

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
ON THE
EFFECTS OF STATE AND LOCAL FINANCIAL INCENTIVES ON BUSINESS LOCATION DECISIONS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY

Economic Development Quarterly (EDQ) is seeking research manuscripts for a special issue on state and local financial incentives affecting business location decisions. This topic has received considerable attention recently among the popular press, and the Upjohn Institute has recently developed a unique comprehensive database of state financial incentives for most of the United States. EDQ would like to encourage researchers to further our understanding of the motivation and consequences of the use by states and local areas of these incentives by soliciting abstracts for a special issue of the journal. 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.

PURPOSE AND PROCESS

The call for abstracts is the first step in the process of compiling high-quality research for the special issue. Authors of selected abstracts will be invited to attend a two-day workshop at the Upjohn Institute in Kalamazoo, MI to discuss their research ideas on this topic, and receive feedback from other invited authors and outside experts. As the second step, authors will be given time to prepare a manuscript on their chosen topic, which once submitted will be reviewed by outside anonymous reviewers for inclusion in the special issue.

RESOURCES

To encourage rigorous analysis of the relevant issues, the Upjohn Institute will make available two unique databases. The first is the **Panel Database on Incentives and Taxes (PDIT)**, which contains data on incentives and taxes for 33 states and 45 industries for the past 26 years. The database can be used to analyze how levels of business incentives and business taxes vary between states and by industry. A description of the PDIT database can be found at <https://upjohn.org/models/bied/home.php>.

The second database is the **Wholedata Establishment and Employment Database**, which provides unsuppressed estimates of County Business Patterns employment and number of establishments down to the 6-digit NAICS level of industrial detail at the county level from 1998 to 2016. The database is based on a unique statistical process developed by Andrew Isserman and further enhanced by senior economists at Upjohn.

Researchers are encouraged to use these two databases for the research described in their abstracts, and to combine these databases with other data on area workforce characteristics and other economic development factors.

POSSIBLE TOPICS

EDQ is seeking research ideas that will probe the fundamental questions related to financial incentives, such as:

1. How can one quantify the economic rationales (such as market failure or externalities) for states and local areas to incentivize businesses to locate or remain in their respective jurisdictions?

2. Is there a gap between a monetized rationale for incentives and the incentives actually given to businesses? If so, can one quantify that gap?
3. How important are business incentives to overall establishment and employment growth by type of area or region?
4. Does the strength or weakness of an area's economic base impact the nature of incentives provided?
5. What is the estimated employment impact of business incentives by industry cluster?
6. What are the relative effects of the various incentives offered on the attraction and retention of businesses?
7. Do economic incentives distort the economic base of an area?
8. Do the effects of incentives vary by an industry's multiplier or its cluster?

Of course, many other topics related to the general theme of the special issue may be considered.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Papers must address key issues and suggest policy implications that inform U.S. regional/state economic development practices. We are requesting interested authors to submit a one- to two-page abstract or outline of the research they would like to propose. **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 by **August 24, 2018**.

EDQ editors Timothy Bartik and George Erickcek will select authors based on their abstracts to participate in a two-day research workshop at the W.E. Upjohn Institute in Kalamazoo, Michigan on November 1 and 2, where they will present preliminary dimensions of their research and receive feedback from invited discussants. One author per abstract will be invited to the workshop. **Lodging will be paid for selected authors and transportation for selected authors will be reimbursed.**

Authors will then be asked to submit their completed papers to EDQ no later than March 1, 2019. Papers will be required to go through the journal's peer review process for inclusion in the special issue.

TIMELINE

- Proposed abstract/research outline due by **August 24, 2018**
- Selected authors notified by **September 11, 2018**
- Workshop held on the afternoon of **November 1** and the morning of **November 2, 2018**
- Completed research papers submitted to EDQ no later than **March 1, 2019**
- Target release of EDQ special issue is February 2020 (but may be published online in advance)

SPONSORS

The workshop is sponsored by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 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 and improve practices on those key topics.