

Policy Research and Analysis

Background

There are many paths to positive change in the areas of Foundation grantmaking; among the most effective and far-reaching are changes in public policy. In its Policy Research and Analysis grantmaking, the Foundation seems to develop a framework that embraces, without duplicating, the work of other HCD areas; to provide a quick and flexible response to unique policy opportunities; and to give the program a presence in the nation's capital through relationships with major national policy organizations.

Grantmaking Strategy

The role of grantmaking in Policy Research and Analysis is to complement and strengthen other Foundation work that deals with the relationship between place — home, neighborhood, city, and region — and positive outcomes for people, and to support Foundation work on systems reform in education, juvenile justice, and mental health. More specifically, the Foundation seeks to change the conversation about cities from one of deficit and disadvantage to one that recognizes and values the assets of urban neighborhoods and their residents; to increase the competitiveness of neighborhoods and cities through a better understanding of the interdependencies among neighborhoods, cities, and regions; and to increase the economic opportunity, wealth, and well-being of urban residents.

In support of this strategy, the Foundation has established three categories of grantmaking:

Core Institutional Support. These grants support institutions that specialize in research and analysis on policy issues of central interest to the Foundation. Such institutions must also be respected communicators of information, providing a bridge between researchers and critical actors such as public officials, corporations, nonprofit entities, and the media. Relationships with these institutions will, in addition, help the Foundation maintain a connection to important domestic policy issues and help identify ways to improve the process by which policy decisions are made.

Urban Policy. The goal of this category is to turn the national discourse about cities in a more positive direction — one that reveals cities' assets and potential, inviting investment based on informed self-interest. Misperceptions about urban communities often rise from a lack of information about existing assets and opportunities. The Foundation is helping to bridge this information gap by investing in organizations and projects that improve the quality of data about urban communities and make that information more accessible to policymakers, business leaders, practitioners, and researchers.

Program-Related Research. Grantmaking in this category is meant to offer a nimble response to significant policy-related proposals that do not fall neatly into any of the specific areas in the Program on Human and Community Development, but have important ramifications for the program's interests.

Implementation

The initial recipients of grants under *Core Institutional Support* include organizations such as the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Woodstock Institute, and the National Council of La Raza. As this portfolio is expanded, the Foundation will seek organizations that address areas outside the focus of these groups, such as education financing, tax policy and budget issues, fiscal capacity, federal versus local government responsibilities, macro housing research, demographics, race, and immigration.

The centerpiece of the *Urban Policy* strategy is a grant to *Living Cities: The National Community Development Initiative*, a 13-year-old consortium of 16 leading foundations, financial institutions, and agencies of the federal government whose goal is to improve the vitality of cities and urban neighborhoods. Another grant, to the Brookings Institution, supports the *Living Cities Census 2000 Series*, which documents the major social, economic, and demographic trends affecting major U.S. metropolitan areas and suggests policy implications for local, state, and federal leaders.

A grant to *CEOs for Cities* supports efforts to bring together mayors, corporate CEOs, university presidents, leaders of nonprofit institutions, and local and national foundations to consider new urban policies and practices and to become a voice for a positive future for cities. Also under this strategy the Foundation is undertaking a major review of the field of community development finance to determine the most appropriate role for future Foundation support.

Grants in *Program-Related Research* so far have addressed issues such as transportation policy; the effects of different welfare, employment, and antipoverty programs on children and families; and how children and families have been affected by the devolution of social programs from federal to state governments.

Representative Grants

URBAN POLICY

CDFI DATA PROJECT, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*
\$250,000 to collect and analyze FY 2003 data on indicators relevant to the community development financial institutions industry.

COALITION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, *Arlington, Virginia*
\$225,000 in support of general operations (over three years).

COASTAL ENTERPRISES, *Wiscasset, Maine*
\$100,000 in support of the CEI Development Initiative.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT VENTURE CAPITAL ALLIANCE, *New York, New York*
\$450,000 in support of general operations (over three years).

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT FUND, *Minneapolis, Minnesota*
\$50,000 for the development of a large-scale vehicle to attract investment capital for community and economic development.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY CAPITAL ASSOCIATION, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*
\$635,000 in support of general operations (over three years).

NATIONAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND, *Chicago, Illinois*
\$150,000 in support of general operations (over 18 months).

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS PLANNING COMMISSION, *Chicago, Illinois*
\$418,000 to pilot a virtual network for sharing housing and community development data (over two years).

THE REINVESTMENT FUND, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*
\$100,000 in support of a yearlong strategic planning initiative.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, *Ann Arbor, Michigan*
\$75,000 in support of the project Financial Services for the Poor: The Detroit Area Study.

PROGRAM-RELATED RESEARCH

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, CENTER ON URBAN AND METROPOLITAN POLICY, *Washington, D.C.*
\$100,000 in support of research on transportation policy and reform.

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, ECONOMIC STUDIES PROGRAM, *Washington, D.C.*
\$220,000 in support of the project Making the Tax System Work for Low- and Moderate-Income Families and Workers.

SARGENT SHRIVER NATIONAL CENTER ON POVERTY LAW, *Chicago, Illinois*
\$100,000 in support of policy development and advocacy in economic security and work supports on behalf of low-income people in Illinois.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT / RESEARCH NETWORKS

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, *Waltham, Massachusetts*
\$750,000 in support of the National
Scientific Council on the Developing Child
(over three years).

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS, *Chicago, Illinois*
\$100,000 in support of volumes in the MacArthur
Series on Mental Health and Human Development
(over four years).

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*
\$250,000 in support of the Research Network on
Transitions to Adulthood and Public Policy.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*
\$5,200,000 in support of the Research Network
on Transitions to Adulthood and Public Policy
(over four years).

CORE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA, *Washington, D.C.*
\$300,000 in support of the Policy Analysis Center
(over three years).

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES,
Washington, D.C.
\$150,000 in support of general operations
(over two years).

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER, *Washington, D.C.*
\$150,000 in support of general operations
(over two years).

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