacity building/strengthening and the preservation of scientific rigor in research studies. Mentor other research personnel and assist in coordinating research efforts for increased efficiency; participate in training of faculty, staff, and students as needed and appropriate.

*Other duties as assigned (10%)*

**Other Position Expectations:** The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.

- Knowledge of the principles and techniques of the subject disciplines.
- Organizational and project management skills.
- Written and oral communication skills.
- Skill in leading, coordinating, and/or supervising the work of others.
- Learn and follow ISU, HDFS, and CW RTP policies and procedures for handling research data
- The ability to work effectively with people from a variety of culturally diverse backgrounds

**Education and Experience:** Requires a PhD in the subject discipline by the time of appointment. Requires relevant experience in a research environment. *Preferred Qualifications include:* PhD in Human development, Family Studies, Social Work, Psychology, Sociology or closely related field. Quantitative Data Analysis and Management Skills using SPSS, SAS or STATA. Experience working with state/public programs. Experience working with administrative data.

For more information contact Carl Weems PhD HDFS Professor and Department Chair, Principal Investigator, Child Welfare Research and Training Project [cweems@iastate.edu](mailto:cweems@iastate.edu); Janet Melby PhD Child Welfare Research and Training Project Director and Co-PI [jmelby@iastate.edu](mailto:jmelby@iastate.edu); and Co-PI Heather Rouse PhD [hlrouse@iastate.edu](mailto:hlrouse@iastate.edu).

**TO APPLY:** 1) letter of interest that includes reasons for interest in the position and relevant qualifications and experience and 2) a current CV emailed to Janet Melby at: [jmelby@iastate.edu](mailto:jmelby@iastate.edu)

For more information on the Child Welfare Research and Training Project  
<https://childwelfareproject.hs.iastate.edu/>