STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC MOBILITY
PROJECT AWARDS | JUNE 2020

Bridging the Gap: How Nonprofit Organizations Support Marginalized Communities amid COVID-19
University of Chicago

Two major goals: 1) to understand the needs and challenges CBOs face in supporting marginalized Chicagoans during the pandemic; and 2) to translate these findings into interventions, including coordinating strategies and resource sharing across CBOs, collaboration between CBOs and city government, real-time information dissemination to constituents, and a community brief to be distributed to CBOs and shared with their members and stakeholders.

Principal Investigator: Marci Ybarra, PhD, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago
Community Partner: Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and City Clerk of Chicago
Location: Chicago

A Co-Designed Approach to Cash Assistance as an Intervention for Chronic Absenteeism in the Springwells Neighborhood of Detroit
Wayne State University

With up to ten families in the Springwells neighborhood of Detroit whose students have been chronically absent, UNI will co-design a program that provides direct cash assistance to alleviate poverty related barriers to attendance. Wayne State University researchers will study how families use and benefit from cash assistance and how UNI's program design affects family experiences. Study will be exploratory and qualitative.

This project will be situated within the broader agenda of the Detroit Education Research Partnership, to inform its focus on policies and practices that address out-of-school barriers to attendance. findings will help stakeholders conceptualize a scaled-up version of this program, catalyst for a larger-scale, randomized controlled trial study of this intervention.

Sarah Lenhoff, PhD., Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, WSU College of Education, Wayne State University
Community Partner: Urban Neighborhoods Initiatives
Location: Detroit

Cooking and Community: Fostering Economic Mobility for Prospective Service Industry Workers through Multi-Tiered Community Partnerships
Michigan State University

Implement virtual instruction for low-income and marginalized people seeking a career in the service and restaurant industry. Through this project, MSU seeks to enhance economic mobility through job training, develop and deepen partnerships between MSU and community partners, and shape policies through tracking the working conditions of individuals in the food and restaurant industry.

The training consists of virtual hands-on cooking classes through the distribution of cooking kits and local farmers' food boxes (role of Allen neighborhood Center) as well as virtual training on workers and labor rights (role of MSU and ROC), and targets specifically workers from low-income and marginalized communities from the Lansing area. MSU will track and interview participants at different points in time after they exit the program, to evaluate their training and effect on the job market as well as their working conditions.

Maite Tapia, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Resources and Labor Relations, Michigan State University
Community Partner: Allen Neighborhood Center, ROC Michigan
Location: Lansing

Learn to Earn Research and Pilot Project
Wichita State University

Research and Identify how students and families in Wichita (Shocker Neighborhood) have been impacted by COVID-19 as it relates to student success. Specifically looking at barriers around: access to internet, access to technology, education levels of parental guardians in the same household and its effects on homeschooling, and the need for parents to be out of the home because they are classified as essential workers.

Goal is for WSU to 1) help the Shocker Nhood Coalition identify strategic interventions to implement during the summer to help prepare students for the 2020-2021 school year; 2) identify strategic partnerships that could help reduce barriers that exist in gaining access to internet service and computers in homes 3) create opportunities to assist parental guardians with obtaining GED and studying alongside their student's identifying and/or creating tools that will assist families as they continue to homeschool their kids.

Mark Glaser PhD, Professor of Public Administration, Hugo Wall School of Public Affairs, Wichita State University
Community Partner: Greater Wichita YMCA, Opportunity Wichita: Project Wichita, City of Wichita
Location: Wichita, Kansas

An Impact Evaluation of i.c. stars' Internship and Residency Program
University of Notre Dame

Proposal seeks to conduct an Randomized Control Trial (RCT) evaluation of participation in a tech skills training program for youth.

The i.c.stars Internship and Residency Program is a leadership and technology skills training program for underserved young adults in Chicago and Milwaukee. The tuition-free program includes a 4-month bootcamp involving classroom instruction and project-based learning.

Students learn hard skills (tech programming) and soft skills like leadership and networking abilities. Students are supported by professional development resources for 20 months prior to completion of the program.

Results from the program evaluation will help inform local, state, and federal policies for increasing social mobility.

Patrick Turner, PhD. Assistant Research Professor, Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO), University of Notre Dame
Community Partner: i.c. stars
Location: Chicago, IL and Milwaukee, WI

Center For Health and Research Transformation COVID-19 Rapid Response
University of Michigan

The network is supporting ongoing work by the Center for Health and Research Transformation at the University of Michigan to COVID-19 response analysis for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Council of Michigan Foundations, as well as other health-related organizations.

Marianne Udow-Phillips, executive director of the Center for Health research Transformation (CHRT) at the University of Michigan
Community Partners: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Council of Michigan Foundations, and other health-related organizations
Location: Ann Arbor, MI