

Kejda Llana

302-565-5621

— kejda@udel.edu —

kejdallana.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration

University of Delaware
Qualifying Exam: Pass With Distinction
GPA: 4.00/4.00

*Expected: May 2026
Newark, DE*

M.Sc. in Economics and Applied Econometrics

University of Delaware

*Expected: May 2020
Newark, DE*

B.A. in Economics, Minor in Mathematics, Cum Laude

American University in Bulgaria

*May 2018
Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Consumer Finance, Housing Policy, Economics of Education, Health Economics, Causal Inference

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Intern, Consumer Finance Institute (CFI)
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

*June 2025 – Present
Philadelphia, PA*

- Collaborated on a research project under the supervision of Nathan Blascak, Ph.D.
- Contributed to a health-related project by conducting empirical analysis using large proprietary data and spatial analysis using ArcGIS.

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Delaware

*August 2021 – Present
Newark, DE*

- The Effects of Peers on COVID Vaccination Take-Up: Evidence from New York City Public Schools.
 - Utilized an Instrumental Variable (IV) strategy and administrative dataset to examine the effect of peers' vaccination on vaccine take-up and educational outcomes.
 - Findings show that a 1 percentage point (pp) increase in peer vaccination leads to a 0.23 pp increase in own vaccination. Black and Hispanic students were most responsive to peer vaccination.
- Choice in a Time of COVID: Immediate Enrollment Decisions in New York City and Detroit.
 - Examined K-8 enrollment and student mobility patterns over time and the impact of COVID on mobility post-COVID.
 - Findings suggest that mobility dropped substantially in the Fall of 2021.
 - Reductions in non-structural mobility were largest among Black, economically disadvantaged students, English Learners, and students with disabilities.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Papers in Progress

- **Llana, K.** (2025). Building Futures: The Impact of Affordable Housing on Student Achievement (*Job Market Paper*)
 - Employed staggered difference-in-differences methods with spatial ring design to estimate causal effects of LIHTC proximity on student outcomes using 1.2 million student-year observations (2011–2024)
 - Linked geocoded LIHTC development data with student-level administrative records to quantify spillover effects on attendance (0.49 pp decline), chronic absenteeism (1.74 pp increase), and subject-specific achievement impacts (positive for ELA, negative for math)
- Fitzpatrick, K., and **Llana, K.** (2025). Nowcasting Food Hardship: Applying Machine Learning to Aggregate Retail Sales Data. (under review)
 - Used national and state-level data from the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) and USDA's Weekly Retail Food Sales data to identify food insufficiency predictors, and develop tools to nowcast food hardship.
 - Found that current and lagged food spending predicts food insufficiency.
- Blascak, N, Hamami, T., & **Llana, K.** (2025). Hospital Market Structure and Medical Debt Collections
 - Prepared, cleaned, and analyzed large-scale consumer-level proprietary datasets to examine hospital mergers, market concentration, and medical debt-related outcomes.

- Conducted spatial analysis using ArcGIS to depict preliminary trends on medical debt collections across counties and hospital referral regions (HRRs) spanning several years: 2001-2014.

- Fitzpatrick, K., **Llana, K.** and Zhang, Y. (2025). Expanding Access to “Miracle Drugs”? The Impact of Medicaid Coverage on Take-Up of GLP-1 Medication
 - Constructed a state-by-quarter panel using CMS Medicaid drug utilization data (2018–2024) to analyze trends in prescription volumes and GLP1 access disparities.
 - Preliminary findings indicate significant increases in GLP-1 take-up across the U.S., with some states showing sharp quarter-to-quarter jumps exceeding 50% in prescription volume.
- **Llana, K.** (2024). Household Wealth Accumulation: Investigating Disparate Outcomes in the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Market.
 - Utilized the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) dataset and an intersectional approach to uncover discriminatory and unfair lending practices in the mortgage markets.

Reports

- Metraux, S., Gifford, K., McColl, R. & **Llana, K.** (2025). Home-Based Care Provision In Delaware: An Analysis Of Medicaid Claims and Emerging Trends, 2020-2023.
 - Examined Medicaid claims from 2020 to 2023, providing descriptive evidence into state and county-level home-based care service utilization by certain demographic characteristics; monetary value of claims; as well as accessibility.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Awards

- APPAM Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship *November 2025*
- University of Delaware Travel Award *October 2024*
- Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) 2023 Scholar Center for Financial Security, University of Wisconsin-Madison *June 2023*
- Dean’s List, American University in Bulgaria *August 2017 – May 2018*

Scholarships

- Full Tuition Scholarship & Research Assistantship, University of Delaware *August 2021 – Present*
- Full Tuition Scholarship & Teaching Assistantship, University of Delaware *August 2018 – May 2021*
- Partial Tuition Scholarship, American University in Bulgaria *August 2014 – May 2018*
- Albanian Scholarship, American University in Bulgaria *August 2014 – May 2015*

PRESENTATIONS

Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) 2025 Conference *Seattle, WA*
- Llana, K. (2025). Building Futures: *November 2025*
The Impact of Affordable Housing on Student Achievement *(forthcoming)*
-Fitzpatrick, K., **Llana, K.** and Zhang, Y. (2025).
Expanding Access to “Miracle Drugs”? The Impact of Medicaid Coverage on Take-Up of GLP-1 Medication

Southern Economic Association (SEA) 95th Annual Meeting *Tampa, FL*
Llana, K. (2025). Building Futures: *November 2025*
The Impact of Affordable Housing on Student Achievement *(forthcoming)*

Biden School Annual Research Showcase, 2025 *Newark, DE*
Llana, K. (2025). Building Futures: *March 2025*
The Impact of Affordable Housing on Student Achievement

Southern Economic Association (SEA) 94th Annual Meeting *Washington, D.C.*
Fitzpatrick, K., & Llana, K. (2024). Nowcasting Food Hardship: *November 2024*
Applying Machine Learning to Aggregate Retail Sales Data.

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) 49th Annual Conference *Baltimore, MD*
The Effects of Peers on COVID Vaccination Take-Up: *March 2024*
Evidence from New York City public schools.

Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) 2023 Conference *Atlanta, GA*
- Fitzpatrick, K., and Llana, K. (2023). Predicting Food Hardship in Real-Time: *November 2023*

A Machine Learning Approach Using Aggregate Retail Sales Data
- Llana, K. (2023). Household Wealth Accumulation:
Investigating Disparate Outcomes in the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Market.

Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT)

Llana, K.(2023). Household Wealth Accumulation:
Investigating Disparate Outcomes in the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Market.

*Madison, WI
June 2023*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Delaware

ECON303: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	<i>Spring 2021</i>
ECON435: Public Finance Economics	<i>Fall 2020</i>
ECON303: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory	<i>Spring 2020</i>
ECON311: Economics of Developing Countries	<i>Spring 2020</i>
ECON433: Economics of the Public Sector	<i>Fall 2019</i>
ECON301: Quantitative Microeconomic Theory	<i>Fall 2019</i>
ECON311: Economics of Developing Countries	<i>Fall 2018, Spring 2019</i>

Teaching Assistant, American University in Bulgaria

ECON301: Intermediate Economics *Fall 2017*

SERVICE

APPAM 2024 Fall Research Conference

Panel Discussant: "SNAP, Food Spending, and Food Prices" *Washington, D.C.*

November 2024

APPAM 2023 Fall Research Conference

Panel Chair: "Housing Policies for Affordability and Resilience" *Atlanta, GA*
Panel Organizer: "Food Insecurity, SNAP, and Food Spending" *November 2023*

APPAM 2022 Fall Research Conference

Panel Discussant: "New Evidence on the Safety Net and Stability" *Washington, D.C.*
Panel Discussant: "Government Programs, Policies, and Racial Equity" *November 2022*
Panel Chair: "The Effect of Public Policy on Unhoused and Housing Insecure Individuals"

SOFTWARE

Software: Microsoft Office, STATA, SQL, R, SAS (novice), Python (novice), ArcGIS, L^AT_EX

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Economic Association (AEA)	<i>Member</i>
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)	<i>Member</i>
The American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA)	<i>Member</i>
Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)	<i>Member</i>
Southern Economic Association (SEA)	<i>Member</i>
American Council on Consumer Interest (ACCI)	<i>Member</i>
American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)	<i>Member</i>
National Association for Business Economics (NABE)	<i>Member</i>