

Budget justification for:

A Global-Scale Investigation of Firm-level Economic Recovery from Natural Disasters

This will be a data- and computationally-intensive project with billions of observations, and full-time research assistance is the highest priority for making progress. The budget is calculated for 6 months of work of a research assistant, working approximately 40 hours per week at a rate of \$25 per hour. I have calculated this way for simplicity, since as a full-time, benefits-eligible employee, there will be some fringe involved. I am estimating, however, that the work involved to get to initial results will be approximately 6 months, and will therefore fundraise to pay the fringe or any deficit in salary not met by this amount through other sources or supplement with existing (but smaller) research funds. The 6 month estimate is based on the complexity of the data construction. For example, for the firm data, the research assistant must complete data user agreements with government statistical agencies, contact other researchers, or scrape data when it is publicly available. Each country's data is completely idiosyncratic, and this means that standardizing them will be a major task. I anticipate 2-3 months in obtaining and assembling firm data, 1-2 months in creating disaster exposure data for the entire globe for multiple years, 1 month running and diagnosing regression models, and 1 month running robustness checks, writing up initial findings, and aiding in the preparation of presentation materials.