

CALL FOR PAPERS: **REDUCING URBAN POVERTY** **2013 Paper Competition/Policy Workshop/Publication** **\$1000 Grand Prize** **Abstracts due: March 15, 2013**

To encourage a new generation of urban policy makers and promote early career research, USAID, International Housing Coalition (IHC), World Bank, Woodrow Wilson Center's Comparative Urban Studies Project (CUSP), and Cities Alliance are co-sponsoring a fourth annual paper competition. The competition seeks abstracts for a paper competition on urban poverty in the developing world. Winning papers will be published and selected authors will present their work in a policy workshop to be held at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. in November, 2013. The grand prize winner will also receive \$1000.

Papers should be policy-based and solutions-oriented and should critically examine existing projects and/or propose new strategies for tackling issues related to urban poverty.

Process and Timeline

♦ Eligibility

This call for papers is directed at PhD students and advanced Masters students. To be eligible, applicants should be currently enrolled in a degree or post-doctoral program. Papers can be co-authored, as long as each author is a graduate student. In this case, prize money will be split among the authors.

♦ Abstract Submissions

- Abstracts (max 500 words) and a brief CV should be submitted to the selection committee by March 15, 2013. Submissions should be sent to nleahy@usaid.gov.
- Abstracts should contain a title, paper description, author name and affiliation, and specify which of the topical areas listed below the paper will most directly address.

♦ Request for Full Papers

- A panel composed of members of the sponsor organizations will review submitted abstracts and request full papers from finalists.
- Applicants will be notified in mid-April whether they will be asked to write a full paper, which will be due by July 1, 2013.
- Completed papers should be a maximum of 20 pages in length including appendixes (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font) and utilize the guidelines used by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

♦ Publication

- Roughly 10 of the full papers will be compiled in a book and published by the Woodrow Wilson Center.
- Publication of each selected paper is subject to review and will be contingent upon completion of suggested revisions by the authors, should they be requested by the selection committee.

♦ Policy Workshop:

- 3-5 of the authors selected for publication will be invited to Washington, DC, in November, 2013 to take part in a unique "policy workshop" that will bring together academics, policy makers and students for an interactive discussion of international urban development topics. The session will focus on bridging gaps between policy and academia, theory and practice.
- At the workshop, students will be paired with a senior development expert who will serve as a discussant for their paper.
- The grand prize winner will receive a prize of \$1000. In addition, workshop invitees will be provided with up to \$1000 to help cover transportation and accommodation costs.

Papers must be linked to one of the following sub-topics:

Gender and Urban Development

Women and men experience cities differently due to their different roles, divisions of labor, resources, needs, constraints, and the opportunities they encounter in an urban environment. Male and female priorities are often different for basic services such as urban housing, water and sanitation, solid waste management, public transport, childcare, and education. Although urbanization is associated with greater access to employment opportunities, lower fertility levels and increased independence, women and girls are still subject to enduring gender roles that predominate in rural areas. Papers might cover topics such as: the opportunities and challenges the urban labor market presents for women; urbanization and gender-based violence; gender-sensitive considerations in urban design and infrastructure; gendered approaches to urban planning and policymaking of local governments, or the impact of urbanization on men's and women's health.

Big Data for Smarter Urban Development

City leaders today have more data at their disposal than ever before. Digitization has unlocked vast troves of administrative records; "smart city" technologies deliver real-time feedback from urban infrastructure; and networks of ubiquitous sensors, cameras, and connected citizens provide insights to city leaders about how their cities work. When combined with the right tools and mindset, this movement towards "big data" offers an unprecedented opportunity to inform urban decision-making and thereby improve city management. This data-driven approach is much needed in the rapidly growing cities of the developing world. Yet cities in the developing world often do not have the resources to implement and adapt expensive "smart city" technologies. What is needed are low-cost and nimble "big data" innovations—in tools, methodology, and policy—that are better tailored to the needs and conditions of the developing world. Papers on this topic should explore the application of "big data" to key urban development challenges and provide fresh ideas on how city leaders can collect and "make sense" of large urban datasets for improved decision making. Submissions from the perspective of urban planning, public policy, and economics are as welcome as those focusing on the more technical aspects of "big data."

Incremental Housing Approaches

The number of people living in cities in the developing world is expected to double from 2000 to 2030 and the spatial extent of those cities is expected to triple. The majority of new urban households will meet their housing needs informally by building a small shack on land they do not own. These informal households commonly improve their living conditions and are regularized through incremental processes over many years: informal neighborhoods are recognized and incorporated in the city, land tenure is solidified, basic city services are extended and the families invest their labor and savings in improving their dwellings. Current programs supporting incremental approaches tend to focus on what to do after an informal area has been settled, but there is little thinking about what should be done for the huge number of new urban residents who will come during the next several decades and new innovative ideas are needed to fill this gap. Papers on this topic might provide new ways to encourage incremental development of land, housing and/or infrastructure, or other recommendations thinking beyond traditional master planning, urban upgrading and housing finance.

Papers from a variety of perspectives are appropriate, including (but not limited to) urban planning, economics, political science, geography, public policy, law, sociology, environment, anthropology, housing policy, information science, and data analytics. For more information, please contact Nancy Leahy (nleahy@usaid.gov).

For more information on last year's competition, please visit: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/climate-youth-and-land-markets-urban-areas-policy-workshop>

