

## **NC Office of Strategic Partnerships Evidence Advisor opportunity and position description**

The North Carolina Office of Strategic Partnerships ([OSP](#)) develops, launches, and enhances partnerships between state government and NC's research and philanthropic sectors. This includes elevating the State's internal capacity to use and generate evidence in its policy and programmatic functions.

OSP accomplishes this in part by building and enhancing collaborative networks of public officials, research partners, and partners from philanthropy and the nonprofit sector broadly. We prioritize partnerships that are scalable, sustainable, and develop public, open source resources. OSP is housed in the NC Office of State Budget and Management, which includes data-driven and evidence-based decision making among its priorities.

OSP seeks an **Evidence Advisor** to help maximize discretionary spending on evidence-based policies and programs in North Carolina. A critical first phase of the work has included collaborating with multiple state agencies to identify programs that, based on available evidence, could be adjusted (e.g., contracted, continued, expanded, etc.). The continuation of this first phase and planning for the next phase of work includes identifying and prioritizing specific opportunities for evaluating policy and/or program effectiveness using randomized controlled trials (RCTs). These activities and others collectively aim to bolster the evidence base for government spending on behalf of North Carolina's nearly 10 million residents.

The Evidence Advisor will join the Office of Strategic Partnerships during a time in North Carolina and nationally of growing commitment to using evidence in public sector decision making. In this context, OSP works with agencies to identify evidence gaps, facilitates partnerships that can help fill those gaps, and supports agencies' efforts to bolster their internal capacity for research and evidence-based decision making.

### Responsibilities

The Evidence Advisor will play a critical role in:

- Developing and managing a process for identifying additional state agencies that will participate in evidence reviews of discretionary spending. This will include working closely with agencies that are well-suited for this opportunity based on conditions such as timing, capacity, depth of understanding, and complementing existing efforts.
- In partnership with one or more agencies, conducting reviews of those agencies' discretionary spending.
- Using learnings from existing evidence to identify relevant programs in NC or elsewhere that have strong evidence of sizable impacts on important outcomes and a potential to focus state spending on replicating/scaling those programs with fidelity.
- Identifying potential RCTs for North Carolina state agency programs.
- Documenting and reporting findings, progress, and opportunities.
- Contributing to OSP's open source approach for sharing the strategies for and results of this work across North Carolina state government and beyond.

- Depending on skills and experience, the Evidence Advisor may be involved with developing one or more RCT proposals.

#### Core competencies

- Experience with reviewing and synthesizing research literatures
- Communicating scientific findings to government partners
- Training in evaluation methodologies, with expertise in understanding their relative merits and when to deploy which types of methods
- Knowledge of the scientific method
- Project management expertise
- Self-directed and independent professional
- Exceptional professional and interpersonal judgment
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to convene, connect, and engage people, institutions, and ideas
- Strong presentation skills
- Knowledge of and familiarity with the North Carolina policy context preferred but not required

#### Structure and timing

- Full-time
- Start date – as soon as filled
- OSP is based in Raleigh, North Carolina with hybrid and remote work possibilities.
- Salary range \$70,000 – \$120,000 with benefits.

To apply, please send a resume, letter of interest, and work sample to [partnerships@osbm.nc.gov](mailto:partnerships@osbm.nc.gov). A performance task will be part of the application process.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.