



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
MPOWERING THE STATE

Assessing the Use of Community-Based Programs for Justice-Involved Youth in Maryland

Focus Areas:

Juvenile justice, community-based programs, policy research

**SUMMER 2026
MAY 26 – July 31**

This project is being offered through the **University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State (MPower)** (<http://mpower.maryland.edu>) – a formal collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership provides funding for the program.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The selected student will work with the **UMB's Institute for Innovation & Implementation** at the **University of Maryland School of Social Work**.

For nearly two decades, UMB's Institute for Innovation & Implementation has partnered with the **Maryland Department of Juvenile Services** to strengthen juvenile justice practices. Our work includes developing and validating risk and needs assessment tools, analyzing patterns of re-offense, and supporting equitable access to community-based treatment for children, youth, and families. See <https://www.ssw.umaryland.edu/institute/> for more information.

This summer, the UM Scholar will play an active role in applied research that directly informs policy and practice. They will analyze data on system-involved youth, examine who is receiving community-based programming, and explore the outcomes of these interventions. The student will work closely with faculty mentors and agency partners, gaining a unique perspective on how research informs real-world juvenile justice policy.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The UM Scholar will contribute to both quantitative and qualitative research on community-based programs for justice-involved youth. Activities and skill development will include:

- Work with statistical software (SPSS) to clean, analyze, and interpret data.
- Write up findings in research briefs, reports, and presentations to agency stakeholders.
- Present data in Qualtrics data dashboards.
- Apply AI-assisted tools to support analysis of qualitative and quantitative data.
- Assist in preparing and delivering PowerPoint presentations for agency and policy stakeholders.



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A typical day might include analyzing data and drafting a report in the morning, followed by attending a meeting with agency leaders or program administrators in the afternoon, where students take notes and help prepare presentation materials.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

This project is ideal for students studying criminology, sociology, psychology, public policy, or related disciplines. Interested students will have successfully completed and performed well in an undergraduate statistics course and be eager to strengthen their data analysis and writing skills. The ideal candidate should also have strong communication skills, and a demonstrated interest in juvenile justice or child-serving systems would be an especially valuable asset.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Students may come from UMCP's College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, College of Arts and Humanities, School of Public Policy, or School of Public Health, or any student interested in related areas.

PROJECT LOCATION

This project will be conducted in a hybrid-format – Remote and in-person. The UM Scholar is expected to be in-office at least twice per week in coordination with their faculty mentor. On days when the UM Scholar is not required to be in the office, the student will need to have access to a location for uninterrupted remote work. This is the address the student will report to:

Institute for Innovation & Implementation
550 W. Baltimore St.
On the UMB campus

PROJECT LEAD/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Michael Schlossman, PhD,
Research Assistant Professor, The Institute for Innovation & Implementation
University of Maryland School of Social Work
550 West Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201

BIO: [Michael Schlossman, PhD](#)

EMAIL: michael.schlossman@ssw.umaryland.edu



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PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- 10 weeks/400-hour student research project conducted with schedule mutually defined and agreed upon by the student and mentor.
- The project is funded by the [University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State \(MPower\)](#) and is a part of the [UM Scholars program](#).
- The selected student will receive a stipend for their work, to be paid in multiple installments over the 10 weeks.
 - **\$5,500** for undergraduate students
 - **\$6,500** for graduate students
- Work is expected to occur during typical business hours; Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.
- To be eligible, the student must be enrolled in the Fall 2026 semester.
- Traveling to and from UMB, as well as parking, is the responsibility of the student and costs are included in the stipend.