The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality (CPI) is leading a first-of-its-kind “qualitative census” of 5,000 families across the country. The National Poverty Study (NPS) will pioneer new ethnographic, survey, and experimental methods to understand how low- and middle-income Americans are making ends meet today.

The NPS will launch in California this summer, and we are seeking undergraduate research fellows to field it. Fellows will conduct in-person interviews with families to learn about their lives, social networks, economic activity, mindsets, mental bandwidth, health, well-being, and more.

Before going to the field, selected fellows will participate in a research practicum led by professors David Grusky and Kathryn Edin, the country’s foremost expert in qualitative research on poverty. The practicum will include an intensive introduction to the economics, sociology, psychology, and political science of poverty; specialized training in qualitative interviewing and experimental methods, and comprehensive study of the NPS interview protocol.

Fellowships will be funded full-time for 10 weeks (June 25-August 31). Fellows will be assigned to large urban (e.g. Los Angeles) or rural California counties. Although location preference cannot be guaranteed, it will be taken into account.

Priority will be given to Stanford students, but students from other universities are also encouraged to apply. To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, and transcript to inequality@stanford.edu. Applications are being accepted now and will be reviewed beginning February 1, 2018.

The National Poverty Study is a joint research initiative of the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, Johns Hopkins University, and the American Institutes for Research.