

Faculty Research Fellow Opportunities at the Center for Social Research

The Center for Social Research (CSR) is seeking multiple UHart faculty members to join us as **Faculty Research Fellows**, collaborating with our team on multiple research and evaluation projects focused in Hartford, and especially the “North End” (i.e., the North Hartford Promise Zone/Neighborhood comprised of Upper Albany, Clay Arsenal, and Northeast neighborhoods).

The primary project is funded by a 5-year, \$30M Promise Neighborhood grant from the US Department of Education awarded to CT Children’s Medical Center, focusing on developing the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline (Ascend), an integrated and coordinated system of 60+ school- and community-based social service programs and supports designed to promote child development, youth development and the transition to adulthood, educational opportunities and outcomes, and family support and engagement.

Other potential projects include (a) an evaluation of a related effort by Hartford Public Schools to implement the Full-Service Community School model at three schools on the South Side of Hartford and (b) an evaluation of efforts to expand home visiting programs through the City of Hartford to decrease rates of infant mortality by addressing racial disparities in access to and quality of healthcare and education, especially in the North End.

Throughout this work there is an explicit focus on collaborative and sustainable systems change, building families’ and individuals’ resilience and other protective factors, promoting equity/social justice, and supporting community development, empowerment, and well-being.

We are looking for inspired, motivated, and capable faculty to help conduct applied research, including collecting, analyzing, and reporting on both quantitative and qualitative data, and using data to inform system development and quality improvements in services in order to improve lives and outcomes for the community. Through data sharing agreements with the State Dept. of Education, CT Data Collaborative, DataHaven, Hartford Public Schools, the City of Hartford, CBOs, and CT Children’s, the research team will have access to large datasets linking student education records to participation in programming (including for multiple comparison groups not receiving programming), as well as community-, school-, and program-based survey data. In addition, there are opportunities to collect additional relevant data through interviews, focus groups, and other qualitative and quantitative methods.

Relevant skills and experience include, but *are not limited to*:

- Applied and evaluation research design and implementation
- Statistical analysis of quantitative data (basic to advanced)
- Designing and managing the implementation of household telephone surveys and/or face-to-face survey interviews with residents
- Designing and conducting semi-structured, face-to-face (and/or virtual) interviews and focus groups with service providers, community agencies, residents and/or families;
- Analysis of qualitative data (e.g., thematic analysis)
- Community engagement

- Program and staff development
- Social Network Analysis
- Pilot testing strategy implementation using the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) methodology
- Collaborating with community-based organizations and our research partners to support quality data collection and reporting
- Project and data management, including building databases and data systems
- Co-authoring reports and presentations for a variety of stakeholders
- Designing and implementing community engagement strategies
- Writing literature reviews and technical reports on relevant topics
- Mentoring and supervising research staff, including students

Relevant content area expertise includes, but is *not limited to*:

- Sociology – urban, housing, education, health, inequality, race/ethnicity, crime and public safety, etc.
- Education, including primary, secondary, and post-secondary education and career prep
- Math and English Language Arts education and supports
- Special Education and individualized education plans
- Early childhood and child development, including prenatal and post-partum health of mothers and babies
- Adolescence and the transition to adulthood
- School attendance and absenteeism
- Social service programs supporting children and families
- Physical, mental, and behavioral health, including substance use treatment, health equity, and access to care
- Social Work and clinical interventions
- Public safety, crime, and perceptions of safety
- Community-based organizations

Compensation

The Ascend project is funded through a US Department of Education grant received by CT Children’s Medical Center that is scheduled to run through December 31, 2026. Through a sub-contract with CT Children’s, CSR has funding to support contributions of multiple faculty to the project, typically consisting of one or more months of summer salary and one course buy-out per calendar year, subject to Dean and/or Program Director/Chair approval.

Compensation for work on other projects may vary with available funding, faculty member’s role, and funding timelines, but may include course buy-outs and/or summer salary. Continued involvement is contingent on project needs, faculty availability and interest, and continued funding.

To Apply

Submit a copy of your CV and a brief cover letter (around 500 words) describing:

- why you are interested in joining CSR as a Faculty Research Fellow

- your research training/experience and areas of interest and expertise that you believe are relevant to one or more of the project(s) described above and how you envision yourself contributing to this work
- your knowledge and experience related to North Hartford communities, *or similar communities*, including lived/personal experience as well as any experience conducting research in North Hartford, Hartford, or similar communities.

Send materials to Dr. Wes Younts at younts@hartford.edu and Dr. Marcia Hughes at mhughes@hartford.edu. Review of materials will begin immediately and will continue while positions are available.

Candidates who are bi-lingual in Spanish and English, faculty of color, and individuals with lived experience in Hartford are especially encouraged to apply!

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

The **Center for Social Research**, located within the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Hartford, conducts applied research and evaluation projects in collaboration with community partners and University faculty and students. The primary mission of CSR is to generate and disseminate knowledge that will strengthen communities, offer solutions to social problems, inform public policy, improve human service programs, and support organizing communities. Wes Younts (PhD in Sociology) has been the Director of CSR since 2014, and Marcia Hughes (PhD in Human Development and Family Studies, LMSW) has led evaluation and applied research at CSR since 2007.

ABOUT THE NORTH HARTFORD ASCEND PIPELINE

This role supports the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline (Ascend): a place-based, cross-sector initiative that integrates schools and community and social services and supports to help children and families reach their full potential. In addition to the core responsibilities outlined in the job description, this position will:

- 1) Support a coordinated pipeline of services
- 2) Support a parent-, family-, and community-driven agenda
- 3) Embrace targeted universalism to achieve equity
- 4) Strengthen families' protective factors
- 5) Support early identification, referral, and linkage to community and social services and supports
- 6) Support data collection and analysis to monitor implementation and impact of Ascend

Ascend is funded by a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhoods program and sponsored by Connecticut Children's.