



UNC Public Policy Clinic Projects, 2016-2017

PUBLIC POLICY

In the Clinic, students from a range of majors work in small consulting teams with faculty assistance. Over the course of a semester, student teams partner with community organizations in order to identify and propose solutions to policy problems. Projects are listed with the name of the community partner.

Campus Y and Bonner Community Partners: During the course of the spring 2017 semester, students were tasked with an entire grant outcome evaluation, from conception to completion. Through a partnership between UNC Public Policy and the Campus Y, students divided into teams to work with 10 recipients of a 2016 Bonner Community Partners Development Grant: Boomerang, Dobbins Hill, EmPOWERment, Farmer Foodshare, Jackson Center, Rogers Road, SCALE, TABLE, Teen Center, Volunteers for Youth. Teams were tasked with designing an outcomes measurement tool that included gathering both qualitative and quantitative data. One additional team was formed to focus on the induced economic impact of distributed grant funds. Students created a usable tool to assess future grants and track economic and social impacts over time. For each Community Partner, students compiled an individualized grant outcome report.

EmPOWERment, Inc: Our project with EmPOWERment endeavored to expand the number of communities that EmPOWERment is able to assist, while also aiming to improve the already vital assistance these communities are receiving. This entailed three major goals: canvassing several new communities, reaching out to elected officials, and contacting local organizations to help disseminate information.

Jackson Center: The main focus of our project was to collect demographic data in the Northside community; this was accomplished via door-to-door surveys. Then we analyzed this data while thinking of ways that the Jackson Center can reach out to UNC students and inform them about the history of the community.

Farmer FoodShare: This team worked with Farmer Foodshare, a nonprofit hunger relief organization, to conduct an evaluation of their “Donation Station” network at Farmer’s Markets across the state. We were able to identify several factors that frequently contributed to program success, but ultimately felt that more data would be required for conclusive results, so supplemented our final deliverable with a portfolio of analysis tools and best practices for future data management and evaluation.

Volunteers for Youth: Volunteers for Youth, a nonprofit mentoring agency, tasked our team with a large research project to understand emerging concepts of gender identification and its relationship to mentor programs. In order to accomplish this task and center it on youth mentoring programs, a literature review was conducted and a survey questionnaire administered to current mentors.