

CALL FOR PAPERS



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Economic Development Quarterly (EDQ) is seeking research manuscript proposals on the role of workforce development in economic development. The selected manuscripts will be considered for publication in an EDQ special issue on Workforce Development.

The mission of **EDQ** is the premiere applied academic journal publishing research on domestic U.S. economic and workforce 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.

Workforce development is a key component to an effective regional economic development strategy and has become a major element in most local or state economic incentive packages offered to prospective employers. More importantly, it is a major gateway for an area's residents to gain access to better paying jobs and careers.

POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS

EDQ is seeking research manuscript proposals that examine the impact of workforce development in advancing regional economic development.

Possible research topics could include:

- **Successful pathways to jobs for underrepresented communities.** These could include pre-apprenticeship programs, reduced-cost training programs for targeted populations, or wrap-around services.
- **Employer partnerships in training programs.** It is widely accepted that successful training programs require employer involvement. Still, it is unclear how effective programs are structured and what are the key components of successful programs.
- **Use of workforce analytics for informed decision making.** Nationwide, programs such as Data for the American Dream (D4AD), are providing data-driven tools and information to assist unemployed and underemployed individuals in their job searches. Questions remain regarding the effectiveness of these programs, and the challenges in keeping the information timely and accessible.
- **Hiring practices to address diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.** Employers' existing hiring practices may not be appropriate for the current challenging labor market. Current tight labor market conditions, coupled with the changing nature of work, call for innovative hiring practices to address diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.

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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 (www.upjohn.org). The Institute houses EDQ, which is published by Sage Publications, and both are committed to advancing applied research on economic development and workforce development that can inform policy.

These topics are offered as ideas. Authors are encouraged to pursue their own topics if they can be tied to issues of importance to state and local policy makers seeking to help understand the challenges facing workforce development issues. Papers must address key issues, evaluate program outcomes, and suggest policy implications. **Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.**

TYPE OF PROPOSALS CONSIDERED

Research proposals should not exceed three pages, double-spaced, and should describe the proposed research, data, methodology, and policy implications. The proposed research must address key issues and suggest policy implications that inform U.S. regional/state/local workforce development practices.

Authors must also submit a current curriculum vitae/resume.

TIMELINE

Paper proposals must be emailed to edq@upjohn.org by **October 17, 2022**. The selected authors will be notified **by November 18th**.

Authors of the selected proposals will be invited to a one-day virtual researchers workshop hosted by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research in **Spring 2023** to present their initial findings, along with fellow authors and Institute economists. Authors will be asked to submit drafts of their completed papers no later than **March 31, 2023**, so that they can be distributed to the other selected researchers and Institute economists for review before the one-day virtual Researchers Workshop. It is mandatory that the lead author of each paper attend the virtual workshop.

Completed papers for consideration for the EDQ special issue on Workforce Development should be submitted to EDQ no later than **August 15, 2023**. Papers will be required to go through the journal's peer review process to be included in the special issue.

For questions or information, please contact Claudette Robey, Managing Editor, at edq@upjohn.org.

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