Many US jobs have been lost in the COVID economy. Rather than judging "essentialness,” skills determine worker adaptability and career mobility.

Context
- Current practice characterizes workers abstractly as educated or not, essential or not, or high-skill vs. low-skill
- Recent labor data enables improved insights through detailed occupational skill profiles representing the national US economy

Project Deliverables
- A developed framework for the skill complexity of urban labor markets in the form of an academic publication
- This funding enables the foundational work required for a multi-year research agenda around supporting workers.

Potential Impact
- Policy designed from equilibrium labor analysis may not apply during out-of-equilibrium labor disruptions
- The COVID economy represents a period of sustained out-of-equilibrium economics that requires new empirical insights into workers’ careers.
- Insights from this study will inform policy makers of:
  - Which workers are most susceptible to sustained unemployment
  - Which skills create career mobility
  - Which skills, firms, and industries might strengthen economic resilience following investment.

References and/or Acknowledgements