Student Upward Mobility Initiative
2024 Request for Proposals: Informational Webinar

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Housekeeping

- Event is being recorded and the recording will be posted online afterward.
- Hide captions or adjust settings with the Live Transcript button.
- Speaker biographies are available on the Events page at Urban.org.
- Participants are muted. Type your questions and comments into the Q&A box.
- Engage with us online using #LiveAtUrban.
Welcome!
Agenda

- About the Initiative
- Key Mobility Concepts
- Our 2024 RFP Areas of Interest
- Application Timeline and Details
- Q&A
About SUMI
Bottom Line: Education-to-Upward Mobility R&D Initiative Accepting Applications Now!

- 2024 RFP: $3 million in total awards
- 2-stage application process; stage 1 due Tuesday, April 30
- Optional 1-paragraph pitches due April 10
- Budget size should correspond to the project’s likely impact and proposed activities.
  - $50,000 to $500,000
- 15% indirect rate cap
- Projects duration up to 24 months
Motivation

- Education ➔ lifelong success
- Which PK–12 skills and competencies boost later economic mobility? How does context matter?
- What if educators and policymakers could measure and track a short list of PK–12 skills and competencies known to drive students’ long-term economic mobility?
Student Upward Mobility Initiative

Build an education-to-economic-mobility research field so schools, policymakers, and program designers can prioritize skills and competencies that promote the upward mobility of PK–12 students.

- Develop and strengthen PK-12 measures
- Identify PK-12 drivers of economic mobility
- Ensure relevant cross-sector data assets
Meet the Urban SUMI team

Matt Chingos
Principal Investigator

Karishma Furtado
Co-Principal Investigator

Maggie Reeves
Project Director

Victoria Nelson
Policy Analyst

Emberlin Leja
Project Manager

Fanny Terrones
Research Analyst
Meet the Advisory Council

Rekha Balu
Jennifer Bell-Ellwanger
Mesmin Destin
Angela Duckworth
Camille Farrington
John Freidman
Andrew Ho
Heather Hough
Pedro Noguera
Gene Pinkard
Lashawn Richburg-Hayes
Jesse Rothstein
The Broader SUMI Family

Dozens of other stakeholders who shared their input and perspective (policymakers, educators, advocates, parents)
SUMI's Evolving View of Mobility
Students' Later Economic Mobility

- Education can affect many domains of skills and competencies
- Economic mobility is individual-level outcome shaped by systems and context
- Economic mobility doesn't just mean $
Definition of Mobility

UPWARD MOBILITY FROM POVERTY

ECONOMIC SUCCESS

POWER & AUTONOMY

DIGNITY & BELONGING

Credit: Urban Institute's Upward Mobility Framework
Individual-Level Skills and Competencies

- Skills and competencies over experiences and credentials, e.g.,
  - ✓ math skills
  - ✗ math coursework
- Instruction and intervention → skills and competencies → upward mobility
- We know it’s complicated.
SUMI's Evolving View of Mobility

Individuals in Context

Longitudinal

Birth-PK

Post-secondary and beyond

County/Metropolitan area/beyond

School system

Neighborhood

Household

Academic Achievement

“Noncognitive” factors

Health and well-being

Social capital

Career preparation

Academic Achievement

SUMI'S EVOLVING VIEW OF MOBILITY

URBAN INSTITUTE

STUDENT UPWARD MOBILITY INITIATIVE

16
3 Ways Contextual Factors Shape Student Success in School and Beyond

1. Non-school factors that shape readiness to learn
2. Factors that affect schools and school systems' effectiveness
3. Factors that modify how success in school translates into long-term success
2024 Funding Priorities & Examples
Area of Interest #1: Developing New or Improved Measures

- Measures
  - ✓ Have a clearly articulated conceptual link to economic mobility
  - ✓ Are measured/measurable and malleable in the PK–12 school environment

- Projects
  - ✓ Might explore content alignment, reliability, or malleability
  - ✓ Might create a new measure or improve an existing one
  - ✓ Must look for heterogeneity of findings by race, ethnicity, and gender
Example: Developing New or Improved Measures

"Noncognitive” factors

- Develop a new measure of higher-order skills, e.g., teamwork in a digital learning platform

- Integrating context
  - Findings by race, ethnicity, and gender
  - Structural discussion of findings
  - Measure alignment with self- and teacher evaluations of a student’s teamwork skills; how alignment differs by student factors and student-teacher identity concordance
Area of Interest #2: Connecting PK-12 skills and competencies to economic mobility

✓ Must connect PK–12 data for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to economic mobility

✓ May test new potential correlates or study established correlates for heterogeneity of associations across groups of interest

✓ Correlational or causal

✓ Must look for heterogeneity of relationships by race, ethnicity, and gender.
Example: Connecting PK-12 skills and competencies to economic mobility

Different types of math skills

- High school math scores are associated with higher earnings in adulthood. But what math skills actually matter?

- Link data on math test subscales in the 1990s or 2000s to adult earnings

- Integrating context
  - Relationships by race, ethnicity, and gender and engage in a structural discussion of findings
  - Examine how occupational segregation or labor market discrimination moderates the relationship
Data Assets

- Looking for longitudinal datasets that follow students from PK–12 into adulthood
- Increase access → increase breadth of research and researchers
- Not in RFP per se but have funds set aside to support over the next two years
- Please reach out to the SUMI team or contact SUMI@urban.org if you believe a data asset could be mobilized for a portfolio of SUMI research.

So how do you get a grant?
SUMI and You
RFP Administrative Details

- Application open now
- $50,000-500,000 budgets; 15% IDC
- Up to 24 month duration
- Mandatory LOI; invited full proposals
Apply! And Tell Your Friends!

- **RFP launches**: 3/11
- **Deadline for quick email reactions**: 4/10
- **Invitations for full proposals go out**: 5/15
- **Award notifications sent**: 8/30

- **Informational webinars**: 3/22 & 3/27
- **LOI deadline**: 4/30
- **Full proposal deadline**: 6/28
A Strong Proposal Advances SUMI's Values

- Initiative alignment
- Feasibility
- Individuals in context
- National learnings
- Equity
- Rigor
- Interdisciplinarity
What We're Looking For

- Across academic, "noncognitive," health and well-being, social capital, and career preparedness domains
  - Develop new or improved measures of skills and competencies
    - Have a theoretical link to economic mobility
    - Be measured or measurable in the PK-12 school environment
    - Be malleable within the school context
  - Generate evidence on how well one or more existing measures of PK-12 skills or competencies are correlated with upward mobility
    - Must include data for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds
    - You propose how to define how you measure upward mobility (economic success, power/autonomy, dignity/sense of belonging)
Next Steps

- Check out full RFP and our community photoblog on the SUMI website studentupwardmobility.urban.org
- Sign up to stay up to date with SUMI (see chat for sign up link)
- Share this opportunity with colleagues
- Submit a one-paragraph idea for quick feedback SUMI@urban.org
- Complete the event survey (see chat for link)
Questions?
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