CALL FOR PAPERS

Federal Reserve System Community Development Research Conference
March 23–24, 2017 | Washington, D.C.

The Federal Reserve System Community Development Research Conference is a unique event that convenes researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to consider important issues people and their communities face.

This conference will focus on the economic futures of America’s kids and communities. Kids with strong cognitive and social foundations are better-equipped to manage their financial circumstances, succeed in the labor market, and contribute to society at large. Recognizing that not all children have the same opportunities to grow and develop, how can leaders and decision-makers help set young people on a strong course?

The 2017 conference will explore the interplay between the development of kids and their communities, with an understanding that “development” factors into key economic and social aspects of kids’ lives. High-quality and emerging research from multiple disciplines will be presented in a dialogue with policymakers and community practitioners who can utilize the lessons gleaned from the research. This conference will spotlight research that can inform questions about key drivers to success, differences across subpopulations, scalable intervention strategies, and policy considerations. Research that explores the implications for lower-income, minority, or diverse populations is of particular interest.

The conference will feature remarks by Federal Reserve leaders, including Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen.

Conference organizers seek to create a robust discussion around the state of—and the role for—community development in child and youth development, and the implications that such development has for the economy. The Community Affairs Officers of the Federal Reserve System invite original, high-quality research from economics, education, health, housing, sociology, public policy, psychology, and other pertinent fields that can spur engaging dialogue.

Submitted papers that are consistent with one or more of the following key themes will be considered for concurrent and poster sessions:

- The context for child and youth development;
- The role of community development and key partners; and
- Implications for the economy and workforce.

Researchers are encouraged to consider the following questions and topic areas:

THE CONTEXT FOR CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- What is the level and quality of child and youth development efforts in public agencies, nonprofit, and for-profit institutions?
- How can child and youth development approaches used in other countries help to inform new strategies for the U.S.?
- How do family and community circumstances lead to differences in child and youth development?
Which aspects of child and youth development have received the most attention, and which ones have received less focus? What are the drivers for prioritizing the various types of interventions?

How do programs targeted at parents and adults influence the development of children and youth?

Which models, strategies, and financing mechanisms for developing children and youth have proven to be most effective?

How can the outcomes of child and youth development initiatives be successfully measured? What metrics are important to consider?

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND KEY PARTNERS

What is the current state of child and youth development in the community development sector?

How do community-level resources, such as housing, schools, community facilities, healthy food access, and neighborhood safety, influence the development of children and youth, both in the short and long term?

What aspects of child and youth development are most important for addressing issues related to equity?

What obstacles and opportunities exist for collaboration among private, not-for-profit, government, and philanthropic sectors to further support the development of youth and children?

How can successful pilot initiatives be replicated and brought to scale?

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE

How does the development of children and youth influence the well-being of communities and the economy?

What is the economic impact of investment in the development of children and youth on our country’s economy?

What are the financial and non-financial “returns” in the short and long run from human capital development efforts?

How do investments in children and youth influence expenditures on health care, special education services, and the criminal justice system?

How do investments in children and youth influence future outcomes in adulthood, such as employment, financial capability, health, and civic engagement?

What tools do young people need to begin their financial lives on strong footings?

What new and innovative methods are being used to collect, share, and report data?

Abstracts (500-word limit) with optional attachments are due August 19, 2016. Completed papers are not required by the August 19 deadline. However, additional consideration will be given to submissions that include attachments of papers nearer completion. Research that has already been published or presented in another forum may be considered. Completed versions of accepted papers are due no later than March 3, 2017.

To submit an abstract, or for more information on the conference or paper guidelines, visit the conference website at minneapolislfed.org/2017CDResearchConference. Questions about the conference or the abstract-submission process should be directed to CDConference@mpls.frb.org or 612-204-6785.