

Position: Health Economist – Anticipated Opening, Summer 2022

Closing Date: Until filled

Base Salary: Starting at \$120,000 and up, depending on qualifications and experience

Job Type: Unclassified, Full-time

Location: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Supplemental Information:

The Louisiana Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) is seeking applicants for a health economist specializing in expenditure forecasting. The LFO is an independent agency created by statute to provide factual and unbiased information to both the Louisiana House of Representatives and Senate. This position develops, presents and updates an economic model to accurately forecast Medicaid enrollment, utilization of services, and total expenditures over a timeline of five fiscal years.

The state of Louisiana's Medicaid program incorporates, but is not limited to the following expenditure categories: payments to private providers, payments to public providers, pharmaceuticals and rebates, Medicare buy-ins and supplements, and uncompensated care cost payments made through both Medicaid managed care and fee-for-service delivery models. A comprehensive model will be able to forecast expenditures by category, incorporating endogenous and exogenous variables impacting healthcare expenditures, including state and federal policy changes impacting service levels and/or compensation.

Job Description:

A successful candidate can incorporate available data into a robust and accurate econometric model projecting state government Medicaid expenditures. The model's output is presented to the Medicaid Estimating Conference several times annually for the purpose of developing the consensus official forecast of the state's Medicaid program for use in budget development, forecasting demand and establishing appropriation levels. The first model iteration will be created, developed and communicated within a relatively short time-frame and refined more fully over time.

The health economist provides in-depth reviews, analyses, and modeling of Medicaid utilization and expenditures, state agency requests for new programs, and on-going programs. These reviews include, but are not limited to, the study of statewide healthcare practices and providers, budget documents, agency-prepared studies, audit reports, and personal contacts with agency and industry personnel (including site visits to agency operations when necessary).

The health economist will work with government agencies in developing meaningful forecast models and databases, as well as undertaking evaluation of agency programs, functions, and organizational structures with supervision from the appropriate budget section director and the deputy fiscal officer. Finally, the economist is responsible for the review and analysis of budget

issues within assigned areas (to be determined). The health economist may receive additional, issue-specific assignments at the discretion of the fiscal officer and deputy fiscal officer.

This position requires frequent and significant compensated overtime during legislative sessions (typically March through June).

Qualifications:

Requires a minimum master's degree in economics, statistics, mathematics, actuarial science or similar degree, with a focus in healthcare utilization and expenditures. A successful candidate will possess: several years' experience in the hands-on specification and estimation of economic expenditure forecasting models from concept to conclusion (including quality control, review and presentation of results); knowledge of financial, statistical and data science concepts; experience analyzing enrollment and claims data; extensive knowledge of statistical software and relational databases; ability to manage deadlines, multiple tasks and professional relationships in a fast-paced environment; and ability to draft deliverable reports at "final quality" level with minimal senior review.

A preferred candidate will additionally have a Ph.D. in economics, health economics, or a related discipline with experience in forecasting and analysis, strong quantitative skills, experience manipulating large data files, and a desire to work on issues of legislative interest at the state and regional level. A preferred candidate will possess experience developing budget impact analysis/models, excellent English oral and written communication skills, as well as comfort effectively presenting to and liaising with both technical and non-technical stakeholders.

Benefits:

Competitive salary (dependent on experience), state defined benefit pension system participation, healthcare, paid time off (starting at 12 days annual and 12 days sick leave per year, plus approximately 10 state holidays per year), and available participation in the state's deferred compensation program. This position allows a flexible work schedule outside of legislative sessions.

To apply, please submit a letter of interest, resume, writing sample, and completed job application including salary requirement (see below) to the Fiscal Officer, Alan Boxberger, at boxbergera@legis.la.gov. Questions may be directed to Alan by phone at 225-342-7233 or by e-mail. Links to additional documents or videos may be provided at the candidate's discretion, including but not limited to presentations or publications related to health economic or expenditure forecasts. Failure to provide sufficient evidence of qualifications in your resume may result in a not qualified determination.

The job application can be found on the Legislative Fiscal Office website:
<http://lfo.louisiana.gov/employmentapplication>