

Economics of Poverty Workshop: A Half-Day Primer on the Economics and Statistics of Poverty

What: Economics of Poverty Workshop for Vancouver Poverty Advocacy NGOs and Non-Profits
When: Wednesday June 17, 2009, 9:30a.m. – 12:30p.m., lunch included
Where: SFU Harbour Centre, 515 W. Hastings St, Vancouver, Room TBA
Facilitator: Krishna Pendakur, Professor of Economics, SFU
Cost: Free

Learn how to increase the effectiveness of your interactions with governments: Since politicians and government bureaucrats speak the languages of economics and statistics, increased economic and quantitative literacy may help you better communicate and advocate for poor peoples' issues.

The economic issues to be covered in the workshop include:

Part 1: Why are people poor and what policies are relevant?

- a) Education c) Income transfers e) Refundable tax benefits
- b) Minimum wages d) Payroll taxes f) Pensions

Part 2: What are the economic effects of poverty?

- a) How persistent is poverty?
- b) How are high rents and low incomes related to homelessness?
- c) Homelessness and individual problems---two-way causality

Workshop agenda:

9:30 Registration/Coffee, tea, muffins
9:45 Workshop Part 1: Why are People Poor and What Policies are Relevant? (55 min)
10:40 Break (10 min)
10:50 Workshop Part 2: What are the Economic Effects of Poverty? (55 min)
11:45 Lunch (lunch will be provided)
12:30 End of Workshop

At the end of this workshop, you will:

1. Have an increased ability to talk about the economics of poverty and anti-poverty programs with government types, and
2. Have an increased awareness and understanding of the magnitudes of effects that policy people worry about. For example, many advocacy people find it offensive when policy people talk about the way welfare makes people not want to work. Knowledge of the empirical magnitude of this effect, learned in the workshop, may be helpful to you.

Take-homes: Hand-outs will be provided.

TO REGISTER: E-mail a completed registration form to Jennifer Hales at: economicsofpoverty@gmail.com

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday June 8, 2009. SPACE IS LIMITED SO REGISTER EARLY!

Krishna Pendakur is a Professor of Economics at Simon Fraser University <http://www.sfu.ca/~pendakur/> and Co-Director of the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Diversity at Metropolis British Columbia <http://mbc.metropolis.net>. He has done research on the economics of poverty, inequality and discrimination in Canada and around the world for the past 15 years.

E-mail: pendakur@sfu.ca Phone: 778-782-5501 Web: www.sfu.ca/~pendakur