

ECONOMIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON THE UNINSURED, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Invitation-only Conference in Ann Arbor, MI, June 28-29, 2007

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: DECEMBER 8, 2006

Background and Purpose

The Economic Research Initiative on the Uninsured (ERIU) is a multi-year initiative launched in 2001 and funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). ERIU is housed at the University of Michigan and directed by Catherine McLaughlin, a Professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy. Primary goals of the initiative include increasing the pool of economists studying health insurance coverage and contributing solid research findings to the policy process regarding the uninsured.

In each of the past 6 summers, ERIU has held a 2-day invitation-only conference to provide an opportunity for research on the uninsured to be presented and discussed by a group of economist from across the country. The 7th annual ERIU summer research conference will be held in Ann Arbor, MI on June 28-29, 2007. We are seeking abstracts for papers to be presented at the conference. We are interested in research that will broaden our understanding of the determinants and consequences of health insurance status; the role and influence of private health insurance markets or public programs on the uninsured; the interaction between labor market dynamics and health insurance coverage; the effects of policies and programs to expand coverage for the uninsured; and the nature and determinants of changes in coverage over time.

Researchers submitting abstracts for the conference must be prepared to: (1) complete a full research paper prior to the conference, and (2) attend the 2-day conference to present their research and to participate in discussions about the other presentations. Papers presented at the conference will be distributed to conference participants and posted on ERIU's website. Discussants for each paper will be selected by ERIU, and the papers must be available to share with the discussants by no later than June 11, 2007. Travel expenses will be covered for all participants, and an honorarium will be paid to presenters and discussants.

Conference Format

The conference will begin after lunch on Thursday June 28 and conclude by 4pm on Friday June 29. The format will be similar to past ERIU conferences. The papers will be grouped thematically to the extent feasible. Presenters will have roughly 20-30 minutes to present their paper. Each presentation will be followed by formal comments from the discussant and a general discussion involving all the conference participants. Information about previous ERIU conferences can be viewed on our website, at <http://www.umich.edu/~eriu/conferences/>. Participants invited to attend the conference will include economists from across the U.S. To encourage active participation and comfortable dialogue, the number of participants will be limited to no more than 65. Participants will be selected in part from among those submitting abstracts through this solicitation.

Application Process and Deadlines

Abstracts should be roughly 500-1000 words in length and adequately describe the research problem, the data source, the research design, and how the results will advance research and policy on the uninsured. Include a separate cover page identifying each author and their affiliations. The deadline for submitting an abstract is **December 8, 2006**. Decisions about abstracts selected for the conference will be made by early January 2007 and researchers will be notified soon after.

We will select roughly 8-10 abstracts for the conference, based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the research problem being investigated to ERIU's mission
- Extent to which the proposed research fills a gap in existing knowledge about the uninsured
- Strength of the design and analytic methods
- Potential contribution to policy on the uninsured

Abstracts should be sent via email to Mary Harrington at mehn@umich.edu.

If you have questions, contact Mary Harrington at 734-936-1302 or mehn@umich.edu