

## Resilience and Rebuilding for Low-Income Communities: Research to Inform Policy and Practice



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Supporting Community & Economic Development

*The Community Affairs Officers of the Federal Reserve System invite paper submissions for the eighth Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference to be held April 11–12, 2013, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC.*

Community development is a dynamic research arena that requires the input of a multitude of voices, sectors, and industries; the harnessing of an array of data; and the application of numerous methodologies to understand, assess, and create more sustainable and thriving neighborhoods. The 2013 Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference program committee invites papers that describe academically rigorous, applied and action-oriented research from many disciplines to inform collaborative, emerging strategies and policies that forge vibrant and resilient communities and consumers. Relevant themes may include:

**Planning for Resiliency:** Many communities, institutions, and organizations survived the economic downturn of the past few years, but some did not. Did the successful ones plan for tough times? Did they have an organizational structure in place that afforded them flexibility? Were they simply quick to respond to changing needs and opportunities?

**Collaboration and Multidisciplinary Thinking:** Connecting across silos and cultivating collaborative practices are increasingly part of the community development tool kit. Examples can be found among the social entrepreneurship, public health, planning, education, and financing fields. What does the research tell us about barriers and opportunities for collaboration, and how can we put the theories into practices?

**Assessing and Communicating Impact:** Examining approaches to evidence-based decision making and program evaluation may reveal best practices. How can researchers and practitioners effectively use qualitative and quantitative strategies to determine what works? And how can data be used for meaningful storytelling? Where are the data gaps, and what are the innovative solutions to fill them? How do we communicate findings to different audiences for greater impact?

### CORE TOPICS

While there are many issues facing low-income communities, this conference seeks to present research that addresses:

- the community development finance field after the Great Recession
- housing markets and neighborhood stabilization
- asset building and community resilience
- access to credit and financial services for consumers and small businesses
- poverty and inequality
- place-based community and economic development
- demographic change, human capital, and workforce development

Papers addressing these topics and others affecting minority and rural communities are encouraged. Research outside of these specific topics that fit within the underlying themes are also welcome, including research papers on technology innovations for community development, social entrepreneurship, transportation, microenterprise, financial education, and other related topics.

Individuals interested in presenting their research at the conference should **submit abstracts or completed papers (which will receive preference) by October 1, 2012**. Authors will present their research in panels and poster sessions, and will be notified of the program committee's decision in late 2012. Presenting authors of selected papers will be reimbursed for travel and hotel expenses.

**Please submit your paper/abstract online.** E-mail questions to Karen Leone de Nie, [karen.leonedenie@atl.frb.org](mailto:karen.leonedenie@atl.frb.org).