



New seminar series supports inclusive post-pandemic economy

by: Steven Howland

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On Aug. 3, the Federal Reserve launched a **Community Development Research Seminar Series** focused on supporting an inclusive economic recovery. Each seminar will present research on an issue critical to our economy. Presenters will discuss how the community development field can use these findings to support a recovery that benefits everyone.

The next seminar, **Oct. 21**, will examine the economic decline of women during the pandemic and their ability to participate equally in the post-recession labor market. The so-called “shcession” is throwing away decades of hard-won battles both in terms of gender equality and women’s economic gains.

Women, particularly those of color, are more likely to work in sectors hit hardest by economic closures, including health care, retail and the informal economy. Women also are more affected by the burdens of caregiving—including for children and elderly parents who are at home rather than at school or living on their own. Women entrepreneurs also are less likely than men to have access to loans and financial services that help businesses weather a downturn.

Even before the pandemic, the World Economic Forum estimated it would take 250 years to close the economic gender gap. How can we ensure economic recovery efforts include and support women? More broadly, how do we create a more equitable economic environment that offers the tools, resources and opportunities women need to thrive?

This seminar will examine these important questions related to the economic decline of women during the pandemic and their ability to participate equally in the post-recession labor market. The first panel will frame the issue, including what makes the shcession so different from previous recessions. The second will explore ideas on how to rebuild a more inclusive economy for working women.

For [more information](#) about the series, or register [here](#) for the Oct 21 seminar.

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Steven Howland is an assistant economist in the community development department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Howland performs analyses on various surveys, such as the Community Insights Survey, and those at the System level to provide insight on the conditions of LMI communities in the Kansas City District. He also conducts independent research that gives more insight into issues affecting LMI communities. Howland joined the Kansas City Fed in August 2020 after a career as a college instructor and researcher. Howland has undergraduate and graduate degrees in urban and environmental planning from Arizona State University and has a doctorate in urban studies from Portland State University. Howland enjoys reading both academic works and sci-fi/fantasy novels as well as playing video and board games. Post-pandemic, he looks forward to getting on some roller coasters and visiting craft breweries. Highlights of his work include: [“I should have moved somewhere else’: The impacts of gentrification on transportation and social support for Black working-poor families in Portland, Oregon”](#) [“Evictions and the pandemic economy in the Tenth District”](#) To learn more about Steven: [Howland researches issues facing disadvantaged populations - Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City](#) **About the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City** The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is one of 12 regional Reserve Banks that, along with the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., make up our nation's central bank. We work in the public's interest by supporting economic and financial stability. The Kansas City Fed's territory includes Colorado, Kansas, western Missouri, Nebraska, northern New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Our headquarters is in Kansas City, with branch offices in Denver, Omaha and Oklahoma City. The Kansas City Fed Community Development Department promotes economic development and public understanding that leads to progress for lower-income individuals and communities. Our focus areas include community development investments, digital inclusion, small business / entrepreneurship, and workforce development.