



The Jacob
france

Institute

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

A Word from the Leadership Team

2014 has been an exciting year of growth at the Jacob France Institute (JFI). Our portfolio of research and evaluations continued to expand nationally as agencies and organizations took advantage of JFI's steadily growing reputation for rigorous and objective expertise.

For example, JFI partnered with the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy network and the U.S. Department of Education Privacy Technical Assistance Center to host a two-day Integrating Education, Social Services and Workforce Data: a Collaborative Research Opportunities forum in April, convening many nationally renowned experts in integrated data system on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. Closer to home, the Institute's 5th annual Baltimore Data Day, co-hosted by our partners at the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, drew more than 230 to campus in July. At the same event, these participants enjoyed the fruits of JFI-BNIA's partnership with the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute during "Reverse Research Day." The event drew from the worlds of data analysis and expertise in government and public policy, community stewardship, advocacy work, the natural environment, and more. JFI-BNIA also teamed up with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond to be part of a multi-city conversation about "Smart Cities."

But the Jacob France Institute is about more than events. The Institute's BNIA project published its twelfth annual Vital Signs report, providing immediate and long-term value for those who are working to improve the quality of life in Baltimore. Offering much more than just numbers and a narrative, Vital Signs is the product of a diverse cross section of individuals and organizations who are helping us know about our communities and make smarter decisions.

JFI takes great pride in its rigorous research standards, cautious data management, and long-standing relationships with various government agencies—relationships rooted in trust and shared responsibility. Our contributions are often highlighted in national

forums, and it's not unusual for our team to be called upon to make high-profile presentations on Maryland workforce, business, education, and social service topics. This year, our Workforce Data Quality Initiative reports, such as *Toward A Business Case for Sustained Investment in State Longitudinal Integrated Data Systems*, again received nationwide recognition. In partnership with the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, we also completed a series of studies covering the state's job skills gap and its new-hires dynamics, education transition into workforce, and economic and fiscal contribution of the state's workforce development services. JFI continued to offer data linkage, data management and technical assistance to multiple government agencies, such as Maryland Department of Human Resources, Baltimore City Department of Social Services, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, and U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

What is coming up for the Jacob France Institute? In the next year, in addition to our continued research and data projects collaborating with multiple city, state, Federal government agencies, we will complete research on the interaction of Maryland's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Unemployment Insurance program. We have established new initiatives in the District of Columbia, and expect to add partnerships in Virginia as well.

We look forward to our Dean's appointment of a new Institute director effective in July 2015. Seema Iyer and Ting Zhang will continue to offer leadership team continuity when David Stevens relinquishes his administrative responsibilities next year.

Without much effort, you can find JFI—in the news, in that report on your desk, on our website, and in the important decision-making process that occurs at the city, state and national levels. Truly, we impact lives. And we enjoy working with you.



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Our Mission

The Jacob France Institute (JFI) serves as a leading source of high quality statistical information and research covering the interaction of business, worker, education, social services, community development, and government investment decisions. Analysis of trends in the location, dynamics of businesses and entrepreneurship, and quality of employment along with continued education and training opportunities and outcomes are of particular importance in our current portfolio of research. We manage and participate in alliances with research partners in other states to further discovery of new information that shapes important business and government policy decisions. In conducting our research we respect privacy, protect confidentiality, and shun partisanship.

JFI Programs

Business Dynamics and Entrepreneurship

Dynamics of business and entrepreneurship has always been a focus of research conducted by the JFI team. The series of state and local business dynamics reports produced since 2009 have consistently been well received among decision makers. The series of reports provide most current trends in business expansion, contraction, opening, closure and ownership changes with employment size classes and industry nuances. The JFI team also produced deliverables focused on Maryland's closed businesses, and new businesses with geographic disparity, industry distribution, and workers' mobility details.

Education and Labor Markets

Education and labor market dynamics is one of our core competences. We continue to build on decades of human capital research, evaluation and technical assistance experience in partnership with Maryland, regional and national sponsor organizations. We have been tracking Maryland state and local employment dynamics, workers' human capital and workers' mobility across businesses, industries, locations, earnings class for years. Our studies of the public-private composition of education and training investments, and the respective returns on these investments, align with our portfolio of business and employment dynamics research. Synergies between the education and labor programs are advanced by on-demand access to the multi-faceted talents of Institute team members. We remain poised to deliver high value to organizations that recognize the importance of

performance measurement beyond the limited metrics required by federal agencies.

Human Services

The Human Services Program provides statistical information and research on the provision of human services in Maryland. The information is used to support policy makers in decisions concerning the most disadvantaged groups in society with the goal of promoting independence and providing opportunities to succeed. The focus is on programs that support the ability to work, including job development, child care, food assistance and cash assistance. In partnership with federal and state agencies and other academic institutions, research priorities are the development of high quality data sources through evaluations of data accuracy and the integration of data bases, evaluation of programs and the measurement of performance.

Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance

The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance has been producing quality of life indicators for Baltimore's neighborhoods since 2000. The indicators are bits of information that when compiled together, reflect the profile of places. By continuously monitoring neighborhoods, we can notice changes that might not be evident without this ongoing measurement.

With the release of Vital Signs 12 this year, we continue to work with a wide variety of stakeholders to figure out what data is available to help neighborhoods, which requires talking to communities, planning with them as they envision their future, and using the Vital Signs indicators to track progress towards their goals.



2014 JFI Projects and Reports

Data Management and Analysis Technical Assistance to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Sponsor: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Adult Learning and Literacy Services (DLLR)

Administrative data was maintained in compliance with changing state and federal reporting requirements, and to be responsive to management needs. Data analysis was conducted and performance measures were submitted to the Maryland General Assembly, the Maryland Governor's StateStat accountability meetings and the U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DOE). Ad-hoc management reports were also generated. Responsibilities include performing data quality diagnostics, matching state adult education data with internal and external data sources for required education and employment outcomes, as well as optimizing data collection, matching and reporting procedures.

Federal Employment Data Exchange System (FEDES)

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA), and Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. (DLLR)

FEDES provides information on federal employment to participating states to help them meet their reporting requirements. The JFI is responsible for the technical operations of FEDES which include conducting four quarterly data exchanges during this past fiscal year between participating states and three federal agencies (Office of Personnel Management, Department of Defense, and the U.S. Postal Service). Currently 43 states participate in FEDES.

Reports: Quarterly "Request Response Reports" delivered to DOL/ETA Survey to FEDES states for performance measurement purposes.

Website: www.ubalt.edu/jfi/FEDES

Skills Gap Estimates for Institutional and Individual Decision-Making: A progress Report

Sponsor: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR)

The project analyzed skill gaps between labor supply and demand. The supply includes new graduates and workers education attainment details; the demand includes new hires and employment nuances. The analysis is conducted across demographics, level of education attainment, degree disciplines, types of employers, earnings levels, employment industries and occupations. The mobility from study disciplines to employment industries and occupations is a focal point of the project. The project also analyzed spatial mismatch between place of residence and place of work across Maryland counties. The impact from the most recent recession was also analyzed. The project drew data from multiple sources ranging from 2001 through 2012.

Report: "Skills Gap Estimates for Institutional and Individual Decision-Making: A Progress Report"

Website: <http://www.jacob-france-institute.org/wp-content/uploads/JFI-Skills-Gap-Report-to-DLLR-6-30-14-FINAL-0729.pdf>.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative Year Three Study

Sponsor: US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, under a partnership of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) Office of Workforce Information and Performance and the Jacob France Institute

This study was the third in a series of reports completed under a three-year Workforce Data Quality Initiative award of federal funds to the DLLR by the Employment and Training Administration of the U.S. DOL. Relying on authorized access to the multiple administrative records for all or some of the intervening years, the study assembled a truly longitudinal integrated analytical data file comprised of confidential administrative record extracts drawn from multiple education and workforce sources covering up to nearly three decades between 1984 and 2012. This study responded to an urgent need. The flow of federal funds invested in the development of state education and workforce integrated data systems is scheduled to end state by state between now and 2016. Prospects for future federal investment in state data system integration will depend upon the business case that is made for doing so, justifying this allocation over popular competing alternatives. This study delivered evidence-based advances in the development of a strong business case for continued

investment in actionable longitudinal state integrated data systems and offered states a practical research design that can quickly add power to the business case through expanded geographic and time span coverage. It improved public understanding of the limits of what can be learned and acted upon based on longitudinal integrated data access alone, accompanied by specific recommendations about gaps in understanding that will remain unless and until additional relevant data elements are collected. The study called for pertinent decision making roles include governors and key legislators that hold the keys to future state education and training investments, future postsecondary students, postsecondary leadership teams, career counselors, and public employment and training program administrators.

Report: *Toward A Business Case for Sustained Investment in State Longitudinal Data Systems.*

Website: <http://www.jacob-france-institute.org/wp-content/uploads/JFI-WDQI-Year-Three-Research-Report1.pdf>

The Estimated Economic and Fiscal Contribution of the Workforce Development Services Provided by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation of the State of Maryland

Sponsor: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) Office of Workforce Information and Performance

The Maryland DLLR retained the JFI of the Merrick School of Business at the University of Baltimore to analyze the economic and fiscal contribution of DLLR's workforce development programs in terms of the increased earnings of persons finding work after obtaining workforce development services from DLLR under either the Wagner-Peyser or Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs. Two separate analyses of data for State Program Year 2012 were also conducted.

Data Linkage and Technical Services to the Maryland Department of Human Resources

Sponsor: Maryland Department of Human Resources, Family Investment Administration (DHR)

For the first component, employment and earnings calculations for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients in each Maryland county were provided to DHR and used for various performance measures for local Departments of Social Services. Using state administration data, the second component examines the pattern of entries

and exits to and from Maryland's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to identify changes in caseload flows that may have occurred due to the recession. The third component documents pre-recession through post-recession trends in job opportunities for Mid-Maryland welfare recipients using Maryland administrative data and employment data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics program. Ad hoc reporting includes data reports on various aspects of TANF recipient employment. The fifth component involves defining, developing and maintaining Technical Assistance Reviews and statistical measures of performance for local Departments of Social Services.

Reports: *Trends in Job Opportunities for Mid-Maryland Welfare Recipients: Including divergent trends in Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Caseloads.* June 2014.

Website: <http://www.jacob-france-institute.org/wp-content/uploads/New-Hires-2014.pdf>

Economic Research on the Joint Contribution of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Unemployment Insurance (UI) to the Nation's Safety Net

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service

JFI is the lead partner of a five state consortium (Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan and Texas) analyzing the interaction of SNAP caseload and recipient household composition dynamics aligned with receipt of UI benefits and participation in UI covered employment. Using linked state administrative records for SNAP, UI wage records and UI benefits, the alignment in time between individuals' receipt of UI benefits and SNAP benefits is examined, including how much overlap occurs in the receipt of



benefits and how long do households receive UI benefits before receiving SNAP benefits.

MD Longitudinal Data System (MD LDS)

Sponsor: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (MD DLLR)

JFI participates with the MD DLLR, the State Department of Education, the University System of Maryland, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission in the ongoing design and development of the MD LDS and Data Center. JFI's role to date has been pro bono.

Technical Assistance Services to the Family Investment Administration of Baltimore City Department of Social Services (BCDSS)

Sponsor: BCDSS, Family Investment Administration (FIA)

JFI provides technical assistance in the area of performance measurement and project management relating to CenterStat, the Center Report Card, tracking the performance of BCDSS service providers and other project management tasks, including data analysis, policy analysis and management analysis. The JFI contributes to the development and implementation of new standard operating procedures and best practices.

Reports: Quarterly data reports containing information on employment of TANF recipients, by local department in Baltimore City. *Trends in Employment Opportunities for Baltimore City Welfare Recipients*- June 2014

Website: <http://dhr.maryland.gov/county/baltimorecity/index.php>

Maryland Education Program Participant Workforce Transitions

Sponsors: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)

Employment and earnings calculations were provided to the DLLR Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning's Adult Education/Literacy Services and Correctional Education Programs. The Maryland UI Wage records were the source of this information.

MHEC's Workforce Data System received information regarding participant performance in Occupational Training Programs eligible for funding through the WIA. Graduates of these programs were tracked into the Maryland workforce, as well as adjacent states (DC, NJ, OH, PA, VA, WV) through The Regional Administrative Data Exchange

(TRADE) matches and Federal U.S. Civilian employment through Federal Employment Data Exchange System (FEDES) matches.

Maryland Community Colleges

Sponsors: Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC)

MACC was provided documentation of employment for occupation graduates of all Maryland community colleges as per MHEC. Performance Accountability Report (PAR) requirement due annually on September 1. The report includes median annual earnings the year prior to graduation and then 3 years post-graduation. With the Abell Foundation, research study of credit degree programs and credit and non-credit certificate programs at Baltimore City Community College and Community College of Baltimore County. Reported employment and earnings outcomes for various degree/certificates and compared them to local labor market supply and demand. In addition, we documented discontinued degrees/certificates and completion requirement differences between the two institutions. Study is ongoing.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Maryland and DC

Sponsors: Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Office of the State Superintendent of Education/DC, Community College of DC (OSSE/CCDC)

MSDE's Division of Career and College Readiness was provided employment, earnings and post-secondary participation information for the U.S. DOE Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act State reports. The "Consolidated Annual Performance, Accountability, and Financial Status Report for State Administered CTE Programs," better known as the "CAR Report" is submitted annually by December 31st of each year. We provided the Office of Data Management/ Office of Career and Technical Education at OSSE historical earnings and employment data from MD UI records, TRADE, and FEDES matches for their students in preparation of work with employment outcome data to be included in the P-20W State LDS. In addition, CAR Report information was provided to both OSSE and CCDC.

Report: *A Perspective on the Intersection of the CEDS 4.0 CTE and Workforce Domains.*

Website: <http://www.jacob-france-institute.org/wp-content/uploads/NACTEI-2014-CEDS-panel-presentation-5-8-14.pdf>

Data Linkages and Technical Services to Multiple Maryland Non-Profit Agencies

Sponsors: Central Scholarship Bureau (CSB), Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore (BHSB), Center for Urban Families (CFUF), Marian House, Caroline Center, 2nd Chance/Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED)

For all non-profit clients, tracked program participants into the workforce. Analyses were stratified by various demographic and program specific variables (e.g., gender, ethnicity, age, program completion, length of program participation, ex-offender status). Program participants included scholarship recipients (CSB), substance abuse treatment participants (BHSB), workforce development training (CFUF, 2nd Chance/MOED), and women's shelter stays (Marian House, Caroline Center).

Software Engineering Business Analysis Technical Assistance to the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Sponsor: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Adult Learning and Literacy Services (DLLR)

Business rules, technical requirements and performance standards were developed in close collaboration with DLLR and its vendor for procurement, development and deployment of a new adult education database. Responsibilities include monitoring development progress, verifying vendor's implementation of requirements, and providing recommendations for managing the third-party vendor. To ensure a smooth system transition, the old database was maintained for continuing data extracts and migration.

Entrepreneurship, Business and Economy

The JFI team has conducted various entrepreneurship projects this year. First, the Emerging Technology Center (ETC) retained JFI to analyze the economic impact of its current tenants and recent graduates on the Baltimore City economy. In addition, JFI's Ting Zhang gave national speeches, published academic journal articles, completed book chapters on entrepreneurship, served as a judge for Startup Maryland at UB, and worked closely with the campus wide entrepreneurship faculty cohort.

Reports and Articles:

- (1) *The Economic Contribution of Current Tenants of the Emerging Technology Center and Baltimore*

City ETC Graduate Companies To the Baltimore City Economy."

Sponsor: Emerging Technology Center

Website: <http://www.ubalt.edu/jfi/documents/ETC2014.pdf>.

- (2) *Does Working for Oneself, not Others, Improve Older Adults' Health? An Investigation on Health Impact of Self-Employment.* Zhang, T. and Carr, D. (2014). *American Journal of Entrepreneurship*. Volume 7(1). Page 142–180.
- (3) *The Retired, the Resigned, or the Laid-off? Who Are the Urban Self-employed?"* Zhang, T. (2014). *Global Journal of Management and Business Research*, Volume 14 Issue 4.
- (4) *What Drives Post-Retirement Age Self-Employment? An Investigation of Social, Policy and Individual Factors.* Zhang, T. (2014, accepted). in N. Sappleton and F. Lourenço (ed). *Entrepreneurship, Self-Employment and Retirement*, Palgrave MacMillan.
- (5) *Existing and New Business Origins of Employment Growth—Recovery from a Recession: What Should We Expect This Time?"* Zhang, T. (2014, under review). in E. Mack and H. Qian (ed). *Geography of Entrepreneurship*, Routledge.

Vital Signs 12 Provides Data Tracking Quality of Life in Baltimore's Neighborhoods

Annual Report and New Website Integrates Data to Show What's Important to City Neighborhoods

Vital Signs 12, a comprehensive statistical portrait of Baltimore and its neighborhoods, marks a new stage for reporting on key "quality of life" indicators. The 12th edition of the report, published by the Baltimore



Neighborhood Indicators Alliance-Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI), tracks more than 150 indicators to take the pulse of neighborhood health and vitality. The report is available now on BNIA-JFI's newly updated website, which launched in May 2014. Vital Signs 12 highlights a well-defined set of both long-standing and newly emerging issues that are important for understanding Baltimore's unique neighborhoods. Specifically:

Housing Market Improves, but Still Vulnerable:

- median sales price increased in 2012 for the first time since 2006 to \$135,000;
- percentage of homes with rehabilitation permits increased to 2.6 percent;
- new construction permits increased to 0.9 per 1,000 homes;
- cash-based as well as distressed sales through foreclosures declined.

However:

- the percentage of homes receiving foreclosure filing in Baltimore City increased to 1.4 percent;
- homes with a Vacant House Notice violations rose from 7.8 percent in 2011 to 8 percent in 2012.

Economic Development is Key to Community Health:

- When residents in many of Baltimore's most distressed neighborhoods are asked about ways to improve quality of life, the first response is generally better access to jobs.
- The Vital Signs indicators highlight the compounding negative effects of high unemployment and poor community health outcomes.
- Communities in Baltimore with the highest unemployment rates, such as Upton/Druid Heights, Madison/East End and Greenmount East, are also among the top 5 communities for indicators such as low median income, low life expectancy, high violent crime, high commute times and high rates of 311 calls for dirty streets and alleys.

Grow Baltimore

Sponsor: Goldseker Foundation

Announced in December 2011 by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Grow Baltimore is the mayor's initiative to increase Baltimore City's population by 10,000 new households by 2020. In partnership with the Goldseker Foundation, the city aims to target retention strategies using data on former and current residents. Several city agencies and community partners have been working towards this goal independently through their strategies,

services, and programs. However, there is a need for a coordinated overarching strategy to achieve the mayor's goal of achieving sustained growth of Baltimore's population. With funding from the Goldseker Foundation, BNIA-JFI is conducting research to provide actionable information to the mayor's office, city departments, and local nonprofit organizations to support Mayor Rawlings-Blake's vision of growing Baltimore by 10,000 families by 2020.

Connecting People to Place

Sponsor: Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance-Jacob France Institute (BNIA-JFI) at the University of Baltimore seeks to better understand the equity of access to programs that help households receive energy assistance to make weatherization improvements to reduce energy consumption. BNIA-JFI will study applicants and recipients of funds provided by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Studies have shown that households in homes that have been weatherized experience greater residential stability and increased financial security. Analysis will focus on how access to WAP impacts the use of other social safety net programs, affects overall household employment stability, and how WAP-serviced homes may improve housing and neighborhood stability in areas where there is a concentration of investment. Visit: <http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/activities/partner/improving-communities-through-integrated-data-systems-energy-assistance>

Opportunity Collaborative, Regional Housing Plan

Sponsor: Baltimore Metropolitan Council through a Sustainable Communities Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

With a team led by the Innovative Housing Institute with BAE Urban Economics and the Housing Group at UMD's National Center for Smart Growth, BNIA-JFI is working to develop a plan that will identify regional housing priorities and develop a toolkit of strategies to address them. The core components of the plan will be: (1) a Regional Housing Demographic and Market Assessment, and (2) a Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA). For more information, visit <http://www.opportunitycollaborative.org/housing-plan/>

McElderry Park Crime Reduction Plan

Sponsor: Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice through a Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

Working with faculty in UB's School of Criminal Justice, BNIA-JFI used community-based indicators to develop a data-driven analysis of the drivers of crime within the McElderry Park community. Sixteen crime hotspots were identified along with systemic issues related to violent and property crime in the area. Evidence-based and community-led solutions will be documented in a plan that will be utilized by the McElderry Park Revitalization Coalition and submitted to the D.O.J. for implementation funds for the Byrne Grant.

Website: <http://mocj.baltimorecity.gov/ByrneCriminalJusticeInnovation.aspx>

REACH

Sponsor: Mayor's Office of Human Services

The Maryland Department of Human Resources (Office of Home Energy Programs), in partnership with the Baltimore Community Action Partnership (CAP) and the Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD), provides a "one stop" approach to promote family self-sufficiency and home health & safety for Baltimore City residents that are LIHEAP eligible with high energy usage, defined as $\geq 15,000$ annual kilowatt hours (KwH). The innovative program is a coordinated effort to address the full range of housing, health, energy and financial needs of qualified low-income families with energy education, benefits coordination, case management (family/social services & home-related services), and housing retrofits. The goal of the project is to (1) minimize health and safety risks, (2) to reduce home energy vulnerability and prevent homelessness, and (3) to increase energy efficiency. BNIA-JFI supports the evaluation initiative.

Family League Community Needs Assessment

Sponsor: Family League of Baltimore, Community Needs Assessment

BNIA-JFI prepared a Community Needs Assessment for the Family League of Baltimore, which leads, develops and implements collaborative solutions to help struggling, hard-working Baltimore families and children achieve their dreams of a better life. The report's findings demonstrate significant, measurable progress towards improving lives over the past decade. However, underlying, and potentially even undermining, that progress is the compounding negative effects of poverty on families and children.

Baltimore Community Foundation Target Neighborhoods Evaluation

Sponsor: Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF)

With a team led by the University of Maryland School of Social Work, BNIA-JFI is providing data and community-based indicators to evaluate progress within BCF's two target neighborhoods, Greater Highlandtown and Reservoir Hill. BCF Target Neighborhoods have received a commitment of \$1 million in resources over three years, which includes \$600,000 in grants, a significant amount of staff time on the ground in these neighborhoods, and a thorough evaluation of social capital, cleanliness, greening, safety, and vibrancy. Specific sustainability indicators derived from this evaluation will be incorporated into future Vital Signs reports.

The Pipeline

Sponsor: Association of Builders & Contractors—Baltimore Chapter, Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

A new on-line service called 'The Pipeline' was launched this year that tracks development projects in the pre-planning stages as a service to developers. Understanding and keeping track of the status of projects during the development review phase is complicated because projects evolve as developers ensure compliance with local land use regulations and produce contextually sensitive final designs. 'The Pipeline' is a database that tracks development projects through the review process and documents the status of the project prior to obtaining a building permit.

The partnership has sponsored students from the Merrick School of Business Real Estate program to serve as research assistants.

Website: <http://realestate.bnijfi.org>.



2014 JFI Sponsored Events Highlights

Integrating Education, Social Services, and Workforce Data, April 9-10, 2014

This conference was held at the University of Pennsylvania-Houston Hall and was co-sponsored by the Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore, The Privacy and Technical Assistance Center at the U.S. Department of Education, and Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania.

The conference brought researchers from multiple states together to converge on a specific, practical collaborative research design. It focused on permissible uses of education data—specifically, how education data can be integrated with workforce, social services, and health data. The conference assembled the ‘right’ mix of education, social services and workforce partners needed to tap additional value from existing longitudinal integrated data system capabilities. The co-hosts accepted lead responsibility for moving forward without delay. The researchers from multiple states/sites mentioned to start with analysis of recorded site-specific risk difference metrics and document shared cross-section and time-series coverage of site-specific metrics.

Baltimore Data Day, July 25, 2014

The 5th annual Baltimore Data Day workshop helps communities expand their capacity to use technology and data to advance their goals. Community leaders, nonprofit organizations, governmental entities and civic-minded “hackers” came together to see the latest trends in community-based data, technology and tools and learned how other groups are using data to support and advance constructive change. The day is structured around “how to” interactive workshops in which people who work with data explained what data is available, how to access data, and why data can be actionable for communities.

The Urban Health Institute partnered with BNIA-JFI’s Baltimore Data Day to host a panel discussion with community/agency presenters describing available data requiring additional analyses and/or interpretations, followed by a general discussion of community-academic collaborations. The purpose was to explore how better to improve the health and well-being of Baltimore’s residents through community-academic collaborations.

JFI in the News

Baltimore Neighborhoods, By the Numbers

*Maryland Morning with Sheilah Kast (WYPR),
May 6, 2014 audio*

We live in an age of big data. It tells us how our economy is doing, how our children are educated, and what our neighborhoods look like. Since 2002, The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance has been the foremost collector of neighborhood data in the city. Compiling about 8,000 data points to paint a picture of Baltimore by the numbers in Vital Signs 12. Seema Iyer, Associate Director of the Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore joined Sheilah Kast to discuss what the data shows.

Downtown reports job gains in 2013

Baltimore Sun March 26, 2014

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/business/bs-bz-state-of-downtown-20140326,0,3363148.story#ixzz38yP34pgf>

The strength of Baltimore’s downtown, on metrics that range from employment concentration to library membership, has long made it an outlier within the city, said Seema Iyer, associate director of the Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore Merrick School of Business. As the engine of the regional economy, its success is critical to broader economic growth, she said.

“It is the economic center of the region, so the fact that it is growing is only going to help, not only the city of Baltimore but the region,” Iyer said. “The downtown growing I think is certainly a trend that’s going to continue.... The hope for everybody else is... that downtown’s strength won’t be an island.”

3 Tips for Launching Your Labor-of- Love Business

Time – Money, July 17, 2014

<http://time.com/money/3001781/changing-careers-midlife-entrepreneurs/>

As Ting Zhang, an economist at the Merrick School of Business at the University of Baltimore and the author of the *Elderly Entrepreneurship in an Aging US Economy: It’s Never Too Late* told me: “Some older workers have been cherishing a dream, wanting to start their own business, and the time is now. Aging is a new opportunity to be an entrepreneur.” The numbers bear her out. According to the Kauffman Foundation, new-business creation by Americans age 55 to 64 rose by more than 60% between 1996 and 2013. Last year, their business starts accounted for nearly one-quarter of all launches.

Emerging Technology Centers' economic impact highlighted in new report

The Baltimore Business Journal, May 28, 2014

<http://www.bizjournals.com/baltimore/news/2014/05/28/emerging-technology-centers-economic-impact.html>

About 63 percent of the ETC's 76 graduate companies have stayed in Baltimore and generate about \$108.5 million in economic activity. Those 48 companies employ 311 workers. ETC's current tenants are also driving economic growth in Baltimore. The 43 current tenants generate about \$65.4 million in economic activity and employ 285 workers, according to the economic impact report. The Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore wrote the report and it was released by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's office.

Public Policy Experts Want Older Entrepreneurs

Epoch Times, November 13, 2013, <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/358349-public-policy-experts-want-older-entrepreneurs/>

"Older workers have generally had a harder time than younger workers from the recession. For people 65 and over, unemployment is less at 5.7 percent but well above previous recessions, including the 1981 recession when the figure for this group was 4.3 percent," said Dr. Ting Zhang, assistant professor at the University of Baltimore.

Dr. Zhang said that older wage and salary employees are more likely to be laid off, take longer to find a new job, and have poorer prospects for finding another job. Consequently, seniors who become self-employed could benefit themselves while increasing employment and economic growth nationally.

Media Advisory: Noted Experts on Entrepreneurship to Speak at National Press Club Conference on the Entrepreneurship Imperative for Engaging People 50 and Older

Yahoo Finance, October 30, 2013, <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/media-advisory-noted-experts-entrepreneurship-115500666.html>.

Experts on entrepreneurship discussed entrepreneurship for Americans 50 and older being an economic imperative and viable option as unemployment remains high and economic growth low now and projected for the foreseeable future. Sponsored by the Center for Productive Longevity, a non-profit company, the conference

featured national and international private and public sector speakers, including Ting Zhang from JFI.

Ask The Experts: Starting a Business in Retirement

by John Kiernan, *Cardhub*, November 12, 2013,

<http://www.cardhub.com/edu/ask-the-experts-starting-a-business-in-retirement/>

Ting Zhang: "Key factors that can be considered based on my research affecting seniors' entrepreneurial propensity include health, family obligations and family support, wealth and income (liquidity constraints), previous working experience, network, and skills, health insurance—particularly comparing being self-employed to being employed by someone else—tax rate, and local socioeconomic environment. By the way, many older adults are engaged in unnecessarily paid social activities and they want to bring back to society or fulfill a certain value, or sometimes realize a wish that they could not have done (enough) before. This means being self-employed could not only result in financial benefits, but also better health and greater happiness. Our recent research is focusing on that as well."

The Jacob France Institute 2014 Grant Awards

Performance Period: July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

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\$2,240,965

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The Jacob France Institute is the economic research arm of the Merrick School of Business. The JFI explores the dynamics of management-employee relations and public policy actions and their consequences.