



CDWSP CENTRAL

Nurturing the Next Generation of Community Development Professionals

WINTER 2002

Office of University
Partnerships
Community
Development
Work Study
Program

Work Study Program Equips Students To Better Serve Their Communities

The special insights of economically disadvantaged and minority students and the skills they learn in college programs can make them uniquely qualified for careers in community development. However, these students may be thwarted by a lack of academic and financial resources. To help them overcome these obstacles and fulfill their potential, institutions of higher learning across the country are cooperating in the Community Development Work Study Program (CDWSP), which enables participating students to take a wide range of courses while serving in many types of work placements with local agencies that are struggling with development challenges.

This year CDWSP, an initiative of HUD's Office of University Partnerships (OUP), is providing \$3 million in grants to colleges and universities to assist 102 low-income graduate students enrolled in full-time programs in community development or closely related fields such as urban planning, public policy, or public administration. The students apply to a grantee institution for individual CDWSP grants, which supplement their expenses for tuition, travel, and books. The program enables the students to take various courses in their field of interest and gain complementary work experience in diverse public, private, and nonprofit agencies.

Each grantee college or university organizes the courses and individual faculty involvement, secures work assignments, disburses funds, and monitors student performance. Grantees' annual funds are allotted from 2-year competitive grants.

CDWSP is one of several initiatives administered by OUP. Since the office was established in 1994, it has helped colleges and universities join their communities in a search for answers to pressing urban problems. "One of our nation's biggest challenges during the next decade

will be to continue the transformation of communities into safe and vibrant environments where economic opportunity exists for all," HUD Secretary Mel Martinez said recently. "These grants will help ensure that we have a cadre of community planning and development experts ready to meet this challenge." U.S. colleges and universities are training a new generation of community development professionals who will be in the forefront of efforts to revitalize our cities in the 21st century. ♦

Colleges and Universities Cooperate With Communities To Offer Students Indepth Study and Real-World Experiences

The Community Development Work Study Program (CDWSP) is effective for three reasons. First, it involves colleges and universities that are anchored in their communities and thus can leverage participation by community organizations and local public agencies. Second, its academic programs foster community partnerships. Third, CDWSP enables students to test development principles by applying them as part of the workforce. Each local CDWSP effort draws participants from city governments, community-building agencies, and other organizations that benefit by helping the students. Students not only study the elements of neighborhood decline, they also learn practical solutions from community stakeholders. Students then bring new perspectives to day-to-day work in local agencies and community organizations.

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CDWSP Central is a free publication prepared by the University Partnerships Clearinghouse, the information service sponsored by HUD's Office of University Partnerships (OUP). CDWSP Central highlights the contributions of work study programs to local community efforts. You may contact the University Partnerships Clearinghouse at P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849-6091, (800) 245-2691 (phone), (301) 519-5767 (fax). See the Office of University Partnerships on the World Wide Web at <http://www.oup.org>.

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CDWSP is housed on the campus but implemented in the community. Very often the students selected to participate are from the communities that the program is designed to assist. Their firsthand knowledge of their communities is integrated into the program through course discussions and work placements. Many of the students are encouraged to pursue an interest in a particular issue by specializing within their degree program. Moreover, because participating colleges and universities have worked diligently to establish themselves as caring neighbors, they use their substantial resources to support revitalization efforts, enabling students to gain experience through their internships in the places where community building comes to life. All the components of CDWSP—from the students and their grassroots knowledge to curriculum concepts and workplace assignments—come together to empower

people to seek solutions to community problems.

On completion of their courses and work experience, CDWSP students are prepared to take their places as leaders in their community. Students leave the institution with a better sense of what they have to offer, a clear understanding of community dynamics, professional community-building experience, and a solid education from a nationally recognized college or university.

This premiere issue of *CDWSP Central* features this year's grantees. It gives overviews of the degrees, curriculums, and work assignments offered by each grantee to attract more minority and disadvantaged students to its academic programs and related placements in community planning and development. These brief descriptions—grouped by the type of degree offered—reveal CDWSP's breadth and depth.

Community and Economic Development

The Community and Economic Development program at **Southern New Hampshire University** is unique: It is the only program in the country that offers both master's and doctoral degrees in community economic development. A central part of the curriculum is the requirement that students work on community projects or serve as interns. CDWSP students gain practical experience through their work with the New

Hampshire Community Loan Fund, the Center for Community and Economic Development, and Working Capital (a microcredit program operating in eight states). The curriculum directly relates to issues of the community and its economic development. Courses are offered on subjects such as indigenous economics, development of cooperatives, finance, and business development.

Public Administration

Arkansas State University's master's program in public administration prepares students for positions of leadership in governmental and nongovernmental public service organizations by emphasizing managerial and administrative skills and applied learning. Students participating in the program engage in the daily business of five community development assignments. These placements give the students a full range of viewpoints from various stakeholders, including grassroots groups, federal and local government, and regional coalitions.

Eastern Kentucky University—Richmond has enabled CDWSP students to graduate with a master's in public administration and use their skills to develop stronger communities and build the capacity of local governments in the surrounding rural region. Many rural communities in eastern Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, and West Virginia have identified a need for administrative expertise and technical support. The placement of students in local governments, community development agencies, housing authorities, and area development districts helps them learn about and respond to the pressing needs of the surrounding community.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), a planning organization, cooperates with four local institutions on CDWSP: **George Mason University**, which offers public administration; **Howard University**, which offers public administration and urban economics; the **University of Maryland**, which offers a community planning program; and the **University of the District of Columbia**, which also offers public administration. At minimum, each student has three work placement



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rotations, enabling them to sharpen their professional writing, presentation, and computer skills. These work assignments are with local government and nonprofit organizations that focus on planning, housing, management, and policy. To enhance the local CDWSP, COG partners with other local stakeholder organizations, including universities, to strengthen workforce development and career education and training.

Savannah State University uses funds to help students prepare for permanent employment in community building while completing requirements for their master's degrees in public administration. Students are required to take a 2-year seminar in community building. The course teams faculty with professionals in the Savannah, Georgia, area to expose students to theoretical and practical approaches to community building and to provide an understanding of and appreciation for the history and evolution of efforts required to address local community problems. Savannah State work placements focus on housing, youth, planning, and economic development.

The master's in public administration program at **Southern Illinois University Edwardsville** offers its CDWSP students an opportunity to gain relevant hands-on experience and get a head start on their community-building careers. Students are interviewed and matched with agencies oriented toward community development, such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, local city governments, housing authorities, and additional local agencies.

Texas Tech University CDWSP students, selected from groups traditionally underrepresented in government management, are being trained for careers as professionals in community and economic development while working on a master's in public administration. The students engage in solving real-world problems by becoming interns with citizens' boards associated with the Community Development Department, by assisting in the revision of the city's consolidated plan, and by working with the Lubbock Homeless Consortium. Their general course work is enhanced by seminars in urban and minority affairs.

The master's in public administration program at the **University of Alabama at Birmingham** provides students with a comprehensive curriculum that is flexible in scope. Students interested in community building and management or economic development can further their studies by specializing in organizational management, urban planning and management, public policy analysis, or public finance and economic development. Students also have the option to work individually with faculty members to pursue a particular interest in community building or economic development. The program's reputation in the Birmingham community is demonstrated by the growing number of requests to host interns.

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga funds three students through CDWSP. Students earning a master's in public administration finish the program highly skilled in problem-solving techniques, critical thinking, policy analysis, and community planning and building. The program offers students rigorous courses and an opportunity to work in various community agencies, such as the Chattanooga Research Council,

the Inner-City Community Development Corporation, and Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise.

CDWSP students at the **University of Washington–Seattle** have access to two fully accredited, nationally recognized graduate master's degree programs—public administration and urban planning. Students are prepared for management positions in nonprofit organizations. The curriculum focuses on core areas such as quantitative analysis, public policy analysis, microeconomics, budgeting, management, and values and ethics. The Seattle metropolitan area provides the students with an extraordinary range of community-building organizations and opportunities.

Public and Urban Policy

The CDWSP funds at **Carnegie Mellon University's** H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management strengthen the school's longstanding commitment to recruit a racially and socioeconomically diverse student body by funding tuition for students who demonstrate financial need, good academic and professional potential, and commitment to a career in community and economic development. Students are required to take part in a three-agency placement rotation with economic and community development organizations in the Pittsburgh region to ensure a variety of high-quality experiences and future job placements. The Heinz School's curriculum emphasizes applied problem-solving skills through a mandatory capstone project in which students attempt to solve a real problem for a local public or nonprofit agency.

The students chosen to participate in CDWSP at **Duke University** pursue a rigorous curriculum leading to a master's degree in public policy. The program provides a broadly based foundation in the quantitative, analytical, and managerial methods essential to success in a variety of public service careers. It also goes beyond abstract principles to challenge students to apply their analytical skills, blending a human, ethical perspective with systematic problem-solving and management techniques. Students complete their course work at the Stanford Institute with field placements in agencies and organizations located in the neighborhoods surrounding Duke in Durham, North Carolina, or by supporting neighborhood revitalization efforts through the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership Initiative.



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The Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at the **New School University** in New York City is in a prime location to offer selected minority CDWSP fellows opportunities for professional experience in community development, with an emphasis on finance. Students earn their master's degrees in urban policy analysis and management by combining required core and specialty courses, financial research projects, related seminars and conferences, and work placement with a variety of projects with agencies in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The New School seeks to supply a more specialized, financially skilled workforce to the community development field.

Three master's degree programs—planning, public administration, and public policy—make up the CDWSP learning laboratory in community building at the **University of Southern California (USC)**. USC partners with local community development organizations to ensure that students obtain a range of training and professional development experiences in large and small cities with grassroots community groups and nonprofit organizations. The internship work sites expose students to neighborhood revitalization, consensus building, workforce development, and brownfields redevelopment.

Urban and Regional Planning

Alabama A&M University has established a 2-year, nationally accredited master's degree program in urban and regional planning that enables students to pursue careers in community building. The program prepares professional planners dedicated to helping society build stronger communities and manage change. Course work focuses on the social, physical, and economic development aspects of the planning process.

California Polytechnic State University offers a master's degree in city and regional planning for students who have majored in a broad range of fields—such as urban design, environmental studies, and the social sciences—and want to apply their interdisciplinary knowledge to contemporary urban issues. Students complete internships in fields such as site planning, finance, construction, and operation of affordable housing, Community Development Block Grant administration, mortgage and homeownership counseling, and business incubator development.

Economically disadvantaged and minority students participating in CDWSP at **Clemson University** can earn a master's degree from the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture. The courses cover basic principles including planning ethics, zoning, and urban economics. The work placement agencies include state government, local government, an areawide planning organization, and a

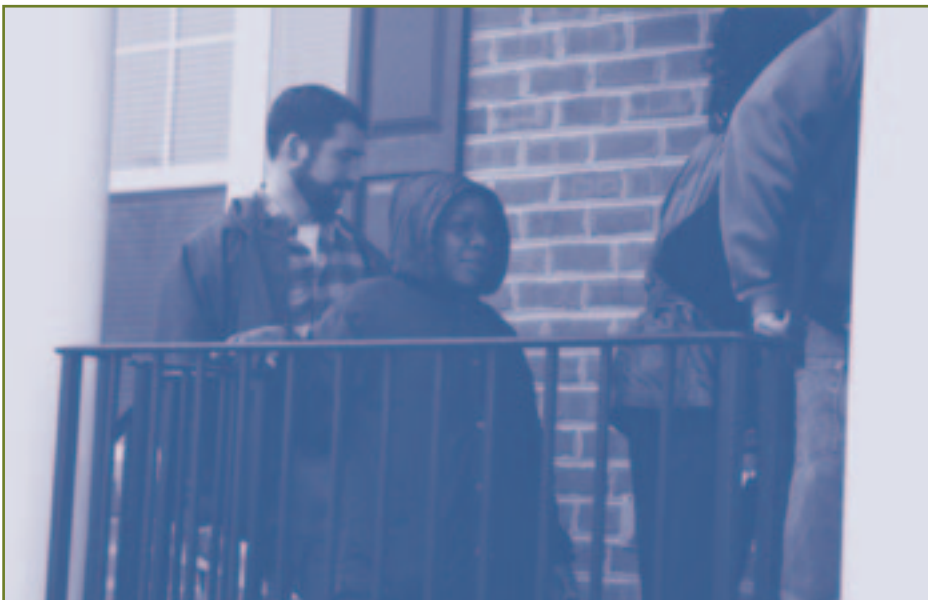
private nonprofit organization involved in comprehensive planning and land-use activities.

Cleveland State University offers full-time students a 2-year master's degree program in urban planning, design, and development that integrates those areas into one comprehensive course. The curriculum focuses on the needs and problems of industrial cities and nearby regions undergoing transformation and revitalization. The program's advanced training prepares graduates for careers in community building, city and regional planning, real estate, community and economic development, and neighborhood development.

At **Eastern Washington University**, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning benefits from its partnership with CDWSP by enabling students to pursue a variety of work placements, with a minimum of three assignments during the 2-year period. Approximately 40 area agencies, including city planning departments, Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, a housing authority, and the Spokane Historic Preservation Office, place interns. The graduate curriculum is designed to train competent planning and community development professionals.

Students who are economically disadvantaged, physically challenged, or members of minority groups can participate in **Kansas State University** CDWSP graduate studies in regional and community planning. Students are prepared for careers in community planning, neighborhood planning, economic development, housing and community development, and city management, as well as administrative positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. As part of the program, students engage in community data analysis, learn grant administration, and grapple with housing issues.

The master's in city planning program at the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** uses CDWSP funds to cover the tuitions of three full-time graduate students. MIT is committed to preparing students to institute social and political reform, improve places and spaces, make institutions work, and



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become advocates for underrepresented constituencies. The program trains students to focus on various approaches to a situation and to think about problems rather than concentrate exclusively on technical planning methodology. The students intern at participating state, city, and community-based agencies.

The master's in city and regional planning program at **Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey**, was developed as a result of socially focused research integrated into a professionally directed curriculum. Rutgers has more than 4 years' experience with CDWSP and offers a solid theoretical and practical education that prepares students for work in community development. From the beginning, the program's focus has been on applying the concepts and methods of the social sciences and the design profession to the practice of planning.

The State University of New York at Buffalo's CDWSP funds the efforts of selected students in their pursuit of a master's degree in urban planning. Work placements offer the students a broad spectrum of community-building experiences, including internships in economic development, affordable housing, and human services. Students selected for the program are from a broad spectrum of academic programs such as history, political science, geography, and urban studies. This diversity, along with the students' unique experiences and perspectives, enriches the program and brings considerable breadth to the community-building process.

The CDWSP at **Texas A&M University-College Station** takes a multifaceted approach to community building. The program is based on a partnership that prepares graduates to practice community development in urban and rural settings. The university is located in a state with many urban areas, yet more than two-thirds of its counties are identified as rural. The Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning Department, the Center for Housing and Urban Development, and community-based urban development programs are partners

in creating a strong interdisciplinary team of academics and practitioners who provide diverse professional work experiences in rural, urban, and multicultural contexts.

The **University of Cincinnati's** 2-year master's degree program in community planning prepares students to become generalist planners. The university's CDWSP grant supports students in achieving this degree with a specialty in either physical planning or economic and community development. Students take a one-credit seminar each quarter that is held at two or three different community-building agencies, such as the Department of City Planning, a community center, and the Urban League. Staff from these agencies discuss the nature of their efforts as well as other aspects of job placement and career development.

CDWSP funding at the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** supports graduate planning students. Faculty advisors identify and select candidates who have the greatest financial need and who agree to make a good-faith effort to find employment after graduation with a state or local government, an Indian tribe administering community development programs, or a private nonprofit organization that receives community development funds. The program offers a wide range of intern placement opportunities with state and local community development and planning bodies and nonprofit agencies in the Research Triangle area.

The **University of Pennsylvania** Department of City and Regional Planning uses its CDWSP grant to benefit students through internship placements at agencies such as Philadelphia's planning commission and the Partnership Community Development Corporation. The 2-year master's program enables students to participate in ongoing community-building efforts in west Philadelphia. Through the program, participants cooperate with local high school students to engage them in educational projects to reduce dropout rates and empower them with knowledge of the neighborhood. After graduation, students are prepared for permanent employment in community building.

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Important Facts About CDWSP Grants

Selection Factors

Institutions applying for CDWSP funding are evaluated based on the following factors:

- Academic quality, including the appropriateness of the institution's curriculum and the qualifications of faculty and academic supervisors.
- Graduation rates of students previously enrolled in the academic programs and participating in CDWSP-type work experiences after graduation.
- Assurance that students will receive sufficient financial assistance in addition to the CDWSP funding to complete the program in a timely manner.
- Quality and variety of work placements.
- Likelihood of fostering students' permanent employment in community development or a related field.
- Ability to coordinate and administer the program.

Funding Opportunities

CDWSP funding helps colleges and universities meet students' diverse financial needs. Grants include:

- Support for tuition, travel, and books—up to \$5,000 a year per student.
- Work stipends—up to \$9,000 a year per student.
- Administrative allowance for grantees—\$1,000 a year per grantee for each participating student.

For more information, contact:

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Additional CDWSP Efforts

The CDWSP at **Northern Arizona University–Flagstaff** selects qualified students from its nationally accredited rural geography program who have demonstrated a desire to work in public non-profit planning and community building. Students gain valuable work experience in community-building assignments with city community development departments (including an entitlement city and the Navaho and Hopi nations), the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, and the nonprofit Affordable Housing Coalition. Students spend 2 years working 20 hours a week in internships and are supervised by mentors who are professionals in the community development field.

The **Minnesota State University Mankato** CDWSP program supports graduate students in obtaining a degree from the School of Urban and Regional Studies. Each recipient undertakes a 2-year effort emphasizing community-building skills including community and economic development, community planning, and community management. Students gain work experience through internships with statewide planning organizations and local government development agencies. Two-year workplace assignments give the students progressively more challenging community-building experience.

The **University of Chicago** CDWSP encourages participation in community service in several ways, including course work, mentor programs, internships and jobs, student-run volunteer organizations, and a public service fellowship. The core



curriculum examines a wide range of community development issues, including religion and the city, youth gang problems, basic demographic analysis, urban healthcare, and public finance and economics. Students are placed at the Chicago Association of Neighborhood Development Organizations, the city planning department, and other community organizations.

The **University of Pittsburgh's** Graduate School of Public and International Affairs collaborates with the university's School of Social Work to provide funding for graduate students through CDWSP. The local program's Partnership Council hosts a monthly seminar as a forum for sharing fieldwork experience; integrating course work; and educating faculty, partnership staff, internship agency supervisors, students, and other invited guests about emerging regional community-building issues and activities. This longstanding educational collaboration provides a comprehensive curriculum in community development work. ♦

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