

National Service and Civic Engagement Grant Competition FY 2015

George Mason University
Office of Sponsored Programs
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Congressional District: 11

Funding: \$98,559

Purpose/Research Questions:

This research will focus on the extent to which higher levels of social capital, civic engagement and volunteering among immigrants are associated with greater economic opportunity and success for individuals and communities. The aim is to examine the relationships identified through the quantitative analyses to consider how, for example, volunteering translates into greater employment and earnings potential, and how the character of a city shapes that process. Results will be distributed to policymakers and other constituents via online policy briefs, brochures, and free and public lectures as well as through academic conference presentations and publications.

The mixed-methods research will implement in-depth quantitative analyses of an exciting new source of survey data on college-educated immigrants in seven cities in the United States. The quantitative analyses will examine the sequence and timing of volunteer activities, social networks, and economic success to attempt to clarify whether community engagement and social ties are driving economic success or are consequences of success. Further analysis will assess the influence of the cities themselves on the relationships among community engagement, social ties, and economic success. These quantitative analyses will then guide and be supplemented by a series of qualitative follow-up interviews with survey participants, permitting a consideration of the mechanics of the relationships between civic engagement, volunteering and economic success.