

Call for Collaboration: Research Opportunity in Policy & Service Design

Interested in analyzing qualitative data from public service design projects? Collaborate with PPL to write your next paper!

The Public Policy Lab (PPL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the design and delivery of public services for marginalized and vulnerable communities across the United States. Our work is rooted in applied, co-creative research that we do with our government partners, but our focus on practice has meant we've had limited capacity to turn our project data into academic publications. This is a missed opportunity, as there's a real need for more scholarly analysis of public service design in the U.S.

To help bridge this gap, we're inviting **U.S.-based academics and researchers**—including professors, post-docs, supervised graduate students, and research fellows—to collaborate with us on research for publication.

The Opportunity: What We Have & What You Can Bring

We're looking to form partnerships where we can combine our resources with your academic expertise to create new knowledge.

What we have:

- A fifteen-year archive of qualitative data collected from interviews, ethnographic observation, and other human-centered design research methods. Our data is a rich source of insights into the lived experiences of people navigating public services and the systems that serve them. While we have used this data to inform our project work, we believe there are many more insights to be gained from it.
- Access to our PPL staff, who can serve as your guides. We can provide project orientation, help you build context around the data, and offer subject matter expertise. The specifics of our collaboration will be worked out together, but we are committed to being a partner in this process.
- Workspace at our Brooklyn headquarters.

What you can bring:

- The structure and skills to dive into this qualitative data and analyze it in a way that generates new knowledge.
- An interest in developing scholarly articles for publication based on our work.

Types of Data Available for Collaboration

We have data available from many of our past and present projects, which can be the basis for your research. (Note that not all of these projects may have data available for



sharing and publication. We will confirm these permissions when determining potential collaborations.)

Current Projects: Currently, we're conducting new work in areas such as AI in healthcare, the life experiences of older adults (especially dual Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries), and child welfare system-involved families' access to concrete resources.

Past Projects: Our extensive project archive includes work on a range of topics — from digital services and social safety nets to housing policy and civic technology. You can explore some of our past work at publicpolicylab.org/projects.

Partnership Structure

While we are unable to provide financial support for collaborators at this time, we are open to arrangements where academics and researchers come with their own funding. We also hope that in the future we will be able to secure funding specifically for academic collaborations.

This is a call for collaboration, not an offer of employment or a request for volunteer participation. The goal is to produce scholarly publications from our work in partnership with you.

Next Steps

Register [here](#) for our information session on January 22, 2026.

Sign up [here](#) to get more updates about this opportunity.