

## Announcement

### Call for Papers on Earnings and Career Advancement Possibilities for Low-wage Workers

*Economic Development Quarterly (EDQ)* is seeking research manuscripts for a special issue highlighting economic development and workforce policies that **increase earnings and advance the careers of workers in low-wage services sectors**. EDQ is the premiere applied academic journal publishing research on domestic U.S. development issues. Its mission is to promote research supporting the formulation of evidence-based economic development and workforce development policy, programs, and practice in the United States.

EDQ and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research are seeking high quality research that would advance our understanding of the factors that impact the current and future earning potential of individuals in low-wage services jobs positions.

Possible research questions are:

1. What are the trends of low-wage services sectors in terms of hours, wages, employment? How does this impact labor force participation across U.S. regions? What are the policy implications based on these trends?
2. What is the age profile of low-wage services workers? What U.S. regions have the highest/lowest concentration of younger/older low-wage services workers? What do these results mean for these regional labor markets?
3. What are the possible career ladder opportunities in these sectors? Would the labor markets support these career-ladder opportunities once achieved?
4. What are education trends and retraining opportunities for low-wage workers?
5. What are the strengths and weaknesses of tourism as a base industry?
6. What are the roles for government transfer payments (e.g., social security payments) to these sectors?
7. What is the relationship between high-wage and low-wage services workers? Is there a significant spillover effect of high-wage jobs on the low-wage jobs?
8. What policies—public and private—could be implemented that could improve the economic well-being of these workers, such as
  - a. Increasing the minimum wage for these sectors?
  - b. Expanding the earned income tax credit?
  - c. Expanding internal and external career opportunities or career ladders for workers in low-wage services sectors?

#### Submission Guidelines

These topics are offered as only suggestions. Papers must address key issues and suggest policy implications that inform human resources practices as well as domestic U.S. or state/local workplace policies or practices. **Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.**

**Topic ideas with abstract/outline must be emailed to [edq@upjohn.org](mailto:edq@upjohn.org) by August 25, 2017.**

We are requesting interested authors to submit a 1 to 2-page abstract/outline of the proposed research. EDQ editors Timothy Bartik and George Erickcek will invite selected authors to participate in a one-day

roundtable discussion at the W.E. Upjohn Institute in Kalamazoo, Michigan in mid-October, where they will present preliminary dimensions of their research and receive feedback from invited discussants.

***Transportation and lodging will be paid for the selected authors.***

Authors will then be asked to submit their papers to EDQ by no later than March 1, 2018. EDQ will make every effort to expedite the papers through the peer-review process for inclusion in the journal's 2018 November issue.

#### **Anticipated Timeline**

- Proposed abstract/research outline due by **August 25, 2017**
- Selected authors notified by **September 11, 2017**
- Target the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> for an authors' roundtable, during which the primary author will be asked to present a detailed outline of the paper, data sources, proposed methodology, and potential issues to a peer group of researchers for feedback
- Completed research papers must be submitted to EDQ no later than **March 1, 2018**
- Target November 2018 for release of EDQ Special Issue (but may be published online in advance)

#### **Sponsors**

The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent research organization devoted to investigating the causes and effects of unemployment (<http://www.upjohn.org>).