



TITLE 21 VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Office of Strategic Programs (OSP)
Office of Program and Strategic Analysis (OPSA)
Economics Staff

Position: Economist

Series: AD-110

Location(s): Silver Spring, MD (White Oak Campus)

Travel Requirements: 5%

Application Period: TBD

Salary: Starting at \$86,335 to \$102,663

Area of Consideration: United States Citizens or Nationals

Relocation Expenses Reimbursement: You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

Special Notes: This position is being filled under an excepted hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of the authority.

[Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here.](#)

Introduction:

The Food and Drug Administration is the regulatory, scientific, public health, and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs, and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco, and radiation emitting devices are safe and effective.

CDER is responsible for regulating prescription drugs, including new drugs, generic drugs, biological products, and biosimilars, as well as over-the-counter drugs. CDER's drug regulatory responsibilities include: premarket review of new drugs and generic drugs; maintenance of the

OTC drug monograph system; monitoring of all marketed drug safety and promotional activities; review, monitoring and enforcement of drug quality during the entire drug life cycle; and ensuring drug products in the market comply with the law.

Incumbent will be on the Economics Staff within Office of Program and Strategic Analysis (OPSA) within the Office of Strategic Programs (OSP) in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). OPSA is responsible for quantitative and qualitative data analysis, business process analysis and improvement, and program evaluation to support senior management decisions. OPSA provides consultation services to Center Offices in developing and implementing proposals for key strategic initiatives and priorities, evaluating the impact of operations and policies on external stakeholders, and in conducting evaluation studies to inform Center strategy and policy position on emerging issues in drug regulation.

Position Summary:

The primary purpose of this Economist role is to study and solve the economic questions involved in regulating pharmaceutical products and promoting the public health. This work will provide a basis for, and have a direct effect on, decisions affecting major Center regulatory policies and programs. The incumbent will utilize tools and techniques and other appropriate analytic methodologies from disciplines such as operations research, management science, mathematics, statistics, economics, computer science, decision science and data science.

Supervisory responsibilities: None

Duties/Responsibilities:

- Initiate, design, coordinate, implement, and complete economic research to study economic questions.
- Utilize economic theory to develop frameworks that explain economic phenomena or the economic rationale underlying industry dynamics and other stakeholder behavior.
- Assess and apply quantitative methods to solve economic problems
- Collecting, cleaning, and constructing economic data using statistical programs or computer languages such as STATA, SAS, R, or Python.
- Research questions that typically involve unknown areas of economic understanding.
- Frame problems using economic theory, hypothesizes a solution, plans a method of proving the hypothesis, locates and collects requisite data, analyzes and interprets pertinent information, draws conclusions, and presents findings. Assignments of this level include the full scope of the research process, from the initiation of investigations and planning of methods, through the interpretation of findings and the preparation of final reports.
- Research novel economic and policy literature, then apply it within data and

- research methodologies, and explain what they did with team members.
- Present processes and findings to both general and technical audiences.
 - Function as a subject matter expert or advisor in the development or assessment of the economics involving government policies.
 - Work on assignments involving the initiation, formulation, planning, and execution, and control of major and complex economic studies. Assignments of this nature may be difficult to define, require sophisticated research techniques, or involve the development of new or unconventional methods or approaches.
 - Provide economic advice on cross-organizational efforts and provide recommendations for development and implementation of the economic aspects of policies, programs, and activities. This includes providing direction with data management, data analysis, and the interpretation of findings.
 - Prepare summaries of work, scientific reports, and manuscripts for publication.
 - Prepare and present oral presentations for seminars, professional meetings, and conferences.
 - Mentor and direct junior economists and analysts.

Specialized Experience/Desirable Qualifications:

- Skill in applying principles, concepts, tools, and methodology of economics, statistics, mathematics, and operations research.
- Skill in identifying necessary relevant information given the study questions, and skill in applying conventional methods to gather and analyze information.
- Ability to communicate techniques required to prepare and deliver reports and presentations on study results, and other critical data and information both orally and in writing.
- Skill in utilizing quantitative methods for statistical programs or computer languages, such as SAS, STATA, R, or Python.

Key requirements will include:

1. Individual economic research assignments requiring planning, information assembly, analysis and evaluation, conclusions and report preparation.
2. Supervisory or project coordination assignments involving a staff of professional economists and requiring the evaluation and interpretation of economic information.
3. Teaching assignments in a college or university that included both class instruction in economics subjects and one of the following: (1) personal research that produced evidence of results; (2) direction of graduate theses in economics; or (3) service as a consultant or advisor on technical economics problems.

4. Analyze the costs and benefits of distributing and consuming these goods and services; conduct research, collect and analyze data, monitor economic trends, and develop forecasts.

Desirable Education:

Degree in economics that included at least 21 semester hours in economics and 3 semester hours in statistics, accounting, or calculus, OR a combination of education and experience: courses equivalent to a major in economics, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Conditions of Employment:

Security Clearance: If not previously completed, a background security investigation will be required for all appointees. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements may be grounds for appropriate personnel action. In addition, if hired, a background security investigation or supplemental investigation may be required later. Applicants are also advised that all information concerning qualification is subject to investigation. False representation may be grounds for non-selection and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

Ethics Requirements:

This position is subject to strict prohibited financial interest regulations which could restrict the type of financial interest (stock holdings) for the employee, the spouse, and minor children of the employee. Selectee for this position will be required to file a Confidential Disclosure Report (OGE 450 or 278) and may require the selectee to obtain clearance from the FDA Division of Ethics and Integrity before a final offer can be made. For additional information on the prohibited financial interests, please visit the FDA Ethics and Integrity Office website at <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

How to Apply: All qualified candidates can submit curriculum vitae/resume and cover letter in which you describe why you feel you are uniquely qualified for this position electronically to Normica.lzzard@fda.hhs.gov by March 4, 2020. For questions please contact Normica.lzzard@fda.hhs.gov. Please reference Job Code: Not applicable.

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