



**2017-2018 Academic Year
Office of Research and Evaluation
Placement ID: VCP**

Research/Topic Area: Violent Crime Prevention

Program Overview:

The goal of NIJ's Crime and Crime Prevention Research Division (CCPRD) is to support research that increases understanding of the scope, causes, and consequences of crime, and develop scientific knowledge about programs and practices that prevent and reduce crime in the United States. The scope of work within CCPRD includes developmental, situational and community crime prevention. For this assistantship, CCPRD is interested in expanding our research activities on community-level violence prevention efforts. This may include efforts designed to change the social conditions and institutions (e.g., families, peers, social norms, clubs, and organizations) that influence violence in residential communities. These efforts may be multi-disciplinary in nature (e.g., involve law enforcement, public health, and/or other systems) and/or address outcomes including, but not restricted to, violent crime prevention. CCPRD is particularly focused on research that helps improve our understanding of factors that improve the effectiveness of community-level efforts to prevent firearms, gang, and school-based violence. This is an exciting opportunity for a research assistant to make a significant contribution to the improvement of one or more of these topical areas.

Research assistant project task responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- Compiling, summarizing, revising, or making use of complex, technical, or specialized literature.
- Participating in data collection activities related to crime prevention.
- Extracting and compiling data from written sources, from individuals (questionnaires and interviews), or from existing databases.
- Assisting in research design strategies (e.g., developing and modifying research proposals, procedures, or tools/instruments).
- Processing and summarizing data using scientific or statistical techniques.
- Assisting in data interpretation and analyses to generate reports/papers.
- Assisting in developing research questions and designs for intramural studies.
- Assisting in preparing materials for Institutional Review Board (IRB) review for intramural studies.
- Conceptualizing and drafting publications (such as government reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, NIJ publications, and trade magazine articles).
- Drafting and presenting presentations at conferences (where funding permits and the University approves).
- Recording, compiling, and reporting information related to the research program and activities with a focus on relevance for the policy or practitioner fields; preparing policy briefs; and assisting with responses to Congressional inquiries.
- Assisting with coordination of research activities and participating in intra- and inter-agency working groups (e.g., other federal science agencies and stakeholders such as the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).
- Assisting with outreach activities and research dissemination activities (e.g., meeting presentations, articles, webinars).



NOTE: Research Assistants do not provide clerical support, process grants or other award documents, participate in grant management activities, or perform inherently governmental functions.

Candidate Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated knowledge of the U.S. criminal justice system *required*.
- Demonstrated knowledge of intermediate to advanced research and evaluation methods and analysis *required*.
- Demonstrated experience in social or behavioral science related to crime prevention *required*.
- Demonstrated knowledge of firearms violence or gang violence prevention *preferred*.

General Required Qualifications

- **Education and/or Experience:** Doctoral students working toward a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., D.P.A., Dr.PH., D.H.Sc., D.Sc., D.S.W., Psy.D., Ed.D.).
- **Mathematical Skills:** Very good to advanced understanding of statistical principles and research methods (quantitative and qualitative).
- **Computer Skills:** Working knowledge of computers and standard software such as Adobe Professional, Excel, Internet Explorer, Outlook, Windows operating systems, Word, and PowerPoint required. Proficiency using , SPSS, SAS, or Stata. Knowledge of Access, ATLAS.ti and other statistical or geospatial software a plus.
- **Reasoning Ability:** Ability to work independently, accurately, and in a timely manner.
- **Communication Skills:** Ability to communicate orally and in writing to prepare comprehensive research reports, proposals, and presentations and make recommendations to accomplish and enhance project objectives.
- **Certifications, Licenses, Registrations:** Human Subjects (HS) Protection training is required. NIJ research assistants must take annual HS training onsite at the Office of Justice Programs. RAs also must successfully complete [CITI training](#).
- **Background Check:** Candidates must complete all required U.S. Department of Justice profile and pre-screening paperwork with all security reviews and background investigations (such as credit and criminal investigations) resulting in a favorable adjudication.
- **Citizenship:** Candidates must be U.S. citizens.

Work Location: Primary work location will be at [NIJ's offices in Washington, D.C.](#) Minimal local travel in the [National Capital Region](#) may be needed to attend meetings and visit offsite research facilities. For this assistantship, travel may be required to conduct research site visits or participate in conferences.