



Addressing Economic Opportunity: The Minimum Wage and Other Policy Tools for State and Local Government

Jan. 5, 2016

Hilton San Francisco Union Square Hotel

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF) invites you to attend “*Addressing Economic Opportunity: The Minimum Wage and Other Policy Tools for State and Local Government*,” a symposium focused on strategies for designing high-quality research projects about the minimum wage and identifying promising policy solutions to address complex issues such as household well-being and economic mobility. The symposium will be held from **3:30 to 6 p.m. Jan. 5 at the Hilton San Francisco Union Square Hotel.**

Many communities across the country have recently passed, or are considering, increases to the minimum wage in an effort to provide greater financial stability for workers. However, the existing research on minimum wage policy does not include a comprehensive evaluation of how the minimum wage impacts workers and communities. In addition, there are other policies states and local governments should consider implementing to meaningfully improve opportunities for low-income families. This symposium will include two sessions aimed at improving the quality and depth of evidence used to inform policy decisions across the country. The first session will feature a discussion on empirical methods for evaluating the impacts of city-level minimum wage increases. The second session will focus on policy options for state and local governments that are seeking to address issues related to the economic wellbeing of individuals within their communities.

In conjunction with the symposium, LJAF has issued a [Request for Proposals](#) for transformative research evaluating minimum wage policies. The Foundation is committed to supporting initiatives that encourage governments to consider reliable evidence as one of the primary factors in decisions, and LJAF is seeking proposals for projects that rigorously evaluate the effect of minimum wage policy changes on economic opportunity, household well-being, and other factors. Those who are interested in learning more about the Foundation’s support for minimum wage policy research projects or in developing innovative approaches to pressing social problems are encouraged to attend. Registration is free. Attendees can register by emailing MinWageRFP@arnoldfoundation.org.

3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Session One

Evaluating local minimum wage policy changes: A Workshop on Empirical Methods, Data, and Early Analysis

Location: Golden Gate 1

Moderator: Michael Reich



Presenters:

- Scott W. Allard, Heather D. Hill, Mark C. Long, Jennifer Otten, Robert Plotnick, Jennifer Romich, and Jacob Vigdor, “Multi-Site Minimum Wage Study: Evaluating the Effects of the Higher Minimum Wage Ordinances in Seattle and Chicago”
- Edward Leamer, Till Von Wachter, and Frederick Zimmerman, “Monitoring the Effects of the Minimum Wage: The Los Angeles Experiment”

Discussants: David Neumark, David Autor, and Emmanuel Saez

4:30 to 6 p.m.

Session Two

Improving Economic Opportunity and Household Well-Being: A Discussion of the Minimum Wage and other Policy Tools Available to State and Local Governments

Location: Golden Gate 1

Moderator: Lawrence Katz

Panelists David Neumark, David Card, Emmanuel Saez, David Autor, and Raj Chetty will discuss policy options for state and local governments seeking to make measurable, concrete progress in addressing factors that undermine the financial stability of families, workers, and others. The discussion will highlight innovative approaches to improving economic wellbeing.

About the Laura and John Arnold Foundation

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation is working to address our nation’s most pressing and persistent challenges using evidence-based, multi-disciplinary approaches. Its strategic investments are currently focused in criminal justice, education, evidence-based policy and innovation, public accountability, research integrity, and science and technology. LJAF has offices in Houston, New York City, and Washington, D.C. www.arnoldfoundation.org