

**DEADLINE EXTENDED: Call for Papers • Small Business and Entrepreneurship during an Economic Recovery
Federal Reserve Board • Washington, D.C. • November 9-10, 2011**

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation invite the submission of papers for **Small Business and Entrepreneurship during an Economic Recovery**, a conference that will take place on November 9-10, 2011, at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, D.C.

Federal, state and local governments have recently enacted numerous policies and programs in support of small businesses, and financial institutions and others are increasingly being called upon to provide capital to small firms—from main street shops to the nascent high-growth companies. These efforts recognize the particular hardships that small businesses have faced during the economic downturn as well as the important role they can play in the economic recovery. Given this pivotal time, conference organizers are interested in exploring critical aspects of the capital and assistance needs of small businesses and entrepreneurs.

The purpose of this conference is to facilitate a multidisciplinary dialogue among researchers, policy makers and practitioners focused on small business capital access and innovations during this time of economic recovery. While broadly addressing the scope of small business needs, this convening will also examine these issues from the perspective of women and minority entrepreneurs/small business owners and those located in traditionally underserved areas. New theoretical and empirical research, including methodologically rigorous case studies and policy analysis, are welcome. Papers that can link the following topics to policy implications will receive top priority (Note: These descriptions only suggest the types of questions that may be addressed and are not intended to be prescriptive):

❶ The Role of Small Business and Entrepreneurship in Job

Creation: Current economic conditions have the potential to alter what we think we know about small businesses' role in the economy and job creation. We seek papers that examine small business contributions to jobs. For example, how does the recent recession differ from previous ones in terms of jobs and small business creation/destruction? What types of businesses are the most important sources of jobs? Who do they hire? What is the role of self employment in the labor market? How do small businesses support the general economy as well as local community development?

❷ Improving the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem: A combination of policies, programs, services and networks are vital to encourage and support entrepreneurship both nationally and at the local level. The program committee seeks papers that provide a critical assessment of strategies to create a healthy and productive entrepreneurial ecosystem for all. What has proven most effective and why? Who are the key players and what are the important components for an entrepreneurial ecosystem strategy?

❸ The Unique Challenges of and Opportunities for Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses: While minority- and women-owned businesses have experienced notable growth in the last decade, they have historically faced multiple constraints when seeking capital to start or operate a business. We seek papers examining the experiences of these groups as they navigate the economic downturn. Questions of interest include: How have current economic conditions affected minority- and women-owned small

businesses? How does capital access for women and minorities differ from the general population? Does capital access lead to a higher probability of business success? Do the sources of capital vary with the business owner's demographic characteristics? What best practices and strategies do women and minority entrepreneurs bring to further innovative and sustainable entrepreneurship?

❹ Strengthening Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Urban and Rural Communities: Urban and rural areas present different hurdles to entrepreneurial and small business growth and sustainability. Among the questions to consider: Who are the providers of credit and capital in rural versus urban communities? How have distressed urban and rural communities successfully fostered sustainable entrepreneurship? What is the role of small business and self employment in creating economic vitality for communities and individuals in these distinctly different environments?

❺ Innovative Small Businesses and the Importance of Access to Startup Capital: The economic downturn has led to changes in underwriting standards and capital flows. The program committee encourages the submission of papers that critically examine these changes and how small businesses and startups are adapting to this new economic environment. We invite papers focused on credit availability, venture capital, angel investing, microfinance and other forms of capital access. We also encourage papers that share new models of financial, social, and human capital that will assist in producing the next generation of innovative new businesses.

To be considered, submit an abstract (1,000 words or less) describing the main research question(s) addressed, key data and methodology at http://frb.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_2n2Pi32nEFXBcbi. You are encouraged to submit a completed paper for consideration. **The deadline to submit an abstract and optional paper is midnight (EST) July 15, 2011.** Conference organizers will notify applicants by the middle of August. The deadline for accepted papers is October 7, 2011.