MissionSquare Research Institute Overview

Research and insights addressing the evolving challenges of the public sector workforce

Who we are

The Research Institute – originally known as the Center for State and Local Government Excellence or SLGE – was founded by MissionSquare Retirement (formerly ICMA-RC) in 2007. We exist to promote excellence in state and local government and other public service organizations so they can attract and retain talented public servants. After operating as a standalone nonprofit, we formally joined MissionSquare Retirement in 2021.

Notable projects include:
- Surveys and other data collection and analysis
- Case studies and leading practices research
- Focus groups
- Studies in behavioral economics
- Explorations of policy alternatives
- Practical guides for policymaking and implementation

Who we serve

We regularly engage with and share research results with state and local government managers and staff, retirement plan administrators, media, and associations like the International City/County Management Association, Government Finance Officers Association, and the National League of Cities.

How we deliver on our mission

The Institute shares research and promising practices via written reports, social media campaigns, and online or in-person events. Examples include:

- Reports
- Webinars
- Infographics
- Videos
- Events

MissionSquare Research Institute staff have backgrounds in local, state, and federal government; academia; public health; retirement; applied social psychology; and strategic communications. In completing research, we partner with other MissionSquare Retirement teams and organizations like AARP, the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the deBeaumont, Robert Wood Johnson, and Sloan foundations.

As a result of those efforts, Institute research has been featured by national and specialty media:
- The Wall Street Journal
- The New York Times
- The Washington Post
- NPR
- Governing
- Pensions & Investments
- PlanSponsor
- Route Fifty
- Forbes

Reports
- Health Partnerships
- Post-Pandemic Workforce

Infographics
- Career Stage Impacts
- Vaccine Views

Videos
- Public Workforce 2030 Summit
Resources

Since its inception, MissionSquare Research Institute has published numerous research reports related to public retirement, health and wellness, and workforce issues. We highlight a few of the many resources we make available. Click on each to learn more.

For the latest research and event updates, subscribe to the Institute’s monthly e-newsletter.

Items in italics are pending completion in fall/winter 2021.