CUMU-Anchor Economy Research Fellow, 2022-2023
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Anchor Economy Initiative at the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank and CUMU announce a research fellow opportunity utilizing a new data set on the economic impact of higher education institutions and hospitals (anchor institutions) created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The research fellow will leverage the Anchor Economy Dashboard to advance knowledge around the impact of anchor institutions on regional economic and community development.

CUMU

The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) is the longest-running and largest organization committed to serving and connecting urban and metropolitan universities. CUMU focuses on strengthening institutions that are developing new responses to the pressing educational, economic, and social issues of the day. CUMU was formed in 1989 by leaders of metropolitan and urban institutions who realized their unique challenges and opportunities as they looked to the future of higher education. Today, CUMU is dedicated to its member institutions and to the creation and dissemination of knowledge on the issues that face our urban and metropolitan campuses and the communities we serve.

ANCHOR ECONOMY INITIAITVE AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF PHILADELPHIA

The Anchor Economy Initiative at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia focuses on the economic impact of higher education and healthcare institutions in their communities. Higher education and hospitals form distinct sectors of regional economies: anchored to place, employing a large number of people for their labor-intensive operations, purchasing goods and services locally, partnering in community development, and providing direct service and benefit to local residents. When "eds and meds" thrive, they contribute to a healthy regional economy. When these institutions face challenges, there can be economic ripple effects throughout their region. The Anchor Economy initiative identifies how reliant local communities are on eds and meds for their economic vitality and explores how this unique sector of the economy can support equitable economic stability and growth.

ANCHOR ECONOMY DASHBOARD

The Anchor Economy Dashboard is an online tool and dataset that answers two critical questions for 524 regions in the U.S.: What is the economic impact of higher education institutions and hospitals (anchor institutions) on the regions they are in and how dependent are regions on anchor institutions for overall economic activity? The Anchor Economy Dashboard presents first-ever anchor impacts for the entire U.S. by region and a new "reliance index," demonstrating how dependent regional economies are on these institutions. Data is available for 524 multi-county regions, both metro and nonmetro, and can be accessed **here**, along with FAQs and a research brief produced by the Philadelphia Fed about the Anchor Economy Dashboard findings.

RESEARCH FELLOW OPPORTUNITY

One research fellowship will be available in FY22. Proposals for research papers should meet the following criteria:

- Leverage the Anchor Economy Dashboard to establish and examine the research question under consideration. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:
    - Examining anchor institution collaboratives: their genesis, challenges, and impact
    - The impact of anchor institutions on regional supply chains and the implications for regional entrepreneurship, the support of local, minority-owned businesses, and/or regional economic growth
    - Examining anchor institution behavior and impact on community development in regions of different characteristics, such as concentration of anchor institutions according to the Reliance Index, sociodemographic characteristics, urban/rural distinctions, or population or other change over time.

- Expected deliverable: CUMU and the Anchor Economy Initiative at the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank have identified two forms of acceptable deliverable for this project:
  Required: A research brief/report to be submitted to the Philadelphia Fed and CUMU. See **here** for examples of research briefs the Philadelphia Fed publishes.
  Optional:
  A journal article to be submitted to the *Metropolitan Universities* journal or similar journal;
  CUMU-Anchor Economy webinar and/or conference where the research results will be shared and discussed
- Submit a proposal not to exceed 1,000 words that includes the following:
    - Research question to be answered in the research paper and significance of this research question in the field
    - Description of how the Anchor Economy Dashboard will be used to frame and/or answer the research question
    - How this question fits into the interests, background and prior research of the proposer
    - Description of any additional data sets and research techniques that will be used in the research, including collaborators and research assistants, if applicable
    - Timeline and publication plan for the finished research brief and any other dissemination plans.
- One fellow will be selected. CUMU and the Anchor Economy Initiative at the Philadelphia Federal Reserve will support the research fellow in the following ways:
    - An award of $5,000, $2,500 at the initiation of the project and an additional $2,500 upon submission of the research report or article for publication which should occur no later than August 31, 2023
    - Opportunity to participate in a CUMU-Anchor Economy webinar and/or conference where the research results will be shared and discussed
    - Consultations with the Director of the Anchor Economy Initiative at the Philadelphia Fed and the Executive Director of CUMU, and connections/introductions to other scholars and practitioners in the field

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP DECISION AND AWARD

- A panel of reviewers from CUMU and the Anchor Economy Initiative at the Philadelphia Federal Reserve will review submissions received by November 28, 2022
- One research fellowship will be awarded and the awardee will be notified by December 16, 2022
- The research fellow will be awarded $2,500 at the initiation of the project and an additional $2,500 at the time of acceptance for publication of the research report or article
- Submissions must be from a faculty member, staff, post-doc or doctoral student from a CUMU member institution
- Use of the Anchor Economy Dashboard is subject to the Philadelphia Fed's data usage and terms of use policy
- The timeline for the Research Fellowship is as follows:
    - Opportunity is announced at CUMU convening October 24-26, 2022
    - Proposals accepted until January 6, 2023
    - Research Fellowship announcement January 27, 2023
    - Submission of article or research report for publication by August 31, 2023