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People and Place: Understanding the Processes, Outcomes and Impacts of Interventions of the Fairmount Corridor Initiative

Center for Social Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston

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People and Place: Understanding the Processes, Outcomes and Impacts of Interventions of the Fairmount Corridor Initiative

Summary/Abstract

Through a 5 year grant, the Center for Social Policy (CSP) serves as a strategic learning and evaluation partner to The Boston Foundation (TBF). TBF's investment and people and place-based initiatives seek to make sustainable, positive change through community and economic development in neighborhoods along the Fairmount-Indigo transit line in Boston. From 2010-2012, the Center team worked closely with Mattapan United and Millennium 10 (in Codman Square/Four Corners) to identify community priorities for neighborhood change. From 2013-2015, the Center team is evaluating these neighborhood change efforts, as well as other initiatives aimed at increasing economic well-being for neighborhood residents. The Center is also serving as a learning partner to TBF planners.

Goals and Objectives

Corridor Level Learning Plan Designed To:

- Inform next stages of TBF's investment and activities along Fairmount Corridor.
- Track TBF's contribution to transformative strategies and/or approaches that succeed in changing the life trajectories for low income children/families and their neighborhoods.

Program Level Evaluation Strategies Designed To:

- Understand implementation of Boston LISC's Resilient Communities/Resilient Families and Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership's (MBHP) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) projects, including:
- procedural accomplishments/challenges
 - community building/family outcomes
 - role of neighborhood context

Results/Impacts

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1. Developed a conceptual, evidence-based alignment framework for use by TBF
2. Assisted two neighborhood organizing groups to generate and analyze information gathered from community residents; this evidence then informed their action priorities
3. Informed evaluation priorities for 2013-2015
4. Generated findings that led to a reexamination of program practices used by the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership's Family Self-Sufficiency's program staff

Neighborhoods Impacted: Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan

Two students engaged 8-16 hours/week per semester



Approaches and Methods

- ✓ Participatory evaluation action research
- ✓ Theory-driven, utilization-focused approach
- ✓ Using multiple methods

Center for Social Policy Team

Donna Haig Friedman,
Director, Center for Social Policy
Associate Research Professor
John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy
and Global Studies

Brandynn Holgate, Research Associate and
doctoral candidate, Department of Public
Policy and Public Affairs

Research team members: Tim Davis, Jeremy
Levine, Julia Tripp, Artie Maharaj with Keri-
Nicole Dillman

References and Resources

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Partnerships

TBF's Boston Indicators Project
Boston LISC
Mattapan United
Millennium 10
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership