

Minnesota Housing, Planning, Research and Evaluation Division

2019 Urban Scholars Position Description

Job Duties

Graduate

Minnesota Housing is looking for a motivated graduate student, who can work independently, to assess several barriers to fair housing choice. Housing is the foundation for success. When individuals and families live in quality housing that they can afford in a community of their choice, they thrive with better outcomes in education, health, and economic wellbeing. However, current policies and practices can create barriers to housing choice for people of color, large families, or people with disabilities. The work will include:

- Assessing local ordinances in Minnesota that can create barriers to housing, including nuisance laws, "crime free" housing ordinances, and lack of source-of-income projections;
- Identify barriers to using Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers in low poverty areas and "project-basing" them (linking them to a specific property);
- Identifying local and national best practices for tenant selection plans, which landlords and property managers use to screen prospective tenants;
- Identifying creative solutions and policy and program options for addressing the identified barriers; and
- Writing a report for the Agency's leadership and the broader housing community, which will be used to advance fair housing choice.

This internship is a great opportunity for students to get hands-on experience learning how state government operates, working at the intersection of research, policy analysis, and evidence-based decision making, and playing a direct role in advancing critical housing issues. Minnesota Housing has extensive experience providing high-quality and meaningful internships, having hired graduate student interns for the past 25 years.

Job Skills

- Currently pursuing a graduate degree in law, public policy, urban and regional planning, or equivalent field
- Knowledge of the housing field (professional or academic)
- Passion for equity and serving people facing barriers to housing