

Seeking a Paid Summer Intern

Project: Policy Analysis of Legal Protections for Pregnant People to Avoid Evictions

The USCF California Preterm Birth Initiative is seeking a summer intern to conduct research and provide analysis on eviction protections for pregnant people.

Project Background

Many studies have linked housing insecurity during pregnancy to adverse birth outcomes, including preterm birth, especially in Black and Brown women. Systematic racial bias contributes to housing insecurity that ultimately compromises health. For example, Black families are offered fewer housing options than non-Hispanic white families who have similar income levels and credit scores. In the Bay Area, gentrification has significantly affected Black and Brown families, displacing them from their homes to areas with fewer resources and less community support.

We have conducted a landscape analysis of policies and protections addressing housing insecurity and evictions for pregnant women. One of the findings was that developing legal resources to help pregnant women avoid evictions is essential in reducing the rate of preterm birth. Check out the [one-pager](#).

A sampling of policy recommendations are as follows:

- Enforce existing protections.
 - Designate a hotline to report property owners not complying with legal protections.
 - Establish an Oversight Board to review instances of discrimination based on familial status and pregnancy.
- Provide more comprehensive education of tenant rights for tenants and property owners.
- Expand Right to Counsel laws outside of San Francisco, which provide a free attorney for anyone served with an eviction notice.

California's eviction moratorium expired on Sept 30th, 2021, and we are aware that many families that are pregnant or have young children are experiencing an excessive burden. Our goals for this project are to:

- Better understand to what extent these policy recommendations are already in effect, especially with regards to pregnant families.
- Identify what legal protections for pregnant people could be advanced or advocated for on a local and/or state level.
- Identify policy measures that might serve to enforce existing protections.
- Develop materials supporting the creation and dissemination of a white paper that includes policy recommendations.

Preferred Intern Qualifications:

- Solid understanding of structural racism with health equity and birth equity lens
- Experience working both collaboratively and independently
- Familiarity with housing, housing protections, and legal protections

[More background information:](#)

Mentorship and supervision will be from the following California Preterm Birth Initiative team:

- Selina Lao Mason, Program Manager
- Jonathan Fuchs, Director of Collective Impact
- Shanell Williams, Director of Community Engagement

Other partners may include housing security organization leadership, a Community Advisory Board member, and/or a racial equity expert.

Links:

- [The California Preterm Birth Initiative](#)
- [Full evictions report](#)
- [One-pager](#)

Project Compensation: Stipend - \$5,000 (will depend on the length of the project, open to discussing)

To apply (or inquire further), please send an email outlining your interest and including your resume to:

Selina Lao Mason, selina.lao@ucsf.edu

About the California Preterm Birth Initiative

The California Preterm Birth Initiative (PTBi-CA) lives at the intersection of research, community partnerships, and education to create positive change for Black and brown families. Funded by Lynne and Marc Benioff, our mission is to eliminate racial disparities in preterm birth and improve health outcomes for babies born too soon.

We're starting at the root of the issue by redefining the crisis of premature birth through justice and equity. By calling out racism and mending broken systems we're addressing deep racial disparities in preterm birth and creating a healthier future for everyone. The California Preterm Birth Initiative conducts and funds transdisciplinary research across the reproductive life course to probe risk and resilience factors and to find promising interventions that can turn the curve on the preterm birth epidemic.

One area of focus is our Policy Core, which includes researchers and community partners working together to translate policy research to practice and meaningful change. This year we have identified a few areas of focus, including respectful care and obstetric racism, structural racism, and housing insecurity. This project will be a part of our Policy Core and contribute to our policy work around evictions and housing insecurity.