

Industry Clusters in Economic Development: Concepts, Policy Applications & Analysis Tools

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Topic Outline

Day 1: Concept, Policy Uses & Techniques Overview

Morning

- Welcome
 - Participants' Backgrounds & Experience with Industry Clusters
 - Instructor Backgrounds
 - Training Session Goals and Objectives

- Industry Clusters in Economic Development Planning
 - Basic Concepts and Definitions
 - History of the Cluster Concept
 - Common Policy Applications, Examples and Pitfalls
 - Industry Cluster Initiatives as Strategic Planning
 - An Overview of Approaches to Industry Cluster Analysis

Afternoon

- Basics of Understanding Linkages Between Industries
 - Overview of Common Methodologies
 - About Input-Output Tables
 - Using Input-Output Data to Understand Industry Linkages
 - The Benchmark Cluster Analysis Methodology
 - Examples

- Hands-on Benchmark Cluster Exercise
 - Participants will identify major findings from an application of benchmark cluster definitions to regional industry data. Participants have the option of supplying their own 6 digit NAICS data for application to the industry cluster benchmarks (allowing them to analyze industry cluster trends for their own regions, rather than a region selected for the seminar).
 - Discussion of Results, Challenges and Potential Pitfalls

- Day 1 Wrap Up

Day 2: Practical Tools for Analyzing the Geography of Clusters

Morning

- Introduction to Spatial Industry Cluster Analysis
 - Common Biases in Regional Analyses of Clusters
 - Concept of Discrete Spatial Clusters
 - Example Applications

- Basic Concepts
 - GIS and Spatial Data Analysis
 - Concept of Exploratory Spatial Data Analysis (ESDA)
 - Three Principles: Spatial Scale, Connectivity, Aggregation
 - GeoDa Software Demonstration

- Regions as a Container of Activity
 - Using Location Quotients and other Concentration Measures
 - Hands-on GeoDa Software Application

Afternoon

- Using Regions/Geography as an Indicator of Activity
 - Concept of Spatial Autocorrelation and Common Measures
 - Hands-on GeoDa Software Application

- Lab Exercises: Applied Cluster Analysis
 - Analysis of Geography of U.S. Value Chains
 - Analysis of Value Chain Clusters at the Regional Scale

- Day 2 Wrap Up