

Civic Engagement as a Catalyst for Community Change: 2021 Research Grantee Dialogue.

# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

June 09, 2021

# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP) *Panel Moderator*

**Andrea Robles, Ph.D.**

*Research and Evaluation Manager  
Office of Research and Evaluation*



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Research For Equity and Power Project Team

**Brad R. Fulton, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor

O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs

Indiana University - Bloomington

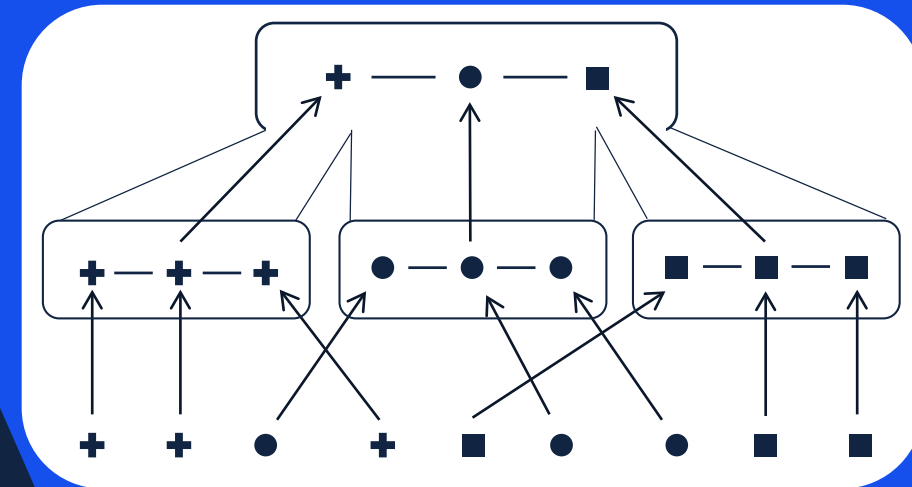


# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Grantee Program Accomplishments

Do organizational member associations (OMAs)—like coalitions or councils—have more diverse participants than nonprofits with other organizational structures?

- They might: nonprofits with homogenous participants may join coalitions with demographically different organizations.
- They might not: nonprofits may join coalitions with demographically similar organizations.



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Grantee Program Accomplishments

## Data

- ~15,000 nonprofit organization profiles compiled by Candid
- Gender & Race/Ethnicity of board members, senior staff, & full-time staff
- Organizational structure from websites
- Controls for other org. characteristics

## Results

- OMAs are more ethnoracially diverse
- OMAs might be more gender diverse

**Candid.**

# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Grantee Program Accomplishments

## Implications

- OMAs may be “the diversity layer” of civil society
- Governments, funders, and scholars seeking program partners that better reflect community diversity should consider OMAs.
- Non-OMA nonprofits seeking greater participant diversity could restructure to act more like OMAs.

## For More Details

- [baggettm@indiana.edu](mailto:baggettm@indiana.edu)
- [fulton@indiana.edu](mailto:fulton@indiana.edu)



**O'NEILL**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Greenville College Access Network

**Carol Cutler White, MPA, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor*

*Mississippi State University, Department of Educational  
Leadership*

*2018 Grantee*



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

## Grantee Program Accomplishments

- Community-engaged college access
- Building a network of supports
- Action research photovoice and Q methodology
  - Question: How can Greenville increase the college going rate through trained community volunteers to assist residents with college and financial aid processes?
- Engage city leaders, Woodward Hines Education Foundation, community members, and youth in development of a model in the Mississippi Delta
- Resulted in the establishment of the Greenville College Access Network (CAN)





# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Grantee Program Accomplishments

The Greenville CAN mobilizes a rural low-income majority minority community in the Mississippi Delta to support college and financial aid applications to improve educational attainment.



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Research For Equity and Power Project Team

**Mary L. Ohmer, PhD, MSW, MPIA**

Associate Professor and COSA Chair

**Katie Holler, BSW**

MSW Student Intern and Researcher

**Donnell Pearl**

Community Researcher and Homewood Resident

University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work

**Shannah Tharp-Gilliam, Ph.D.**

Director of Research and Evaluation, Homewood  
Children's Village

**REP Project Began in October 2018**



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Grantee Program Accomplishments

**REP is a partnership between the Pitt School of Social Work and Homewood Children's Village. Our goal is to increase civic engagement among youth and adult residents around equitable development by:**

- Increasing residents' knowledge and understanding of civic engagement and equitable development
- Strengthening Homewood resident's ability to influence neighborhood change
- Engaging policy makers, local and city-wide organizations, and developers to meet with residents and talk about how residents can effectively influence equitable development and create positive neighborhood change in Homewood

**We're also replicating REP in the Hazelwood Neighborhood of Pittsburgh**



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Grantee Program Accomplishments

REP is a Community-Based Participatory Research project that includes:

- Community Advisory Board and Pitt Community Researcher (all Homewood residents)
- Community Conversations (with 30 Youth and Adult Residents)
- An Equitable Development Playbook
- Dissemination of our ED Playbook, including a Citizen Training Academy

For more information see:

<https://www.crsp.pitt.edu/community/research-equity-and-power-rep>



# EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAYBOOK



University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work  
Homewood Children's Village



Our Equitable  
Development Playbook  
was created with  
Homewood community  
members as a result of  
our Community  
Conversations



# Current Project Efforts

- Writing manuscripts based on the CBPR process and results in Homewood
- Holding an in-person Citizen Training Academy in Homewood by this Fall!
- Replicating REP in Hazelwood, another neighborhood facing similar pressures from neighborhood change
  - Connecting Homewood and Hazelwood Community Advisory Boards
  - Holding in-person Community Conversations with 30 youth and adult residents in Hazelwood
  - Creating a Hazelwood version of the Playbook



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

The Rural/Urban Volunteering Divide

**Rebecca Nesbit, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor  
University of Georgia  
Grantee 2018*

**Laurie Paarlberg, Ph.D.**

*Full Professor  
University of Indiana-Purdue University Indianapolis  
Grantee 2018*



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Grantee Program Accomplishments

Research Questions: How does community context affect volunteering? How do the community-level determinants of volunteering vary across rural and urban places?

Data: Current Population Survey Volunteering Supplement (2002-2015), with access to the all of the county fips codes through a Census Bureau Research Data Center

Why is this important? Communities in the United States are rapidly changing. We need to understand how these changes affect civic engagement.



## The Urban-Rural Divide More Pronounced Than Ever

*Polls find the politics of place has intensified—even though we all contending with the same problems.*

By GRACY OLMSTEAD • May 29, 2018





# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

## Grantee Program Accomplishments

Some interesting findings:

- Volunteering rates have been higher in rural communities, but rural volunteering rates are falling faster than urban volunteering rates
- Drivers of volunteering in rural places are different than in urban places, particularly personal and community resources

Future directions:

- Try to understand what is driving the "volunteering cliff"
- Investigating how pathways into volunteering vary across rural and urban places
- Investigating how community age structure affects volunteering across rural and urban places



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Immigrant Civic Engagement and Economic Opportunity

**James 'Jim' Witte, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Sociology and Director,*

*George Mason University,*

*Institute for Immigration Research*

*2018 Grantee*



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Immigrant Civic Engagement and Economic Opportunity

Grant #: 15REHVA001

- Online surveys of 4,000 immigrant professionals in six cities
  - Boston
  - Detroit
  - Miami
  - Philadelphia
  - San Jose
  - Seattle
- Follow-up with 68 in-depth qualitative interviews
- Supplemental funding
  - IRS 990 data to map immigrant serving non-profits
  - Pilot mobility history survey
  - Comprehensive literature review

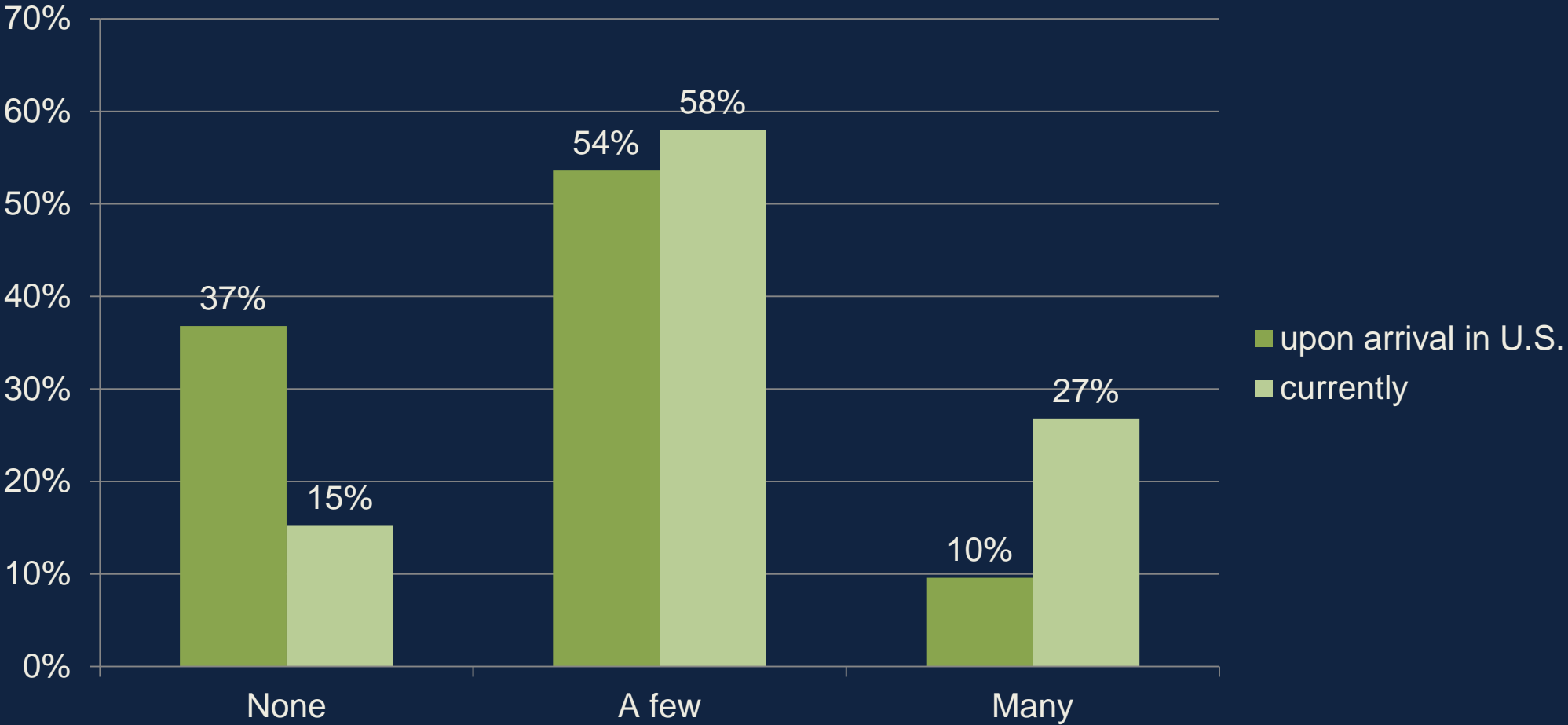


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### How many friends and family upon whom you could rely for support...



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Immigrant Civic Engagement and Economic Opportunity

Grant #: 15REHVA001

## Quantitative findings

- Studies show that civic engagement and economic success go hand in hand. It is important to determine if this relationship holds for New Americans as well.
- Economic success, but also volunteering is gendered
  - 25% of males were economically successful
  - 19% of females were economically successful
- Women immigrant professionals have higher levels of US education and English proficiency than males.
- Women are just as likely to volunteer with a neighborhood, business group.
- Economic benefits of volunteering vary by gender.
  - 34% of men who volunteer are economically successful
  - 23% of women who volunteer are economically successful



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Immigrant Civic Engagement and Economic Opportunity

Grant #: 15REHVA001

## Qualitative findings

- Immigrant professional civic engagement is closely tied to professional and vocational interests/skills.
- Professional networks and community ties facilitate professional advancement and civic involvement.
- Immigrant professionals participate in both formal and informal community-based groups, and many are transnational and trans-local in scope.
- Pathways to civic engagement are culturally and institutionally mediated and linked to professional pathways.
- Being able to access networks and formal organizational support channels during the period of settlement eased transition and settlement, which in turn spurred later civic involvement.



# Incubators for Civic Engagement: Research for Equity and Power (REP)

Panelist Discussion and Q&A



**Andrea Robles, Ph.D.**

*Research and Evaluation  
Manager,  
Office of Research and  
Evaluation,  
AmeriCorps*



**Mary L. Ohmer, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor/COSA  
Chair  
University of Pittsburgh  
School of Social Work*



**Rebecca Nesbit,  
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**Donnell Pearl**

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**James 'Jim' Witte,  
Ph.D.**

*George Mason  
University*



**Carol Cutler  
White, MPA, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor  
Indiana University -  
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**Kate Holler**

*MSW Student Researcher  
University of Pittsburgh  
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# Civic Engagement as a Catalyst for Community Change: 2021 Research Grantee Dialogue

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – Thursday, June 10, 2021

Closing Statement

**Mary Hyde, Ph.D.**

*Director,*

*Office of Research and Evaluation*

