

2009 CRIS Checklist, *Reporting Period 01/01/2009 to 12/31/2009*

AD-421 Reports in-Progress and Submitted to CRIS for MO. as of 12/15/2010 for VALDIVIA List by Project Number

Project Number: MO-SSCG1137

CRIS Number: 0207785

Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlement Communities

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

Performing Department: Social Sciences -- 3127

Start Date: 09/15/2006 **Termination Date:** 09/14/2010

Reporting period: 09/15/2008 to 09/14/2009

Report was submitted to CRIS.

Outputs:

Year 3 focused on two activities: analysis of qualitative data, and development and completion of a household survey for quantitative analysis. Qualitative data was gathered from men and women through 16 case studies, 7 focus groups, and 3 PhotoVoice projects: case studies inform about migration and settlement; focus groups inform on types of networks to find jobs, settle, and improve wellbeing, and about perceptions of receiving communities. PhotoVoice data, gathered from 24 participants, elicited perceptions of how welcoming the communities are and the barriers faced in becoming part of the community. Findings from the focus groups were presented at several venues, especially the stakeholder conference Cambio de Colores, where extension, researchers, community organizers and policy makers learn about research and best practices of the changes driven by migration. Analysis of the case studies of women newcomers focused on mobility and wellbeing, and published in The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education, which prepared two special issues targeting policy makers about immigration policies and the impact on the U.S.-Mexico border. PhotoVoice project results were presented at community forums in the three regions, and at other venues. A manuscript about the methodology for Photovoice when working with vulnerable populations was completed and submitted to a journal. Draft of a Photovoice technical report and best practices manual was also completed. Several analyses were prepared for Cambio de Colores: a plenary session on Change and Integration, and three breakout presentations and proceedings papers covering the model of sustainable livelihoods, the role of networks on wellbeing, and perceptions of community climate. The household survey entailed training and coordinating interviewers who traveled to three regions. Coordination with community facilitators was a critical first step to develop a recruiting strategy. The qualitative data findings informed the construction of the questionnaire and the strategies for its implementation. The PhotoVoice panels were used to explain the purpose of the survey at Community Forums, to organizations and community members to help recruit participants. The immigration policy climate challenged the research process, and required building trust with key community people who are trusted by the newcomers. The strategy combined snowball sampling in neighborhoods working with key community facilitators in the three regions, and visiting a variety of places such as churches, places of work, and where people gathered for recreation. A total of 460 questionnaires were completed between November 2008 and August 2009. Data entry was finalized at the end of September. Analysis of a sample of 240 individuals interviewed from two regions was presented at Cambio de Colores 2009, where approximately 180 stakeholders gathered to share research findings and best practices about settlement experiences of Latinos in the Midwest. Findings were also presented at the Missouri Catholic Conference in September, significant because churches are key builders of bridges for newcomers into the communities.

Publications:

JOURNAL ARTICLES Valdivia, C. and A. Dannerbeck. 2009. Moving around to get by and try to get ahead: Immigration experiences in new settlement communities of the Midwest Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education Vol.12, No. 3 (pp. 23-47). Valdivia, C, P. Dozi, S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez, A. Dannerbeck. 2008. The Impact of Networks and the Context of Reception on Asset Accumulation Strategies of Latino Newcomers in New Settlement Communities of the Midwest, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Volume 90 Issue 5, December 2008 (pp. 1319-1325). Jeanetta, S., A. Dannerbeck, C. Valdivia, and L. Flores. 2009. (under review) Integration and Wellbeing: Using Photovoice to Engage Latino Immigrants in Understanding Community Climate. Family & Community Health (submitted September 9, 2009).

PRESENTATIONS Valdivia, Corinne. 2009. El efecto del clima politico y social sobre los procesos de asentamiento e integracion de las mujeres y hombres latinos en las comunidades rurales del medio oeste de los Estados Unidos. LASA 2009, Panel Migrantes mexicanas en los circuitos de supervivencia: modos de vida y subjetividades. XXVIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, June, 2009 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Jeanetta, S., 2008. Community Integration, Community Climate and the Policy Choices Facing Missouri Communities. Immigration Forum, University of Missouri St. Louis, October, Saint Louis, MO. Martinez, D., C. Valdivia, S. Jeanetta, and L. Y. Flores. 2008. Activos economicos y sociales en inmigrantes latinos recientes en Missouri: Metodologia y avances de investigacion. Midwest Association for Latin American Studies 2008 Conference Latin America: Dealing with the Heritage of the Past, Building Bridges to the Future. November 20-22. San Juan Puerto Rico. Jeanetta, S. 2009. Community Integration and Immigration Policy: The Missouri Experience. Presentation at Saint Louis University: Social Responsibility and the Professional, January. Saint Louis, MO. Valdivia, C. 2009. Latino Mobility, Acculturation, and Community Climate Impacts on Economic Wellbeing. Plenary Session Understanding the Context of Reception: From Regional Pull Factors to Local Communities. Cambio de Colores 2009, May 18, St Louis, MO. Jeanetta, S. 2009. Today's Local Latino Perception of Community Climate. Plenary Session Understanding the Context of Reception: From Regional Pull Factors to Local Communities. Cambio de Colores 2009, May 18, St. Louis, MO. Valdivia, C., S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and P. Dozi. 2009. Asset Accumulation Strategies in Three New Settlement Communities. USDA Advisory Board Presentation, June. Columbia, MO.

PROCEEDINGS PAPERS Valdivia, C., P. Dozi, S. Jeanetta, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez and A. Dannerbeck. 2009. Networks and Context of Reception in Accumulation Strategies of Latinos in Rural Communities of the Midwest: A Quantitative Analysis. Change and Integration Panel Networks, Integration and Public Discourse. Cambio de Colores 2009, May 18-20, St. Louis, MO. (In Press). Jeanetta, S., C. Valdivia, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez, and A. Dannerbeck. 2009. Developing Social Capitals: Latino Immigrants in Three Rural Midwestern Communities. Change and Integration Panel, Social Capital and Empowerment, Cambio de Colores 2009, May 18-20, St. Louis, MO. (In Press). Dozi, P., and C. Valdivia. 2009. The importance of social networks on Latino Immigrants Wellbeing in Rural Missouri. Change and Integration Panel - Survival Skills, Social Networks, and Acculturation. Cambio de Colores 2009, May 18-20, St. Louis, MO. (In Press). Flores, L. Y., S. Jeanetta, C. Valdivia, and D. Martinez. 2009. Perceptions of Community Climate among Latino Immigrants in Three Rural Communities in the Midwest. Youth, Families, and Communities Research Panel - Family and Community. Cambio de Colores 2009, May 18-20, St. Louis, MO. (In Press).

FORUMS Valdivia, C. and S. Jeanetta. 2008. Forum sobre la encuesta y sus beneficios a la comunidad en Sedalia. St. Patrick's Church, December 2008, Sedalia, MO.

MANUALS Jeanetta, S., C. Valdivia, L. Y. Flores, D. Martinez. 2009. The Use of Photovoice and Community Forums to Dispel Perceived Barriers and Build Bridges: A human Centered Approach to Research that Leads to Agency about Community Climate and the Context of Reception. September. Columbia, MO. (draft)

Outcomes/Impacts:

Focus Group themes analyzed included Acculturation, Perceptions of the Community, of Racism, Social Capital and Barriers to Integration. Individual Acculturation analysis found strong ties to culture of origin, though there were areas in which they were changing and adapting to the host culture. Some Community Acculturation was taking place by Latinos and the receiving community. Perceptions of Community explored appeal of the host community and reception. Participants were drawn to the community because it was safe, it provided a good education, and had a low cost of living. Some indicated that they felt welcomed; others described a cold

and unwelcoming climate. A group indicated that their perceptions of reception changed from cold to accepting. Others encountered direct acts of discrimination based on their race, nationality, and status, such as being the target of stereotypes, housing discrimination, and mistreatment at work. Microaggressions experienced included alien in own land, color-blindedness, assumption of criminal status, and second-class citizen. Family and friends and church were the most developed social networks (social capital). Among men, work served as a source for developing connections with co-workers. For women, family and friends were their primary social connections. These networks facilitated accessing resources in the community. Barriers to integration included issues of trust and safety, language, documentation status, and limited access to community resources. Case Study findings of women's mobility include feelings of isolation, a focus on family and work, and language barriers, regardless of length of stay. The Photovoice project findings: A. Facilitating integration: 1. Sense of place, such as the parks, businesses and skylines made them feel good about the place. 2. Bridging institutions such as churches, community centers, and employers helped connect newcomers to local resources. 3. Systems of support such as churches, friends, family, served as important sources of information. 4. A sense of belonging was reflected in relationships at work, others who spoke their language, and activities like soccer, cultural events, and community businesses that provided connections to their culture of origin. B. Impeding integration: 1. Lack of access to resources such as healthcare, credit and higher education. 2. Language barriers and cultural differences. 3. Difficult access to resources such as a driver's license, insurance, housing and credit without proper documentation. 4. Experiences of discrimination in the workplace, at local stores and shops, and with local service providers. Impacts were measured by change in knowledge, from Poor and Fair to Good, Very Good, and Excellent, among 105 participants at Cambio de Colores. Poor and Fair knowledge group decreased from 35% to 5%, while Good increased by 7%, Very Good by 15%, and Excellent by 8.2%. Community Forums' participants found the information relevant (88.6%), and increased their level of understanding (86%). Low and Fair knowledge categories decreased by 41%; the categories of Very Good and Excellent knowledge increased by 31% and 9%, respectively.

Participants:

Individuals: Corinne Valdivia, Project Director; Stephen Jeanetta, Co-investigator; Lisa Flores, Co-investigator; Domingo Martinez, Senior Associate; Pedro Dozi, graduate research assistant and survey facilitator; Carrie Tyler, translator; Anne Janku, Senior Researcher. Partner Organizations facilitating survey research: Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church; Centro Latino of Milan; Pettis County Community Partnership; Amigos de Cristo; Sacred Hearth Catholic Church. Collaborators: Cheri Heeren, Valentina Mensa, Fr. Rick Jones, Elvera Staterwhite, Alicia Orellana, Marla Sheil, James Wirth, Fr. Jim Betzen, Kate Delp, Yvette Gonzalez, Eileen Schieber, community facilitating. Administration: Renee, Diaz Ancel, project manager; Aimee Paule, office support and survey data input; Christy Copeland, fiscal manager. Professional training to conduct household interviews: David Aguayo, Moises Aguayo, Pedro Dozi, Cecilia Turin Canchaya, Maria Figueroa Armijos, Keila Pena-Hernandez, Mario Mondelli, Lucia Bernardi, Liz Gilles, Courtney Wright, Brent Spencer, Rafael Brito-Aguilar, Jhovana Spencer; Aimee Paule, training in database entry.

Target Audiences:

This project has identified as targeted audiences stakeholders that work to facilitating integration of newcomers and building healthy communities. As stated in the proposal the results of the research, often gathered through participatory processes, is shared with the newcomer and receiving communities through community forums, and with stakeholders through the conference Cambio de Colores, where policy makers, community based organizations, state and federal organizations participate. Presentations at these forums aim at improving the level of knowledge, and development information that is considered relevant for decisions. We evaluate the change in knowledge of the participants at events where the information is presented. This is reported in the Outcomes/Impacts session. Changing knowledge and perceptions are short-term indicators of impact. Medium-term impacts are measure through a change in practices. Our advisory board, which met once this year, advices on the research instruments and process, and on the venues where our research results should be shared for impact. Professional organizations, to influence the academy about research focusing on assets and strengths in the process of immigration. Community based organizations working with Latino immigrants in rural communities, as our stakeholders who facilitate the process of integration. State offices that provide services to newcomers and the Latino population. Department of Economic Development in the State of Missouri, to inform about the contributions of Latinos and the barriers they may be encountering.

Project Modifications:

The only modification is the request of a one-year no cost extension to complete data analysis and publication of research. The

adverse immigration policy climate towards immigrants challenged the research process, and required us to build relationships with many key people in the communities who are trusted by the newcomers.

1 reports