2022 Research Grantee Dialogue

Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement: Opportunities for National Service

Wednesday, May 18, 2022
2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement

Katy M Hussey-Sloniker, BA, MSW, LGSW,
Learning Officer,
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation
Welcome!

Please be advised that all lines have been muted to avoid background noises and to allow for greater engagement.

Please use the chat feature to submit any questions throughout the presentations. Select Everyone when submitting your questions. We will read your questions for you.
2022 Research Grantee Dialogue: Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement

Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

May 18, 2022
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Panel Moderator

Andrea Robles, Ph.D.,
Research and Evaluation Manager,
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation
2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH
at
AmeriCorps
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Panel Moderators

Emily McDonald, Ph.D.
Research Analyst
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation

Victoria Narine, Ph.D.
Research Analyst
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Setting the Stage:
Refugees in the United States

Bryan Wright, Ph.D.
Director
Cincinnati Compass
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities
Refugee Experiences in Cincinnati Ohio
CARE: Cincinnati – Civic Action for Refugee Empowerment

Anjali Dutt, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Cincinnati, Department of Psychology
2018 Grantee

Bryan Wright, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Cincinnati Compass
2018 Grantee
Description of Study

Since 2018 our team has worked together using an iterative community based participatory research process to support refugee integration and civic participation in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Cincinnati has over 25,000 refugees, however, there is minimal infrastructure to support immigrant and refugee integration.

Our goal has been to identify barriers to participation and wellbeing experienced by refugees and use this information to create actions and inform policymakers to enhance refugee experiences.
Refugee Experiences in Cincinnati Ohio
CARE: Cincinnati – Civic Action for Refugee Empowerment

Study Design

Phase I:
Survey 291 local refugees to learn about how life is experienced by members of local refugee communities

Phase II:
Follow up focus groups to gain deeper insight into the meaning behind survey findings

Phase III:
Actions – using the findings from our study to create actions in response to identified concerns
Findings from phases of research pointed to lack of understanding of how to navigate life in Cincinnati as among the most pressing concerns, as well as a strong desire but uncertainty in how to engage in local civic life. In response we collaboratively developed the following actions:

1. “How to live in Cincinnati” videos
2. Refugee and Immigrant Civic Leadership Program
3. COVID survey
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities
Lub Zej Zog Project: HMoob language & culture reclamation

Jenna Cushing-Leubner, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin: Whitewater, Curriculum & Instruction
Lub Zej Zog
2018 Grantee

Pang Yang, M.Ed.
Community Partner Lead, Hmong Heritage Language Teacher (Osseo Public Schools, MN), Executive Director MN Zej Zog
Lub Zej Zog
2018 Grantee
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Lub Zej Zog Project: HMoob language & culture reclamation

HMong community-driven educational transformation

- HMong language and cultural knowledge loss
- Structural barriers to HMong heritage language and ethnic studies programs (school-based)

------------------

- Refusal of language and knowledge system loss
- Commitment to HMong futures
- Driven by community knowledge holders
- Intergenerational education as theory of change
Study Design

Participatory Design Research as Garden for community-driven educational change

- Multiple interconnected projects
- Lead community researchers
- Community design research teams
- Community aims
  - Curriculum
  - Materials
  - Professional development
  - Program growth & stability
  - Teacher leadership
- Scholarship aims

Lub Zej Zog Project: HMoob language & culture reclamation

Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Lub Zej Zog Project: HMoob language & culture reclamation

Symbiotic Findings/Action

Phase 1: curriculum & materials
Phase 2: language, literacy, culture standards; mental health; ethnic studies and Moob hab Ntsuab curriculum/PD
Phase 3: program stability and growth
  - est. MN Zej Zog
  - Hmong teacher licensing
  - networked new program development
  - teacher and community leadership expansion
  - youth educator mentorship
  - growing the field of Hmong educational scholars
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities
Reflections: Turning Research to Action

Jacqueline Dulude
Recruitment & Outreach Manager
AmeriCorps Office of External Affairs

Jacob Sgambati
Deputy Director
AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)

Sonali Nijhawan
Director
AmeriCorps State and National
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities
Panelist Discussion and Q&A

Emily McDonald, Ph.D.
Research Analyst,
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation

Victoria Narine, Ph.D.
Research Analyst,
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation

Bryan Wright, Ph.D.
Director
Cincinnati Compass

Anjali Dutt, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
University of Cincinnati

Jenna Cushing-Leubener, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Pang Yang, M.A.
Executive Director
MN Zej Zog / Lub Zej Zog Project
University of Wisconsin Whitewater/Hmong Group Team

Sonali Nijhawan
Director
AmeriCorps State and National

Jacob Sgambati
Deputy Director
AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)

Jacqueline Dulude
Recruitment & Outreach Manager
AmeriCorps Office of External Affairs
2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:
Embracing the Diversity of Civic Engagement

Mary Hyde, Ph.D.
Director,
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation
2022 Research Grantee Dialogue:
Fostering Civic Participation for Refugee Communities

Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Closing Remarks

Katy Hussey-Sloniker, MBA, MSW, LGSW,
Learning Officer,
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation