



Winter 2022 Engaged Learning Projects

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Note: These are executive summaries of the student projects. For the full reports, please contact us at ContactP3E@umich.edu.

Practical Community Learning Projects



P3E Community Engagement Manager DeAndré Calvert; City of Hamtramck employees Jessica Donnelly and Mara Braciszewski; and PCLP students Chelsea Gaylord, Lily Israel, and Ramsay Ritchie hosted the City of Hamtramck's Merchant Meeting.

The Practical Community Learning Project (PCLP) matches undergraduate and graduate Ford School students and community partners for a semester-long, policy-based, independent study project for course credit. Projects provide opportunities for dialogue, research and service through conducting program evaluations, policy research, grant writing, and other activities as jointly agreed upon with the community partners.

“Digital Access and Literacy in the Villages at Parkside”

Community Partner: Friends of Parkside



Alexia Carillo Villalobos
MPP '23



Devon Regal
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Executive Summary

Friends of Parkside (FOP) is a not-for-profit, community-based organization located on Detroit's east side in the Villages at Parkside, a public housing complex. FOP has a 15-member board of directors consisting of Parkside residents and representatives from community-based organizations. This project focused on digital access in the Parkside community, specifically identifying residents' ability to access resources and participate in programs that will enhance their ability to use less energy and save money. The deliverable was a participant pre-survey of the residents in the housing complex. The survey design included expert insight while using the demographics of the area for concise, targeted questions and was distributed to residents through Friends of Parkside staff and volunteers. The students also assisted in the completion of an IRB application through the University of Michigan. Friends of Parkside will host a participant recruitment workshop in collaboration with the University of Michigan team and will collaborate with Walker-Miller Energy Services to deliver weatherization measures and home energy scoring at the Villages at Parkside. Through the project, the student team concluded that low-income consumers need access to digital devices and reliable Wi-Fi in order to take advantage of programs that will help them save energy and money, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.



“Homeless Action Network of Detroit Housing Policy Research”

Community Partner: Homeless Action Network of Detroit



Donovan Gayles
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Anna Kelly
MPP '23

Executive Summary

The Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND)'s core mission is to provide leadership to address homelessness in Detroit. One part of executing this mission involves advocacy to promote policies that increase affordable housing stock. For their deliverable, the team created a memo presenting an analysis of federal, state and local legislation relevant to HAND's interest in the creation and maintenance of affordable housing stock in Detroit. The memo offers a variety of advocacy options at the federal, state and local level. Options include advocating for federal legislation to create additional affordable housing; supporting recommendations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and pursuing programs that have been implemented in cities across the country to increase affordable housing stock. For city level programs, recommendations focus on the rehabilitation of existing housing stock for the purpose of affordable housing.

“Supporting Father Involvement in Michigan”

Community Partner: Michigan Action Plan for Father Involvement



Executive Summary

The Michigan Action Plan for Fatherhood Involvement was created to explore ways of expanding support for the involvement of fathers in parenting/custody arrangements and to guide the establishment of permanent structures for improving policies and programs that benefit fathers and their families. The project sought to understand 50/50 shared parenting legislation on the state level and ways the organization could advocate and support such initiatives. During the project, the student researcher considered questions such as: how do states define 50/50 shared parenting, are these pieces of legislation truly 50/50, and what are the conditions for passing legislation? To answer these questions, the student conducted a comparative analysis of various states that have passed shared parenting bills, or are currently in the process of passing legislation. The research identified Missouri, Kentucky, Minnesota, Illinois, Arizona, and West Virginia as states that recently introduced or passed parenting legislation. The student came to a number of conclusions, such as:

- Republican-led legislatures had the most success by establishing a child's best interest and having both parents involved in the child's life.
- Successful legislation provides discretion to judges to deviate from an even split, potentially eliminating or reducing burden of proof to show why a parent can't be a good parent.
- Policy advocates should be aware of opposing views such as placing parents above the well-being of children while using children as collateral in conflicts between parents.

“Michigan State Representative Kuppa Legal Immigrant Policy Advocacy”

Community Partner: Michigan State Representative Padma Kuppa



Jessica Williams
MPP '22

Executive Summary

State Representative Padma Kuppa has been working to pass [H.R. 248](#) – a policy resolution in the state of Michigan that calls for the federal government to quickly enact legislation addressing the backlog in employment-based (EB) green cards, including, but not limited to, [H.R. 3648](#) (the EAGLE Act). The goals of the project were: to research the landscape of EB green cards, including the national backlog and economic impact of the immigrant workforce; to document previous and proposed legislation on the national backlog at the state and federal levels; and to identify and engage with stakeholders and key immigration partners to strengthen support for resolving the national backlog. To accomplish this, the methodology included researching and identifying potential stakeholders for a progressive coalition and adding their contact information to a stakeholder database; contacting stakeholders with requests for support and a Zoom meeting to discuss; use of research and findings to foster support; keeping a detailed log of notes for all stakeholder meetings; and organizing a stakeholder engagement meeting with supporters to strategize ways to reach key audiences and constituencies. Findings from research and key stakeholder meetings led to the following recommendations:

- Use a top-down approach to coalition building. Since green card reform is a predominantly federal issue, many state and local groups will defer to their federal partners for guidance on policy.
- In order to foster more bipartisan stakeholder support on the progressive side, focus should be placed on state-level immigrant policies that go beyond the green card process and economic impact (e.g. education, childcare).
- Support should be given to other federal legislation such as the RELIEF, Build Back Better, and EAGLE Acts.

Student Research Fellowships



Students Monica Pagani, Nathan Lindfors, and Brandan Pierce (center) present their findings to community partners from the Port of Monroe, Michigan.

P3E supports research that is timely and relevant to impact public policy by placing undergraduate and graduate student research fellows with public, nonprofit and philanthropic community partners. Students provide a valuable contribution to the partner organization and receive a meaningful learning experience.

“Supporting Environmentally Friendly Mining Legislation in Michigan”

Community Partners: Michigan League of Conservation Voters and
Michigan State Senator Rosemary Bayer



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Rachel McGivern
MPA '22



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Executive Summary

Four fellows provided research support for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters and the office of State Senator Rosemary Bayer to improve a bill ([SB 429](#) of 2021) that was introduced in the Michigan Senate to update regulations on the mining of aggregate materials (e.g., sand, gravel, stone, clay). The team conducted case studies of nine states, focusing on the relative authorities of state and local governments in the permitting and restoration processes, as well as topical overviews around soil conservation best practices, the use of recycled aggregate materials, and stakeholder engagement. Research results were presented to several elected officials and their staffs, as well as key regulators from state government agencies.

**“Redevelopment Ready Communities:
Advancing Sustainable Economic Development Through Inclusion”**

Community Partners: The City of Lincoln Park and
the Michigan Economic Development Corporation



José Lemus
MPP '22

Executive Summary

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Redevelopment Ready Communities Program (RRC) helps Michigan communities build effective zoning ordinances, streamline their development review processes, and design stakeholder engagement practices to incentivize community-driven economic growth. As an RRC fellow, the student helped the City of Lincoln Park obtain RRC certification by updating the city's public participation plan, mapping the city's development review process, and cultivating a working relationship with Lincoln Park's Hispanic entrepreneurial community. Through the work, Lincoln Park was able to more fully engage its growing Black and Hispanic entrepreneurial communities. Similarly, this partnership produced a community engagement strategy, a development staff training plan, and a functional map of the city's development review process. Working with the City of Lincoln Park taught the student how municipalities build political consensus to advance inclusive economic development strategies.