Pre-registration is required. Please e-mail: helen.menke@case.edu. Indicate if you would like to connect remotely and we will send you the link to connect to Webex.

Spring 2015 Research Workshop

Co-sponsored by:
The Mandel School Office of Research and Training and Doctoral Program

Methodological Considerations in Evaluating Pay for Success Programs
Friday, April 10, 2015 – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Community Studies Center Room 108

Pay for Success (PFS) is a type of performance-based contracting in which third-party funders provide up-front monies for a social service intervention and government pays for services only if pre-determined outcomes are achieved. Cuyahoga County is implementing the fifth PFS contract in the US and the first at a county level. PFS projects require a rigorous evaluation to determine if the targeted outcomes and resulting cost savings were achieved and the investors should be re-paid. This workshop will cover a number of methodological issues that address the unique challenges involved in a PFS context.

We will present how to identify potential target groups that could generate sizeable effects or "cashable savings" and how to implement an appropriate research design for the evaluation of such effects. Specifically, we will discuss performance measure selection, given the social objectives established. The selection of performance measures will need to consider incentives intentionally and unintentionally created by PFS. It will also be important to consider appropriate estimation techniques to identify and estimate program treatment effects, dealing with issues such as censoring, non-compliance, sample size, imputation and forecasting. Participants will have an opportunity to consider how Pay for Success methods could be applied in their own service delivery contexts.

David Crampton, PhD, is associate professor of social work and associate director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences. His scholarship focuses on the evaluation of family-centered and community-based child welfare practices with the ultimate goal of protecting vulnerable children through the engagement of families, communities, and public-private partnerships.

Francisca García-Cobián Richter, PhD in agricultural economics and M.S. in statistics from Oklahoma State University, is a senior research associate at the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, MSASS. Prior to coming to CWRU she served as a Research Economist in Community Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and taught economics at Cleveland State University. She has published research on a variety of community development and social policy issues including rental housing programs and mortgage lending.