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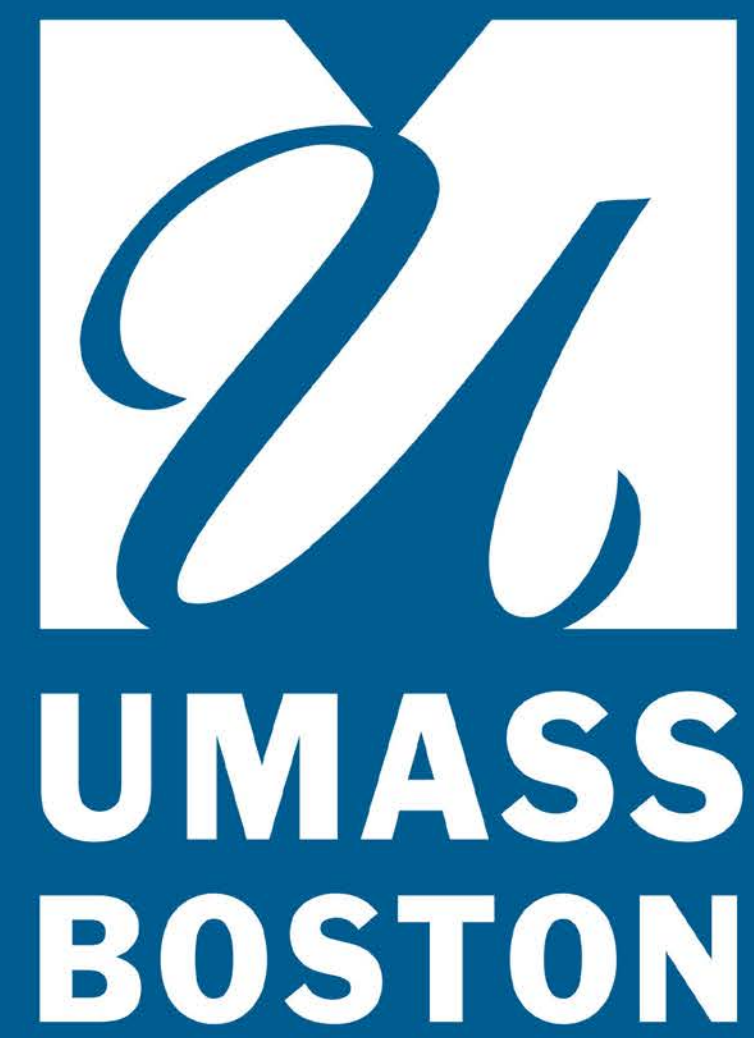


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Resilient Communities/Resilient Families

Center for Social Policy

John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

Summary

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. As part of the Resilient Communities/Resilient Families (RC/RF), CSP 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.

Goals and Objectives

Program-level Evaluation Strategy: Understand implementation of RC/RF, including:

- procedural accomplishments/challenges
- community building/family outcomes
- role of neighborhood context

Corridor-Level Learning:

- 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.

Results/Impacts

The Center for Social Policy:

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

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

References and Resources

For more information on this and other CSP projects, please visit our website at

www.umb.com/csp

Partnerships

The Boston Foundation
TBF's Boston Indicators Project
Mattapan United
Millennium 10
Boston LISC