



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Ohio Chamber Research Foundation Fellows Program

Shaping Ohio's Workforce Future Through Research & Policy Leadership

The Ohio Chamber Research Foundation (OCRF) is seeking exceptional candidates for its inaugural Fellows Program – an initiative designed to improve Ohio's business climate through economic thought leadership, business innovation and evidence-based policy recommendations. This first class of fellows will focus on critical workforce challenges and opportunities to strengthen Ohio's economy.

About the OCRF Fellows Program

The OCRF Fellows Program will engage workforce experts from policy, academia, industry, and economic development to address Ohio's most pressing workforce challenges. For this inaugural class, fellows will focus exclusively on workforce development issues that impact Ohio's economic growth and global competitiveness. Fellows will serve as intellectual catalysts, producing insightful analysis and actionable workforce recommendations that prepare Ohio for future economic success.

Fellowship Term & Compensation

- **Term:** One-year appointment (September 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026)
- **Stipend:** \$40,000 (distributed quarterly as 1099 income)
- **Additional Support:** Travel budget for approved speaking engagements

Fellow Responsibilities

Research & Publications:

- Produce four quarterly policy briefs (2,500-5,000 words each) on topics critical to Ohio's workforce development opportunities
- Author four op-eds for publication in state or national outlets
- Develop evidence-based, actionable policy recommendations

Engagement & Outreach:

- Present at Ohio Chamber events and external conferences
- Participate in roundtable discussions with business leaders and policymakers
- Engage with media as a thought leader on economic issues
- Collaborate with business and policy stakeholders

Ideal Candidates

We seek forward-thinking workforce experts who demonstrate:

- Advanced knowledge in workforce development, labor economics, human resources, education policy, or related fields
- Experience with workforce research, training program development, or talent strategy
- Proven track record of producing high-quality research and policy analysis
- Excellent writing and communication skills
- Commitment to data-driven, balanced approaches to workforce challenges
- Familiarity with Ohio's labor market and regional economic differences
- Passion for advancing Ohio's workforce competitiveness
- Ability to translate complex workforce concepts into accessible policy recommendations
- Experience engaging with employers, educational institutions, and workforce development stakeholders (preferred)

Focus on Ohio's Workforce Challenges

For this inaugural class, a fellow will focus specifically on workforce development in Ohio. Candidates should propose research addressing one or more of these workforce-related priority areas:

- Skills gap analysis and targeted workforce development strategies
- Talent attraction and retention in key Ohio industries
- Educational alignment with employer needs and future job market demands
- Workforce participation rates and barriers to employment
- Impact of automation and AI on Ohio's workforce
- Innovative workforce training models and apprenticeship programs
- Demographic shifts and their implications for Ohio's labor market
- Remote work trends and their impact on Ohio's economic development
- Workforce housing and transportation as employment enablers
- Other workforce challenges directly impacting Ohio's economic competitiveness

Application Process

Required Materials:

1. Current resume or CV
2. Statement of interest (2 pages maximum) describing:
 - Your relevant workforce expertise and experience
 - Proposed workforce research focus and its significance to Ohio's economy
 - How your research will address specific workforce challenges in Ohio
 - Anticipated policy impact of your workforce recommendations
3. Writing sample demonstrating policy analysis capabilities
4. Two professional references

Important Dates:

- Application Deadline: June 30, 2025
- Finalist Interviews: July 7 - 18, 2025
- Selections Announced: August 1, 2025
- Fellowship Begins: September 1, 2025

How to Apply

Submit all application materials in PDF format to: research@ohiochamber.com

Please include "OCRf Fellows Program Application - [Your Name]" in the subject line.

About the Ohio Chamber Research Foundation

The Ohio Chamber Research Foundation is the research arm of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, dedicated to developing evidence-based policy solutions that improve Ohio's business climate and economic competitiveness. The Fellows Program represents a centerpiece of the Foundation's mission to advance thought leadership that drives economic growth and opportunity.

For questions about the Fellows Program, please contact:

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The Ohio Chamber Research Foundation is an equal opportunity organization and encourages applications from candidates of all backgrounds. Selection will be based on merit and alignment with program objectives.

Fellows are expected to produce balanced, evidence-based research and maintain the highest standards of intellectual integrity.