**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Research Assistant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong></th>
<th>Research Assistant - Funding intermediaries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>Remote, Flexible</td>
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<td><strong>Position:</strong></td>
<td>Part time</td>
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<td><strong>Position Reports to:</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Fahad Ahmad</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Compensation:</strong></td>
<td>$40/hour</td>
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</tbody>
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**THE OPPORTUNITY**

Thousand Currents is a public foundation funding grassroots work that addresses the interdependent issues of food sovereignty, economic justice, and climate justice in the Global South. The organization partners with an ecosystem of grassroots-based formations, including, but not limited to, social movements, grassroots groups, and research institutions in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and Latin America. In addition to global grantmaking, Thousand Currents uses its position and influence as a vocal and visible advocate for grassroots-led social change, to transform behaviors and practices of Global North philanthropy.

Over the last several years and specially during the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a rise in funding intermediaries – entities that regrant philanthropic dollars directly to community organizations, grassroots groups, and social movements – across the United States. As such, these funding intermediaries represent a shift in traditional philanthropy as they appear to be more closely connected to and engaged with movement actors and racialized communities. This evolving landscape of funding intermediaries raises important questions for public foundations as they have conventionally engaged in regranting philanthropic and government dollars.

**POSITION OVERVIEW**

Thousand Currents is working on a research project to examine:

- How the landscape of funding intermediaries (working in the areas of global development and climate justice) has developed since 2015;
- How the characteristics of these funding intermediaries differ from public foundations doing regranting; and
What implications do funding intermediaries have for existing public foundation intermediaries

Thousand Currents is seeking a graduate student researcher to support the research and writing activities of the project. The student will work under the supervision of Dr. Fahad Ahmad (University of Toronto) who will be leading this research project on behalf of Thousand Currents. The student responsibilities will include but not be limited to:

- Researching media reports, sector publications and reports, and organizational sites to identify funding intermediaries established since 2015
- Creating and populating a dataset of funding intermediaries
- Analyzing different characteristics of funding intermediaries
- Supporting lead researcher in identifying common approaches and best practices used by funding intermediaries
- Communicating with project lead and managers at funding intermediaries
- Supporting interviews with managers of funding intermediaries
- Writing research summaries and reports

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES**

**Required**

- Must be a graduate student in the social sciences (PhD preferred) currently enrolled at a university
- Must have prior demonstrated research experience working on multi-stakeholder projects
- Must have knowledge of qualitative research methodology and have some familiarity with quantitative methods
- Familiarity with working developing and populating databases preferred
- Familiarity with the nonprofit and/or philanthropic sector in the U.S. preferred
- Familiarity with international development and grassroots movements preferred
- Creative, flexible, and detail-oriented
- Can work quickly and efficiently
- Can communicate and collaborate effectively

**FUNDING AND TIMELINES:**

This position will expect the student to dedicate about 25 hours a month for 6 months starting from September 15, 2022. The pay rate will be $40 per hour.
This research can be conducted from any location and work hours are flexible. Selected student will be expected to work closely with the research lead and the point person at Thousand Currents.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

Please submit an email with the title in the subject that includes: a) Cover letter addressed to jobs@thousandcurrents.org that outlines your suitability for the position; and b) a CV or resumé.

Applications should be submitted by August 30 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis.