The 65th C2ER + LMI Institute Annual Conference
2025 Call for Sessions

The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) and the Labor Market Information (LMI) Institute are currently soliciting proposals for the next annual conference, which is currently planned to be a solely in-person event on **May 28 - 30, 2025** in **Sacramento, CA.** Below is information on this year's conference and details on how to submit your proposal.

Breakout sessions and individual presentations are a key component to the success of our conference. They enable our attendees to share, learn, converse, and interact with one another on topics of mutual interest and compare research methods, data collection practices, visualization tools, and lessons learned in the field. **We invite members and non-members to submit session proposals by ~~Friday, October 11, 2024.~~ Thursday, October 31, 2024 (Deadline extended!).**

Theme
This year we will be developing the theme based on the proposals received. Our working theme is *Sacramento 2025*.

About the Conference
The 2024 C2ER + LMI Institute Annual Conference included over 275 attendees and speakers who are primarily researchers from state labor market information, economic development, and workforce development offices; community colleges; workforce boards; and other organizations in the economic and workforce development fields.

The 2025 Annual Conference will be held in-person for individual breakout sessions. This provides a great opportunity to expand your network and present your research to a large audience of your peers. The conference includes a variety of keynote and plenary speakers, and roundtables to offer extensive networking and the opportunity to see data-driven community, workforce, and economic development in action.

Structure & Format
Breakout sessions will be in-person. We seek to create unique learning opportunities for attendees and encourage you to propose new and innovative ways to use this time to share new knowledge and approaches, facilitate panel discussions, and/or engage in active conversations. We are open to a variety of session formats, including traditional sessions (i.e. individual presentations; traditional panels of three 15-20-minute presentations; facilitated roundtable discussions).

Skill building workshops: If you host a **FREE** data tool, website, or have a skillset that you would like to share with business and community researchers, we want to hear from you! Please note that the session is expected to offer an introduction to your data tool or website and a "hands-on" experience to allow participants to gain practical experience with the data, walk away with new skills, and possibly access a new tool for their work going forward. Workshops should be between 45 minutes and two hours long.

We encourage researchers and analysts from all diverse backgrounds to share their experiences. We also want to hear from our newer researchers. This could be your chance to make a mark on the community, workforce, and economic research profession for years to come! We're always looking for new leaders and a fresh set of contributors.

Session Ideas

Proposals may address one or more of the following sub-topics, research questions, and ideas listed below.

- **Play and Say the Data Way:** Innovation in the practice of data gathering methodology and dissemination.

- **What's Live for '25?:** Updates or upcoming datasets, series, research tools and/or data sources.

- **The Future of Research:** Emerging practices in community, workforce, and economic research.

- **Addressing the five R's of Data:** Reliability, Representativeness, Readiness, Reporting, and Replicability.

- **Data for the People:** Research impact on communities, Policy advancement, promotion of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion).

- **Let's Talk A.I.:** Updates surrounding A.I. and its interaction in economic and workforce development research.

- **High Frequency Data:** innovative real time data, unemployment insurance data, etc. Technical Skills Workshops.

Please do not feel limited to these session focus areas.

Instructions

- Please submit proposals via our submission portal. This helps keep the committee organized and ensures no one is inadvertently overlooked. Only proposals submitted via the submission portal will be considered. If you're having trouble with the proposal process or completing the form, please let us know.
- Sessions must be centered on economic and/or workforce development research or the use of data to make economic and/or workforce development policy decisions.
- Proposals should mention how it relates to topics in economic and workforce development research.
- Full panel Sessions (usually with three presenters) are approximately 60 minutes. Individual presentations are 15-20 minutes long.
- Session proposals are due by **COB on Thursday, October 31, 2024**.

Guidelines

- C2ER and LMI Institute members and nonmembers alike are invited to submit a proposal.
- **Proposal descriptions are limited to 200 words.** Proposals with descriptions beyond 200 words will not be considered.
- Each organization can submit a maximum of three proposals.
- Proposals may not be submitted on behalf of another organization.
- **Vendors are eligible to propose "Vendor Sponsored Sessions." They will not be considered for other sessions.** For a proposal to be accepted as a Vendor Sponsored Session, it should be topical and informative. Sales or marketing sessions will not be considered. We will happily work with vendors seeking to make a proposal to ensure their idea meets our conference programming goals.
- There will be no financial compensation for speaking at the event.
- If you are proposing a panel, you will be responsible for confirming that panel's speakers, managing topics of focus, and organizing bios to submit to C2ER/LMI Institute prior to the event.

- C2ER/LMI Institute reserves the right to edit or make changes to proposed session titles, descriptions, modes of presentation, panels, and moderators. This includes combining proposal ideas that complement each other into one session.
- Speakers do not need to pay a fee if only presenting. If you are interested in attending the full conference, contact Spencer Abrams (sabrams@crec.net) for the prorated speaker registration fee.
- C2ER/LMI Institute will provide a response to all submitted proposals no later than **November 20, 2024**.
- Please contact Cameron Njomo (cnjomo@crec.net) with content questions.

Questions Preview

1) Contact information
2) Are you currently a member of C2ER or the LMI Institute?
3) What is the structure of your proposed session?
4) Which of the following tracks best describes your session? (Economic Development; Workforce Development; Community Development; Data Tools/Methodology; Other)
5) Proposed session title
6) Please provide a description of your proposed session.
7) Please indicate who else will be a part of your proposed session (panels are a maximum of 3 speakers total).
8) How will your proposed session use data to inform community, workforce or economic development researchers? (200 words max)
9) What other information would you like to provide about your proposal?

About C2ER

Founded in 1961, the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) is a membership organization that promotes excellence in community and economic research by working to improve data availability, enhance data quality, and foster learning about regional economic analytic methods. C2ER's 1,000+ members span a broad range of specialty skills and collectively touch all aspects of community and economic development in the U.S. and Canada. C2ER accomplishes this mission by:

- Conducting training, advocacy, and research.
- Delivering innovative products and services for researchers.
- Developing professional networks.

About the LMI Institute

The Labor Market Information (LMI) Institute is the pre-eminent resource for supporting the development, interpretation, and use of labor market information. The LMI Institute supports and promotes the production and use of high-quality workforce and employment information by:

- Providing training and professional development to state and other LMI professionals.
- Improving the knowledge, skills, and understanding of LMI customers.
- Offering management, staffing, and coordination to support the nationwide LMI infrastructure.
- Fostering and encouraging the use of local, state, and national LMI in decision-making related to workforce development, economic development, education, and other relevant policy areas.