The 67th C2ER + LMI Institute Annual Conference
2027 Call for Proposals

Introduction

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 **June 9 – 11, 2027** in **Des Moines, IA.** 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 October 23, 2026.**

Theme

The Theme will develop based on a combination of proposals received and the direction of the Conference committee.

About the Conference

The C2ER + LMI Institute Annual Conference brings together more than 300 attendees and speakers from across the economic and workforce development community. Participants include researchers and professionals from state labor market information, economic development, and workforce development offices; community colleges; workforce boards; and other organizations working to strengthen communities and economies.

The 2027 Annual Conference will be held in person, creating valuable opportunities to expand your professional network, exchange ideas, and present your research to a broad audience of peers. The program will feature individual breakout sessions, keynote and plenary speakers, roundtable discussions, and opportunities to experience 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.

- **Fresh from the Field:** Innovation in the practice of data gathering methodology and dissemination.
- **What's Growing in '27?:** Updates or upcoming datasets, series, research tools and/or data sources.
- **Research on the Horizon:** Emerging practices in community, workforce, and economic research.
- **For the Good of the Neighborhood:** Research impact on community welfare, policy advancement, or promotion of access to opportunity.
- **AI in Action:** Updates surrounding A.I. and its interaction in economic and workforce development research.
- **High Frequency Data: Ready & Real-Time:** innovative real-time data, unemployment insurance data, etc. Technical Skills Workshops.

Please do not feel limited to these session focus areas.

Instructions

NOTE: This year, we are using a new event platform, **Pheedloop**, which will also now host the Call-for-Proposals submission portal. If you have any questions about the platform, please contact Spencer Abrams (sabrams@crec.net) or Cameron Njomo (cnjomo@crec.net) for assistance.

- 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 typically 15-20 minutes long.
- Session proposals are due by **COB on Friday, October 23, 2026**.

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 **December 11, 2026**.
- Please contact Cameron Njomo (cnjomo@crec.net) with content questions.

Questions Preview

Section 1: Start

a. Speaker Email
b. First Name
c. Last Name
d. Organization
e. Role/Title

Section 2: Session

a. Session Title
b. Session Description
    1. Please elaborate a broader topic you wish to address with your proposal.
    2. How will your proposed session use data to inform community, workforce, or economic development researchers?
c. Learning Objectives (optional)
d. Relevant Tracks
e. Relevant Formats
f. Role/Title

Section 3: Acknowledgements

a. Confirmation of C2ER or LMI Institute membership
b. Confirmation of no travel compensation
c. Confirmation of potential pairing of presentations
d. Confirmation of RFP Guideline agreement
e. Confirmation of in-person event structure

Section 4: Co-speakers (add up to three (3))

a. Email
b. Secondary Contact Email
c. First Name

d. Last Name
e. Company
f. Job Title
g. About/Bio

Section 5: Profile

a. About Me
b. First Name
c. Last Name
d. Email
e. Secondary Contact Email
f. Company
g. Job Title

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.