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Current Research Information System

Item No. 1 of 1

ACCESSION NO: 0207785 **SUBFILE:** CRIS
PROJ NO: MO-SSCG1137 **AGENCY:** CSREES MO.
PROJ TYPE: NRI COMPETITIVE GRANT **PROJ STATUS:** NEW
CONTRACT/GRANT/AGREEMENT NO: 2006-35401-17429 **PROPOSAL NO:**
 2006-03021
START: 15 SEP 2006 **TERM:** 14 SEP 2009 **GRANT YR:** 2006
GRANT AMT: \$416,172

INVESTIGATOR: Valdivia, C. B.; Dannerbeck (Janku), A. M.

PERFORMING INSTITUTION:

SOCIAL SCIENCES
 UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
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ASSET ACCUMULATION STRATEGIES IN 3 NEW SETTLEMENT COMMUNITIES

CLASSIFICATION

| KA | Subject | Science | Pct |
|-----|---------|---------|-----|
| 608 | 6010 | 3010 | 30 |
| 801 | 6020 | 3010 | 20 |
| 802 | 6020 | 3000 | 25 |
| 805 | 6050 | 3080 | 25 |

CLASSIFICATION HEADINGS: **R608** . Community Resource Planning and Development; **S6010** . Individuals; **F3010** . Economics; **R801** . Individual and Family Resource Management; **S6020** . The family and its members; **R802** . Human Development and Family Well-Being; **F3000** . Anthropology; **R805** . Community Institutions, Health, and Social Services; **S6050** . Communities, areas, and regions; **F3080** . Sociology

BASIC 000% **APPLIED** 100% **DEVELOPMENTAL** 000%

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY: Food manufacturing, agro-industries, construction, services and tourism, major pull factors in rural migration result in growth in non metro regions of the Midwest. This creates challenges for many small communities; it also provides new opportunities. Failure may result in an itinerant labor force, or a segment of population who remain marginalized, reducing the quality of life of the entire community.

The main objective is to identify factors that facilitate or impede economic integration. A sustainable livelihoods framework examines how immigrants use their capitals (economic, human, social, and cultural) in income earning strategies, and how the community climate influences their integration. Case studies, focus groups and photovoice elicit the social networks, the range of strategies to accumulate assets, and visually capture community climate for integration as perceived by the newcomers. Nine hundred adults are interviewed the second year on income earnings and sources, assets, and their assessment of well-being. Models and indicators for asset accumulation and economic integration are tested in year 3. Results are disseminated at the Cambio de Colores Conference, summits, workshops, and publications for the academic and practice communities, such as a handbook on integration indicators for community development, a training manual, policy briefs and a book of community case studies.

OBJECTIVES: The basic research questions this research intends to answer are the following: - What are the strategies Latino immigrants use to integrate into communities and lead sustainable, high quality lives? - What factors facilitate or impede their economic integration? The purpose of this research is to identify individual strategies, as well as the institutions and approaches of rural communities that facilitate economic integration that leads to thriving rural communities in the Midwest. This approach shifts our attention to looking at what the newcomers offer and leads us to evaluate how we can engage them in the future sustainable development and prosperity of the new settlement communities. The proposed model examines the strategies newcomers employ to accumulate assets, minimize their vulnerability to risk exposure, and become part of their new communities. A multidisciplinary (economics, social work, sociology, and community development) team examines how the capitals of the newcomers are transformed into assets to ease integration into three distinct Missouri communities with very different economic bases and community organizations. The research development objective is to provide the receiving communities with knowledge and tools to develop community strategies to secure a smooth and lasting integration of the new populations.

APPROACH: The study employs a sustainable livelihoods framework to examine how the immigrants use their capitals (economic, human, social, and cultural) in income earning strategies, and how the community climate influences their economic integration. In the first year of the project's focus is on qualitative research methods that will define the variables for the quantitative research undertaken with household surveys of newcomers in the second year. Case studies, focus groups, and a photovoice elicitation will be undertaken to identify the universe of social networks functioning in the three communities, the range of livelihood strategies newcomers employ to accumulate assets, and will visually capture the community climate for integration as perceived by the newcomers. The information gathered in the first year will inform the development of a household survey instrument. Variables on community climate will be constructed with findings of the photovoice experience. Variables on bridging and bonding capitals will be constructed with the focus groups interviews of year one. The case studies on livelihoods in year one will elicit information on the process of integration. The information gathered with these three techniques will be incorporated in the second year to adult newcomers' survey instrument, which will be conducted in the three regions in order to estimate a model of income earnings, and a second model of asset building. Variables in the model

will be defined through the qualitative activities of year 1. Data on income earnings and sources, assets, and subjective and objective assessment indicators of well-being will be quantified for the household analysis of asset building. Models and indicators developed for asset accumulation and economic integration will be built and tested using regression analysis, to identify factors affecting income generation, canonical correlations that jointly measure income earnings and wellbeing, and cluster analysis to identify distinct livelihood strategies.

KEYWORDS: assets; latinos; sustainable livelihoods diversification; community climate; photo voice; economic integration; bonding capital; bridging capital; cultural capital

PROGRESS: 2006/09 TO 2007/09

First year outputs were generated from the institutional and organizational efforts to implement the study and those resulting from qualitative data collection. Organizational outputs included the development of qualitative research protocols for focus groups, Photovoice, and case studies to identify social capital, context of reception and livelihood strategies. A certificate of confidentiality, and institutional approval for the project (February, 2007) were obtained. Memorandums and partnership contracts were signed with three community organizations who facilitated the research in their respective communities. An advisory board was recruited and two meetings were held. Key personnel have met regularly since January and continue to meet weekly to review progress, analyze data, and plan future activities. The group completed data collection that includes 7 focus groups (51 participants at three research sites); 3 Photovoice activities (24 participants at three research sites); and 16 case study interviews (three sites). Focus group and Photovoice interviews have been transcribed (n=10) and translated (n=6) and are being analyzed. Case studies continue to be transcribed. Team members were trained in ATLAS.ti for focus group analysis. Pictures and captions from the Photovoice project were developed, reviewed, and will be presented at community forums later in fall/early winter. The conceptual framework that incorporates four capitals (financial, human, social and cultural), livelihoods and the context of reception is articulated in following papers presented to date: Asset Accumulation Strategies in Three New Settlement Communities, Cambio de Colores, April, 2007, Kansas City, MO; Measuring the Social and Cultural Contributions of Immigrants to Their Integration Efforts in Rural Communities, July, 2007, Oxford Roundtable, Oxford, UK; Measuring the Social and Cultural Contributions of Immigrants to Their Integration Efforts in Rural Communities, Rural Sociological Society, August, 2007, Santa Clara, C.A.; and, Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlement Communities: A New Approach to Understanding Immigration Processes, XXVII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, September, 2007, Montreal, Canada. Current efforts focus on analysis of focus group data and on the development of the protocol for Community Forums where findings of the first year will be presented. Key personnel have met regularly to code initial focus group data using ATLAS.ti. In addition, the research project has been presented at four conferences. Key community facilitators were included as presenters at the Cambio conference (April 2007). Information about the project was distributed to the three research communities through flyers disseminated through key community members. A poster was developed to educate other researchers at venues in the US and abroad about the research process. Four graduate students and one undergraduate

student have contributed to the team and been mentored by team leaders in interviewing, transcription, and analysis procedures. Project information has been disseminated to the media.

IMPACT: 2006/09 TO 2007/09

This project is in the early stages of data analysis so there is not as much to report as there will be later. Most of the outcomes reported here are the result of the implementation of the research process and its effects on the campus community, the participants, the students, the researchers and the community partners. The campus community has benefited from the project in a number of ways. Other researchers have learned about project and have had questions about the research process. We have served as support to other research projects by sharing our experiences with IRB and others on campus seeking to conduct research with immigrant communities. We have also advised them on the process of conducting research with Latinos in Missouri. The research process itself is of interest and we are branding the methodology through the Cambio Center. The research method has been instrumental in building credibility and gaining trust for the Cambio Center with other universities and scholars in Latin America who share an interest in migration. The focus group and photovoice projects have had a beneficial effect on the participants by increasing their awareness and understanding of issues that affect their lives, reducing the sense of isolation (especially among women), and creating a sense of belonging that comes from a greater awareness of the surrounding in which they live. A number of participants were able to resolve issues during the Photovoice and focus group sessions because of the sharing of best practices, source of knowledge, networks and resources in the community that occurred during the sessions. The dialogic nature of the data collection exposed participants to new knowledge on their rights, employer system, and the benefits within the system they can access. Some expressed a belief that they are participating in something important that will help their community. A new generation of researchers has been able to get fieldwork experience. These students are becoming more culturally competent and aware of the research issues that arise in working with Latinos. They are able to build stronger relationships into the community and have the opportunity to work closely with the research faculty. Community Partners have a strengthened relationship with the university and have had the opportunity to generate information they can use in their work. They were able to share their experiences at the Cambio conference about the issues they experience on the front lines. The relationship is iterative. We are sharing what we learn with them and we are learning about their role and the issues they face. The research faculty have stronger relationships with each other, community partners, and the students, which will result in a richer set of findings. They are gaining a better understanding of the methodological issues that arise in this type of research and are building a foundation for future research that will build on this experience.

PUBLICATIONS (not previously reported): 2006/09 TO 2007/09

1. Abstracts Valdivia, Corinne, S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and A. Dannerbeck. (2007). Asset Accumulation Strategies in Three New Settlement Communities. Rural Development Program project Director's Meeting, Santa Clara, C.A. August, 2007.
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 4. Posters Valdivia, Corinne, S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and A. Dannerbeck. (2007). Asset Accumulation Strategies in Three New Settlement Communities. Rural Sociology Society Poster Session, Santa Clara, C.A. August, 2007.
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 6. Presentations and Papers Flores, L. Y., He, Yuhong, Jordan, S. E., Medina, V., Mendoza, M., Ojeda, L., Rosales, R., Wagner, J., Valdivia, C., Jeanetta, S., & Martinez, D. (2007) Culturally competent qualitative research with Latino immigrants. Conducting culturally competent qualitative research: Sharing strategies and lessons learned. Annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA. August, 2007.
 7. Flores, Lisa and A. Dannerbeck. (2007). Change & Integration Panel Research Panel on Asset Building Strategies "Community Climate". Cambio de Colores Conference 2007, Kansas City, MO. April, 2007.
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 14. Valdivia, Corinne, S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and A. Dannerbeck. (2007). Asset Accumulation Strategies in Three New Settlement Communities. Cambio de Colores Conference 2007, Kansas City, MO. April, 2007.
 15. Valdivia, Corinne. (2007). Change & Integration Panel, Research Panel on Asset Building Strategies "The Project". Cambio de Colores Conference 2007, Kansas City, MO. April, 2007.
 16. News Articles Daniela, Bryan. 2006. USDA Grants Allows MU Researchers to Examine Latino Immigration. MU News Bureau, June 22, 2006. <http://munews.missouri.edu/NewsBureauSingleNews.cfm?newsid=10164>

17. Molina, Andrea. 2006. Cambio studies immigrant integration. Adelante Magazine, September 2006,7.

18. Websites 2007 <http://www.cambio.missouri.edu/Assets/>

PROGRESS: 2006/09/15 TO 2007/09/14

First year outputs were generated from the institutional and organizational efforts to implement the study and those resulting from qualitative data collection. Organizational outputs included the development of qualitative research protocols for focus groups, Photovoice, and case studies to identify social capital, context of reception and livelihood strategies. A certificate of confidentiality, and institutional approval for the project (February, 2007) were obtained. Memorandums and partnership contracts were signed with three community organizations who facilitated the research in their respective communities. An advisory board was recruited and two meetings were held. Key personnel have met regularly since January and continue to meet weekly to review progress, analyze data, and plan future activities. The group completed data collection that includes 7 focus groups (51 participants at three research sites); 3 Photovoice activities (24 participants at three research sites); and 16 case study interviews (three sites). Focus group and Photovoice interviews have been transcribed (n=10) and translated (n=6) and are being analyzed. Case studies continue to be transcribed. Team members were trained in ATLAS.ti for focus group analysis. Pictures and captions from the Photovoice project were developed, reviewed, and will be presented at community forums later in fall/early winter. The conceptual framework that incorporates four capitals (financial, human, social and cultural), livelihoods and the context of reception is articulated in following papers presented to date: Asset Accumulation Strategies in Three New Settlement Communities, Cambio de Colores, April, 2007, Kansas City, MO; Measuring the Social and Cultural Contributions of Immigrants to Their Integration Efforts in Rural Communities, July, 2007, Oxford Roundtable, Oxford, UK; Measuring the Social and Cultural Contributions of Immigrants to Their Integration Efforts in Rural Communities, Rural Sociological Society, August, 2007, Santa Clara, C.A.; and, Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlement Communities: A New Approach to Understanding Immigration Processes, XXVII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, September, 2007, Montreal, Canada. Current efforts focus on analysis of focus group data and on the development of the protocol for Community Forums where findings of the first year will be presented. Key personnel have met regularly to code initial focus group data using ATLAS.ti. In addition, the research project has been presented at four conferences. Key community facilitators were included as presenters at the Cambio conference (April 2007). Information about the project was distributed to the three research communities through flyers disseminated through key community members. A poster was developed to educate other researchers at venues in the US and abroad about the research process. Four graduate students and one undergraduate student have contributed to the team and been mentored by team leaders in interviewing, transcription, and analysis procedures. Project information has been disseminated to the media.

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