CENTER FOR THE ECONOMICS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
The University of Chicago
The Center for the Economics of Human Development strives to understand the critical periods in life when the skills necessary for human flourishing are formed.

The skills acquired throughout life have the power to transform many facets of the life course. Still, there remain vast disparities in opportunities and outcomes which most adversely affect those in under-resourced groups. Our research generates new methods and frameworks that identify and address unequal allocation of opportunity embedded in our social and economic systems.

Investing in human capital is vital to the health of our communities and our economy. Our work deepens understanding of the origin and evolution of the transformative skills that one needs to achieve their fullest potential. This innovative research lays the necessary foundation for the development of equitable and efficient public policies creating pathways towards a flourishing and functioning society.

We know that by creating and shaping human capabilities, we can give all people the opportunity for advancement.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

James J. Heckman
ABOUT THE CENTER

The Center is dedicated to driving the national conversation on the origins of inequality and the policy responses to them. Through cutting-edge research and activities that foster intellectual exchange, the Center is a catalyst for intellectual dialogue among practitioners, policy makers, and researchers worldwide. The research generated here equips academics, practitioners, and policymakers with the breadth of knowledge that is necessary to improve policy responses to the origins of inequality.

INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY

The Center’s ongoing research reveals that, despite all the progress made, the true meaning of productive investment, an entire generation’s worth of economic efficiency, workforce productivity, and competitiveness is predistribution—improving the lives of disadvantaged children first—that is far more effective in promoting economic efficiency, workforce productivity, and competitiveness.

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The Center invites those who seek to champion rigorous scholarship and cultivate effective public policies that address the roots of inequality to support our research and advance the economics of human flourishing. Gifts of any size make a tremendous impact. Your philanthropic support would be a powerful statement of commitment to national change in early childhood investments. Together, we can drive forward change inspired and evidenced by the unequivocal link between quality empirical research and equitable policy.

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