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# Resilient Communities/Resilient Families

Center for Social Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston

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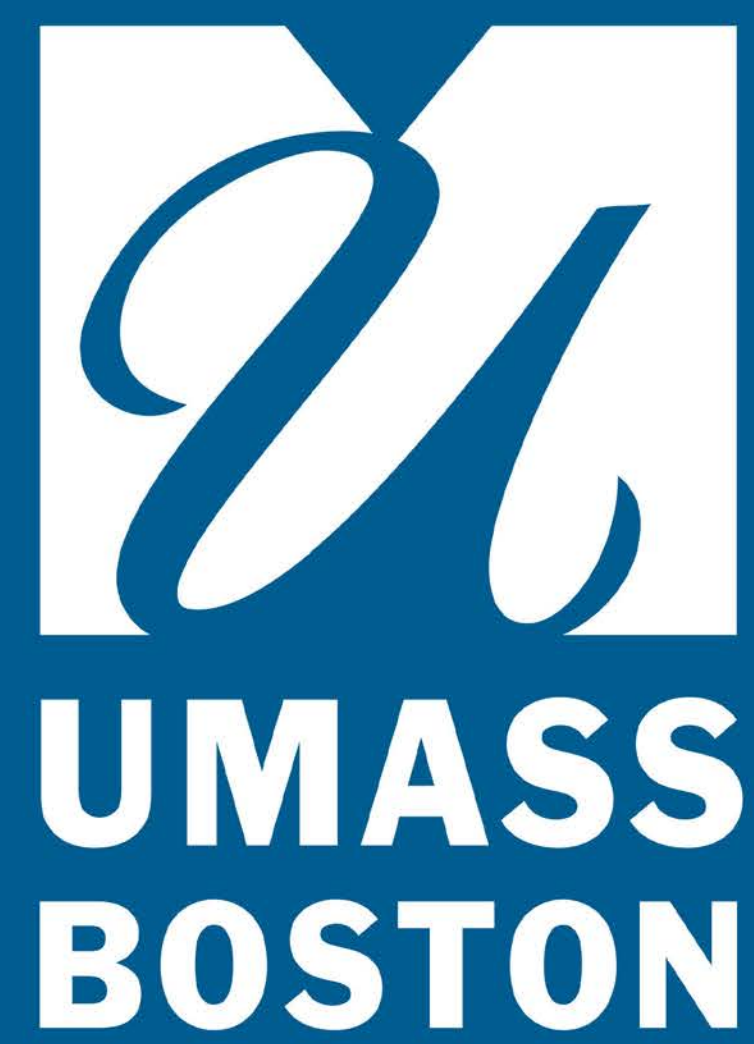
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# Resilient Communities/Resilient Families

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

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

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

**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](http://www.umb.com/csp)

## Partnerships

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