

## Causes and Consequences of Public Subsidies in Higher Education

University of Florida

### *Scope of Work*

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Dr. Isaac McFarlin will serve as Principal Investigator for the subaward to the University of Florida. In this capacity, Dr. McFarlin will conduct statistical analyses, econometric modeling, write and revise manuscripts, and work with research staff at the University of Texas at Dallas, the University of Michigan, and the University of California – Davis on the Institute of Education Sciences grant, Causes and Consequences of Public Subsidies in Higher Education (R305A100369).

Dr. McFarlin will collaborate to write 2 manuscripts. The first manuscript uses restricted data from the U.S. Census Bureau, including the American Community Survey and the Decennial Census. The data are located at the University of Michigan's Census Research Data Center. The data can only be accessed onsite. Access requires Special Sworn Status to analyze the data. Results from analyses must be vetted through the Disclosure Review Board. The tentative title for the paper is *Do Public Tuition Subsidies Promote College Access? Evidence from Community College Taxing Districts in Texas*. The manuscript uses quasi-experimental methods and extensive data collected on community college taxing district boundaries and tuition and fee data to isolate the causal effect of public tuition subsidies on college enrollment behavior.

The second manuscript that he will collaborate on is titled, *Do Public Subsidies Promote College Access and Completion? Evidence from Community College Taxing Districts*. This research paper uses data from the Texas Schools Microdata Panel at the University of Texas at Dallas Education Research Center. The data are also restricted and can only be accessed at the Education Research Center in Dallas, Texas. The manuscript examines the effect of direct public operating subsidies to community colleges on college going behavior. It explores the importance of specific mechanisms for how funding is used to affect college going. If statistical power is sufficient, the research team will also examine the effects of public subsidies on labor market outcomes.