



**New Hampshire  
Employment  
Security**

[www.nhes.nh.gov](http://www.nhes.nh.gov)

*"We're working to keep New Hampshire working"*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

45 SOUTH FRUIT STREET  
CONCORD, NH 03301-4857



GEORGE N. COPADIS, COMMISSIONER

RICHARD J. LAVERS, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

May 17, 2016

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to RSA 4:8, authorize New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES) to accept a donation from the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) in the form of payment for training and travel-related expenses for an NHES employee to attend an Executive Education Course in Cambridge, MA. The estimated value of the donation is \$6,520.

**EXPLANATION**

A donation of an estimated \$6,520 will be made to NHES for the purpose of funding training and travel-related expenses for an employee in the NHES Employment Service Bureau to attend a scheduled Executive Education Course for program evaluation. DHHS and NHES in partnership with the Governor's office is submitting a grant to J-PAL to participate in a study to measure the effectiveness of the new Gateway to Work Initiative a large-scale, multi-faceted jobs initiative program intended to impact the cycle of poverty in New Hampshire and continuously improve the program. The J-PAL Course will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The training agenda for the upcoming education course has not yet been released. The announcement of the workshop is attached.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

George N. Copadis  
Commissioner

GNC/jdr



# J-PAL

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB

## **Executive Education: Evaluating Social Programs**

Evaluating Social Programs is J-PAL's flagship executive education course.

This five-day course provides participants a thorough understanding of randomized evaluations and a pragmatic step-by-step guidance on conducting one's own evaluation. It focuses on the benefits and methods of randomization, choosing an appropriate sample size, and common threats and pitfalls to the validity of the experiment. It also covers the importance of a needs assessment, measuring outcomes effectively, quality control, and monitoring—tools that are critical for both randomized and non-randomized evaluations alike.

J-PAL affiliated professors and staff provide both theoretical and example-based classes, complemented by group exercises where participants can apply key concepts to real world examples. Each course includes 6 to 8 lectures supplemented by case studies, exercises and group discussions covering the topics given below.

This course is designed for managers and researchers from NGOs, governments, international development organizations, and foundations from around the world, as well as trained economists looking to retool.

The following key questions and concepts are covered:

- What is an evaluation?
- Why and when is a rigorous evaluation of social impact needed?
- The common pitfalls of evaluations, and why does randomization help.
- The key components of a good randomized evaluation design.
- Alternative techniques for incorporating randomization into project design.
- How do you determine the appropriate sample size, measure outcomes, and manage data?
- Guarding against threats that may undermine the integrity of the results.
- Techniques for the analysis and interpretation of results.
- How to maximize policy impact and test external validity.
- Understanding and using the Theory of Change framework.

The J-PAL Executive Education Course, Evaluating Social Programs, is held annually in several locations worldwide and an interactive online version of this course is also offered twice a year. **Apply now for the upcoming course in Cambridge, MA, USA from June 13, 2016 to June 17, 2016.** For other scheduled courses, check out our [Events page](#).