

## PIAAC Research Funding Opportunity

**Purpose and Expected Outcome:** The American Institutes for Research (AIR), is commissioning several research papers on a range of topics based on Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) data in diverse fields, including education, labor economics, sociology, and public health. The commissioned papers are intended to broaden the base of research in these areas based on exploration and use of the PIAAC dataset and its analytical tools. AIR invites researchers to submit short proposals for commissioned papers. The commissioned papers may address any major topic with a focus on numeracy skills that can be studied through secondary analysis of PIAAC data and are expected to be approximately 7,500 words in length, excluding charts, tables, notes, and references.

**Topics of interest:** Many of the previous findings from PIAAC on the relationship between the skills of adults and their demographic characteristics and educational and employment outcomes focus on literacy skills (e.g. OECD, 2013). Only a few studies have examined the impact of numeracy skills, as measured in PIAAC, on educational and employment outcomes; for example, exploring how an increase in numeracy skills is associated with a wage increase and how this relationship varies across levels of educational attainment (Hanushek et. al. 2011; Holzer & Lerman, 2015) or looking at the relationship between numeracy skills, race, and educational attainment among young adults (Goodman et. al., 2015). AIR would like to commission papers that examine the relationship between numeracy skills in PIAAC and educational and employment or other outcomes in more depth looking at questions such as:

- Is the relationship between numeracy skills to employment outcomes (e.g. employment status, income, and types of occupation) or educational and other social outcomes (e.g. participation in formal or nonformal education, skill use in everyday life, political efficacy, health status, etc.) stronger than the relationship between the other skills measured in PIAAC (literacy and problem solving in technology-rich environments) and these employment outcomes among U.S. adults?
- Is this relationship the same or different when it is examined by demographic characteristics such as age, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, or whether the respondent was born in the country? For example, do numeracy skills decline faster with ageing than the other skills? Do factors such as employment or participation in nonformal education impact the pattern of skills decline with ageing?
- Is this relationship the same when it is examined by job and workplace characteristics such as use of numeracy skills at work, level of education needed to get job, size of employer, etc.?
- Among incarcerated U.S. adults, is the relationship between the numeracy skills and their employment outcomes prior to incarceration stronger than the other skills measured in PIAAC and these employment outcomes? What is the relationship between the numeracy skills of incarcerated adults and the whether they have a prison job?

Please take a look at [previous research papers](#), the [Outreach Toolkit](#), and the NCES [PIAAC Results Portal](#) to see the types of topics and analyses that have already been examined.

**Eligibility:** AIR wishes to commission papers from both junior and more established researchers. Current doctoral students and recent recipients of doctoral degrees (within the past 3 years) are encouraged to submit proposals. All applicants should be thoroughly familiar with the

PIAAC background questionnaire and comfortable using the PIAAC dataset in appropriate statistical packages (e.g., IDB Analyzer and SPSS).

**Proposal Content and Format:** Interested researchers should electronically submit a proposal (not exceeding five double-spaced pages) by **October 21, 2016** to [piaac@air.org](mailto:piaac@air.org).

Successful proposals will clearly outline how applicants will use PIAAC data to support their research interests. The proposal should be organized under the following headings:

1. **Research question:** Clearly identify the hypothesis, problem, question, or idea to be studied. Explain why this is an important question worthy of scholarly investigation. Describe the intellectual merits and broader policy or practical impacts of the research.
2. **Significance of the study:** The significance of the study relative to existing research in a selected discipline or disciplines. Collaborations between researchers in multiple disciplines are encouraged.
3. **Research plan:** Describe the research design that will be used to address the research question, including the specific PIAAC variables that will be used for analysis, the types of analyses that will be conducted, and the statistical software that will be utilized. Indicate any additional countries besides the United States whose PIAAC data will be utilized. Research using related data from other surveys, such as the Current Population Survey or the American Community Survey, is encouraged, although PIAAC should be the primary data source for the research being proposed.
4. **Plans for further research:** Describe how the proposed paper will lead to the development of further research with PIAAC in specific areas.
5. **Brief resume of relevant training, skills, and experience.** Indicate whether author(s) are applying as junior researchers (i.e., current doctoral student or recipient of doctoral degree within the past 3 years).

**AIR intends to commission three papers at \$10,000 per paper, depending on the quality of the proposals and the availability of funds.**

The final papers will be published by AIR.

AIR\_PIAAC Team

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