

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS TO WORKSHOP**

**CONDUCTING RESEARCH USING  
THE SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SIPP)  
February 28 – March 2, 2014**

**Lead Instructor: H. Luke Shaefer (University of Michigan)**

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUESTED BY: Monday, November 18, 2013 at 5 PM**

The [Triangle Census Research Network](#) (TCRN) and the [Duke Initiative in Survey Methodology](#) at the [Social Science Research Institute](#) at Duke University, in collaboration with the [Institute for Social Research](#) at the University of Michigan, invites applications to participate in a three-day workshop February 28 - March 2, 2014, in Durham NC. Funding for the workshop is provided via a grant from the National Science Foundation and the US Bureau of the Census to the TCRN.

The workshop will introduce participants to the use of micro-data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and provide the necessary foundations for participants to conduct their own SIPP-based research project. The SIPP collects longitudinal subannual data on respondents' income, labor force activity, household composition, health, migration, and eligibility for and participation in programs (e.g. TANF, WIC, Medicare, Medicaid, and numerous others). As such, it provides unique opportunities to examine the social and economic well-being of U.S. residents, and changes in residents' experiences over time.

H. Luke Shaefer, Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan and National Poverty Center (NPC) Research Affiliate, will lead the workshop in collaboration with researchers at Duke University, the U.S. Census Bureau and other nationally recognized SIPP scholars. The Triangle Census Research Network will pay travel, lodging, and meal costs for a limited number of participants. In addition, participants have the opportunity to receive a stipend to defray travel expenses to present research they have undertaken using SIPP data at a future academic conference.

The workshop will extend over three days, with presentations, training, and exercises scheduled to run approximately eight hours each day. Participants will develop an understanding of how SIPP data are collected and how they can be accessed, will hear presentations of research done using SIPP data and have opportunities to discuss those projects, and will extract, work with, and analyze microdata files from the public-use SIPP.

*The workshop will include a combination of hands-on lab sessions, discussion-based working sessions, and expert research panels with the following aims:*

- Examine uses of the SIPP and its content and design. Discuss research opportunities and challenges, including practical analytic tips for handling the SIPP's complex sample design.
- Introduce participants to new SIPP data products, including the SIPP Synthetic Beta and the newly redesigned SIPP.
- Provide hands-on demonstrations for accessing public-use SIPP data; provide overview of processes involved in accessing restricted-use SIPP data and advantages and disadvantages of each data resource.
- Provide hands-on demonstrations of analyses of SIPP data related to such core foci as poverty, inequality, and health, and both the changing and constant aspects of these attributes and experiences.
- Provide participants with an opportunity to conduct analyses for their own research projects and produce preliminary findings along with an appropriate public-use SIPP data set that can be used when the participant returns to her/his home institution.

This workshop will not offer instruction in statistics or formal research methods, but the presentations will cover the use of weighted data, tests of significance, analysis of variance models and both OLS and logistic regression models.

## To Apply

Applications will be accepted from faculty, postdoctoral fellows, advanced doctoral students, federal, state and local-level policy and research analysts, researchers at non-profit organizations, and others who would benefit from this workshop. Preference will be given to applicants who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Analysts who work for government agencies and nonprofit organizations who do not have access to instruction on using the Survey of Income and Program Participation.
- Emerging scholars (Assistant Professors, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Advanced Doctoral Students) working at universities and colleges that do not offer instruction in the use of SIPP.
- Members of groups historically under-represented in the social sciences. Faculty members, students, and researchers from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applicants should submit their proposal online via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/SIPPworkshop-spring2014>. Proposals received by 5 PM Eastern Time on Monday, November 18, 2013 will get full consideration. The application should be submitted by filling out the online form and uploading (using the provided buttons) as PDFs the following elements:

- Curriculum vita or resume
- A brief summary of your current research or analysis activities and a description of how analyses of the SIPP Microdata will benefit your research and/ or the analysis needs of your agency or organization (no more than 4 pages)

### Please direct questions to:

Alexandra Cooper

Associate Director for Education and Training, Social Science Research Institute, Duke University

Email: [cooper@duke.edu](mailto:cooper@duke.edu)

Phone: (919) 681-3902

### Proposals received by 5 PM Eastern Time on Monday, November 18, 2013 will get full consideration.

Applicants who submit by the November 18 deadline will be notified about the status of their application no later than Monday, December 16th, 2013.

This workshop is part of the NSF-Census Research Network projects of Duke University and of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. It is funded by National Science Foundation Grant No. SES 1131897. It expands availability of training on conducting research using SIPP data, and is based on a similar workshop previously facilitated by the National Poverty Center of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

### **Survey of Income and Program Participation**

The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a panel survey that is representative of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population. It is a primary source of data on household income, labor force information, program participation, and general demographic characteristics in the United States. It is often used to estimate the effectiveness of existing federal, state, and local programs; to estimate future costs and coverage for government programs, such as food stamps; and to provide improved statistics on the distribution of income and measures of economic well-being in the country.

The survey design is a nearly continuous series of national panels, with sample sizes ranging from approximately 14,000 to 40,000 interviewed households. The duration of each panel ranges from 2 ½ years to 4 years, with the most recent panel starting at the end of 2008 and scheduled to end at the end of 2012. The SIPP sample is a multistage-stratified sample of the U.S. civilian non-institutionalized population. The survey uses a 4-month recall period. Interviews are conducted by personal visit and by decentralized telephone.

The survey was designed also to provide a broader context for analysis by adding questions on a variety of topics not covered in the core section. These questions are labeled "topical modules" and are assigned to particular interviewing waves of the survey. Topics covered by the modules include personal history, child care, wealth, program eligibility, child support, utilization and cost of health care, disability, school enrollment, taxes, and annual income.

For more information, please visit the SIPP website at: <http://www.census.gov/sipp>