What is the Urban Institute?

Public Policy Think Tank

Conducts research meant to *"open minds, shape decisions, and offer solutions."*

“does not take positions on issues but it does empower and support its experts in sharing their own evidence-based views and policy recommendations that have been shaped by scholarship”
History

“[To] help solve the problem that weighs heavily on the hearts and minds of all of us-- the problem of the American city and its people.”

-President Lyndon B. Johnson
History

1968 The War on Poverty
1973 Federal Housing Policy
1982 Reagan Revolution
1992 The Collapse of the Soviet Union
1996 The End of “Welfare as We Know It”
2002 The Bush-Era Tax Cuts
2006 Hurricane Katrina
2008 The Mortgage Crisis and Its Fallout
2010 Health Reform
Organizational Structure

Policy Centers:
- Center of Nonprofits and Philanthropy
- Metropolitan Housing and Community Policy Center
- Housing Finance Policy Center
- Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population
- Health Policy Center
- Income and Benefits Policy Center
- Center on International Development and Governance
- Justice Policy Center
- Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center
- Statistical Methods Groups
- Policy Advisory Group

Cross Center initiatives:
- Beyond High School: Education and Training
- Inequality and Mobility
- Program on Immigrants and Immigration
- State and Local Finance Initiative
- Program on Retirement Policy
- Performance Measurement and Management
- Low-Income Working Families
Staff

- 450 workers-- mostly Economists, social scientists, or public policy and administration researchers
- 63% female
- 5 of 10 research center directors are female
- 27% of staff is minority
Funding

Government Contracts

Foundations

Private Donors

Examples:

More than 100 private sponsors and funders


Erik: Income and Benefits Policy Center

Matthew Chingos, Senior Fellow

- Educational policy
  - Whatever they have funding for
- Personal Research Project !?!?
  - K-12 Education
Yazmin: Metropolitan Housing and Community Policy Center

School Closings on the East Coast
Public Housing and Education
Own Research Project!?!?

Megan Gallagher, Senior Associate Director