Organization
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

Project Title
Policy Priorities to Address Economic Inequity

Organizational Background
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (www.wpsr.org) mobilizes health professionals in Washington to address the greatest threats to human health, through education and advocacy. We believe the three largest threats to health are nuclear war, climate change, and economic inequality. Therefore, we advocate for policies that would bring us closer to a world without nuclear weapons, a world characterized by a stable climate, and a world where people have adequate financial resources to lead healthy, productive lives. When addressing these problems, we work to tackle root causes rather than just treat symptoms. Our theory of change stems from the Prevention Principle: we must prevent the things that we cannot cure.

We know from polling data that health professionals, including nurses and doctors, are often the most trusted voices in our communities. Also, our experience tells us that the message of health is a powerful narrative for policy change, even beyond changing policies directly related to health care. That is the power of health-based advocacy. WPSR engages deeply in advocacy, working with and in communities throughout the state. Our health advocates engage in various forms of policy advocacy, including public speaking, meeting directly with decision-makers, and publishing articles in popular media.

We engage, train, and deploy health professionals in Washington to promote policies that protect the environment, that promote justice, and that uphold peace. Our health advocates engage in various forms of policy advocacy, including public speaking, meeting directly with decision-makers, and publishing articles in popular media. We often work in coalition with others and provide the primary health voice to coalitions working on WPSR’s core issues.

Project Description
This project will engage student consultants in research, policy analysis, and program design focused on addressing the problem of economic inequity, which is one of WPSR's three main program areas because of the grave threat that economic inequity poses to public health. Our need is to better understand, and to document/demonstrate, 1) how and why economic inequity in our region threatens public health, 2) how it disproportionately impacts the health of marginalized and frontline
communities, 3) what public policies would have the greatest impact in mitigating economic inequity, and 4) what programmatic approaches would most effectively advance those policies, given the mission and approach of WPSR.

**Travel Required?**
No

**Deliverables**
The desired deliverable is a combination of 1) research on the structural and policy causes of economic inequity, 2) analysis and recommendations of policies that have the greatest promise for lessening economic inequity in Washington State, and - time permitting - 3) programmatic recommendations for advancing public policy and opinion in support of economic equity and its role in ensuring the health of all people.

**Key Tasks for Consultants**
Literature review, research and data analysis, policy analysis, production of educational materials such as infographics, white papers, and presentation materials.