

COPC Central

Engaged Universities Are Central to Strong Communities

Office of University Partnerships

\$7.5 Million To Fund Community Outreach in 1997

A new round of grants totaling \$7.5 million from HUD's OUP will help selected colleges, universities, and community colleges develop new programs to revitalize neighboring communities. The awards from \$250,000 to \$400,000 each will fund 15 new COPCs, adding to the 45 COPCs created by OUP over the last 3 years. Applications for the 1997 grants are due to HUD on June 19, 1997.

Universities, colleges, and community colleges conduct outreach, technical assistance, and applied research through COPCs addressing concerns about local housing, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, infrastructure, health care, crime, and planning. Each COPC must address three or more problem areas. As part of their comprehensive efforts, existing COPCs have implemented activities such as:

- The University of Illinois at Chicago linked institutional hiring and purchasing programs to community businesses.
- The University of Memphis set up business incubators and microenterprise revolving-loan funds to help local entrepreneurs.
- The University of South Florida conducted activities to build capacity in minority-owned businesses.
- The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee provided design and planning assistance to community organizations' projects.
- Yale University helped nearby public housing residents develop tenant management plans.
- Georgia State University helped communities implement community policing efforts.
- Wayne State University, with Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, advocated for changes in foreclosure

practices to assist community groups in acquiring abandoned buildings.

- The University of San Diego provided mediation services to settle landlord-tenant disputes.

The COPC vision includes:

- *Community-driven agenda.* Residents' desires for their community must guide COPC outreach, technical assistance, and applied research activities.
- *Substantive partnerships.* COPC's relationships with community-based organizations go on throughout the life of the initiatives.
- *Practical applied research.* Research and outreach must be related to one another and directly applicable to community needs.
- *University leadership.* Faculty and students provide the majority of neighborhood assistance.
- *Broad institutional support.* Senior administration should support COPC as an integral part of the institution's urban mission.

Accredited public or private 2- and 4-year institutions are eligible. Applicants must match Federal funds for at least 50 percent of the cost of research activities and 25 percent of the cost of outreach activities with contributions from private sources or State and local governments.

For more information, contact Jane Karadbil, Office of University Partnerships, Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW., Room 8110, Washington, DC 20410, (202) 708-1537. E-mail: Jane_R_Karadbil@hud.gov. Individuals with hearing or speech impairments may call (202) 708-0770 (TTY) or (800) 877-8399 (Federal Information Relay Service TTY).

Welcome to the first issue of *COPC Central*, the quarterly newsletter that explores the many ways colleges and universities can help strengthen their communities. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew M. Cuomo outlined our opportunity when he said, "The Office of University Partnerships helps universities and community colleges fulfill their urban mission. HUD's role is to help the full range of community-based institutions and individuals make effective use of their resources to solve critical urban problems. To help build sustainable communities, HUD encourages and supports partnerships between colleges and universities and their communities." Institutions of higher education are already major forces in America's cities. Growing numbers of colleges and universities are using their enormous human and economic capacity to forge new models of community involvement. This newsletter will introduce you to some of these models, as well as pass on other news you can use to enhance your local revitalization efforts.

In this first issue we spotlight Texas A & M University's work in the border colonias then cross the country to feature the City College of New York's Harlem partnership with Barnard College and Columbia University. An additional article covers innovative community activities at Duquesne University.

HUD is a partner in each of these efforts. Since 1994, OUP, under the leadership of Assistant Secretary Michael A. Stegman, has served as a major resource for university-community involvement. Forty-five Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC) funded by OUP over the last 3 years carry out technical assistance and outreach and conduct applied research in distressed



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and Urban Development



Office of Policy Development
and Research

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Fostering Resident Empowerment in the Colonias—Texas A&M's COPC

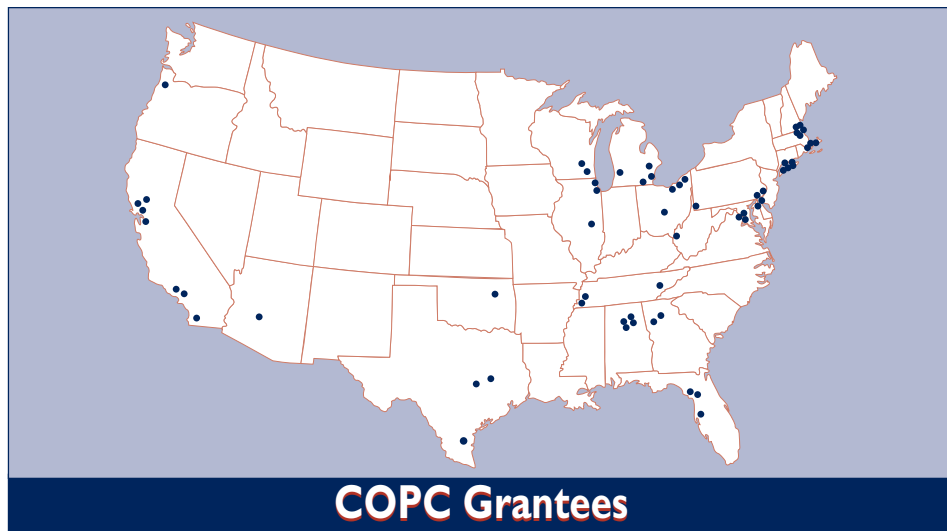
The goal of Texas A&M University's COPC is to build the capacity of residents to help themselves in 10 rural, underdeveloped Hispanic colonias in southern Texas. Colonias, unincorporated rural settlements on the U.S. side of the United States/Mexican border, are characterized by substandard housing and an absence of sewer systems, clean drinking water, garbage collection, or paved roads. Funded in part by a 1994 HUD COPC grant, the project is a collaboration among the university, Texas Engineering Extension Service, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Transportation Institute, and Webb County, Texas.

"Building trust and gaining resident input has been the key to our work," says Dr. Pradip Pramanik, COPC program coordinator. After a series of door-to-door visits and community-wide meetings with resident and service providers, "COPC really blossomed," says Pramanik. As part of its institutionalization efforts in the community, COPC recently recruited 10 residents with leadership potential to act as promotoras (community liaison workers) who will encourage resident participation in self-development activities and assist researchers with data collection.

The hub of COPC activities is a 3,150-square-foot community resource center that opened in September 1996, built with university funds and administered by Webb County. The center serves as a platform for delivery of health, education, human services, economic development, housing, and other programs recruited by COPC. COPC staff helped organize a community center resident advisory committee, which will be applying for its own 501(c)3 status with technical assistance from several local organizations. Incorporated as an independent nonprofit organization, the group will be able to apply for new funding sources at the conclusion of the COPC grant in fall 1997. Building on the community center's success, Webb County has built a Head Start center next to COPC and is developing soccer fields and other recreational improvements in the area.

To develop resident educational and leadership skills, COPC established the Family Academic and Skills Training (FAST) program, with English as a second language, general equivalency

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1994

Arizona State University
Barnard College/Columbia University/
City College of the
City University of New York
Duquesne University
Merrimack College
Michigan State University/University of
Michigan/Wayne State University
Pratt Institute
San Francisco State University/
University of California at Berkeley
Stanford University
Texas A&M University
Trinity College
University of California at Los Angeles
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of South Florida
University of Texas-Pan American
Yale University

1995

Case Western Reserve University/
Cleveland State University/
Cuyahoga Community College
DePaul University
George Mason University/Northern
Virginia Community College
Georgia State University/Georgia
Institute of Technology
Marshall University
Milwaukee Area Technical College/
University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee
University of Alabama at
Birmingham/Miles College/Lawson
State Community College
University of Delaware/Delaware
Technical and Community College
University of Florida/Santa Fe
College Community College
University of Illinois

University of Massachusetts at
Boston/Bunker Hill Community
College/Roxbury Community
College
University of Memphis/LeMoyne
Owen College
University of Tennessee
University of Texas

1996

Central Connecticut State University
Howard University
Hunter College
Los Angeles Trade-Technical College
Northeastern University
Ohio State University
Portland State University
Stillman College
Temple University
Tulsa Community College
University of California at Davis
University of Massachusetts at Lowell
University of Michigan-Flint
University of Pennsylvania
University of San Diego

Ordering the Application Kit or NOFA

To order the grant application kit, contact HUD USER, ATTN.: COPC, P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849-6091. Requests for the application kit must be made in writing but may be faxed to (301) 251-5767. Requests must include the applicant's name, mailing address (including zip code), and telephone number (including area code) and must refer to **Document FR-4187**.

On March 20, 1997, the Federal Register published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the COPC program with complete program requirements and evaluation criteria.

You may download the application kit and NOFA from the University Partnerships Clearinghouse homepage (<http://www.oup.org>) or from the gopher server (<gopher://oup.org:7811/programs>). For answers to questions about ordering or downloading the application kit, call the University Partnerships Clearinghouse at (800) 245-2691.

COPC Central is a free quarterly publication prepared by the University Partnerships Clearinghouse, the information service sponsored by HUD's Office of University Partnerships (OUP). *COPC Central* highlights the contributions of universities and colleges to local community revitalization efforts. You may contact the University Partnerships Clearinghouse at P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20849, (800) 245-2691, (fax) (301) 251-5767.

Harlem Partnership Center Fosters Computer Literacy, Business Skills

By using the Harlem Partnership Center (HPC), Harlem residents are gaining computer skills, learning how to start their own businesses, and becoming more effective property managers. HPC is a partnership of the City College of the City University of New York (CUNY), Barnard College, Columbia University, and numerous community organizations. Funded in part by a 1994 HUD Community Outreach Partnership grant, the collaboration puts the universities and Harlem residents "on the same footing to deal creatively with the needs of the community," according to Dr. Ghislaine Hermanuz, HPC's principal investigator.

With financial and technical support from HPC, Computer Underground Railroad Enterprises, Inc., a startup business, has provided more than 270 community residents with computer literacy training since summer 1996. Interest in the class has been "overwhelming," Hermanuz says. Participants attend 5 hours of lectures and at least 20 hours of tutoring at the Minisink Settlement House's computer lab, learning basic software packages. Independent projects incorporate everyday life concerns, such as preparing a family budget. Participants pay no money, but instead agree to tutor two other people in the lab, spreading the benefits of training to more Harlem residents.

In another HPC project, CUNY's Baruch College Small Business Lab takes the lead in providing training, counseling, and technical assistance to Harlem residents who want to start their own businesses. The free business development class for residents taught by Baruch faculty introduces potential entrepreneurs to the tools needed to run a business and assists them in developing business plans. HPC recruited 46 students for

the first class in April 1996, held during 12 free 3-hour night sessions, with ongoing consultation available. Forty-four students graduated in the spring, and a second class of 42 graduated in the fall session. "The networking opportunities presented by the class have shown many students how they might use each other for support," says Hermanuz. "Some students are now thinking of joint ventures instead of working alone." Future classes may focus on special forms of enterprise, such as nonprofit business ventures.

Housing management is another area of HPC endeavor. In September 1996 HPC's financial support made it possible for the Apartment House Institute of New York City Technical College to offer an abbreviated version of its certification course on Management of Affordable Housing at Minisink. Twelve free 2-hour sessions are targeted to managers of affordable housing in the Harlem Empowerment Zone. It covers topics such as marketing, maintenance, and financial management. The Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development in Manhattan identified teachers from the community for the class. Of the 26 students who enrolled, 14 graduated. In the future HPC hopes to work with the New York City Housing Authority to train its residents in property management.

Other HPC initiatives include a variety of technical assistance projects in housing and planning, student community service, and research internships. For more information on the Harlem Partnership Center, contact Dr. Ghislaine Hermanuz (212) 650-6751.

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Fostering Resident Empowerment in the Colonias—Texas A&M's COPC

diploma, computer literacy, and leadership instruction as key components. Participants in the leadership component have gained proficiency in public speaking, problemsolving, community organizing, and job interviewing skills. Thirty adults have completed the 12-week FAST program, and another 18 are currently enrolled.

In another COPC initiative, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) last year negotiated an agreement to mitigate some of the extreme geographic isolation of the colonias. Using State of Texas funds, TTI purchased a 15-passenger van for public transportation. Webb County pays for

a driver and insurance. Since October, the van has made regular runs among the 10 colonias, the community resource center, and a connecting point to Laredo's city bus service. TTI is currently working with the State to obtain two more vans.

In addition, COPC partners have arranged health education, fostered economic development, provided technical assistance in land-use regulation and self-help housing, and initiated many other community-building efforts. For more information about the Texas A&M COPC, contact Dr. Pradip Pramanik, Program Coordinator, (409) 862-2370.

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communities. *COPC Central* spreads the word about housing, health care, education, economic, and social service programs at these academic centers and highlights the activities of other OUP programs, including:

- The Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant Program, which provides one-time grants of \$15,000 to as many as 15 doctoral candidates to write dissertations that address policy-relevant issues in housing and urban development.
- The Community Development Work Study Program, which awards 2-year grants to institutions of higher learning, areawide planning organizations, and States to fund work stipends and tuition support for graduate students in planning and community development.
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions Work Study Program, which provides tuition and other assistance to economically disadvantaged full-time students at Hispanic-serving community colleges who are pursuing degrees that promote community building.
- Community Renaissance Fellows Program, which offers midlevel professionals with real estate-related experience the opportunity to enhance their community-building skills working in Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), with private development partners, or with other entities that work with PHAs to leverage public and private funds to revitalize distressed public housing communities.

Through these initiatives and cooperative ventures, OUP seeks to assist institutions of higher learning apply their traditional missions of teaching, research, and service to pressing community problems. I hope the successful activities highlighted in *COPC Central* will spark ideas and encourage colleges and universities to become more involved in these much needed community efforts.

Mary Ellen Mazey
Director

Office of University Partnerships

Mary Ellen Mazey, Ph.D., is on leave as Professor of Urban Affairs and Geography at Wright State University while she serves as Director of HUD's OUP.

OUP's Homepage Provides Many Resources for Colleges and Universities

When HUD's OUP publishes its NOFAs, the word goes out first on the World Wide Web. Visitors to OUP's homepage (<http://www.oup.org>) can read about OUP's NOFAs for programs such as:

- Community Outreach Partnership Centers.
- Community Development Work Study.
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions Work Study Program.
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Grants.
- Community Renaissance Fellows Program.

The website carries details on program requirements, eligibility, the application process, and activities of recent grantees. Grant applications can be downloaded. OUP publications, such as the *Foundation Resource Guide* and both volumes of *University Community Partnerships—Current Practices*, can also be viewed or

downloaded. A list of publications available from HUD USER, the information service sponsored by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research, is also available. The site also offers online discussion forums. Have any questions or comments about OUP programs? Direct them to OUP staff by e-mail link on the homepage.

The OUP homepage links to several other organizations' websites that might be helpful for building university-community partnerships—Community Outreach Partnership Center grantees, professional associations, think tanks, national nonprofit organizations, university departments and centers, and government. The site also gives directions to a range of listservs—under various sponsorships—on economic development, homelessness, housing, social services, rural communities, urban planning, and other topics.

Duquesne Launches Community Mediation Program

Duquesne University is training youth in mediation skills to decrease gang violence in Pittsburgh's East Liberty and the Hill District neighborhoods. Duquesne's Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy developed the program in collaboration with community leaders, the Community Intensive Supervision Program (CISP), and the Pittsburgh Mediation Center. CISP is operated by the Allegheny County Juvenile Justice System. Twenty-five mediators completed 8 weeks of general training and 5 weeks of instruction in mediation. Additionally, trainees observed mediation sessions at the Pittsburgh Mediation Center. As they graduated from trainee to teacher status, the new mediators actively assumed responsibility for the program, worked with the mediation center to adjust the training model to fit street-level conflicts. The mediators have conducted two formal mediations, taught 9 hours mediation training to nine teenage CISP clients, and made several presentations.

Contact: Evan Stoddard at (412) 396-5179.

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