

UNC Public Policy Capstone Projects, 2017-2018

The Capstone program is the culminating experience of the Public Policy undergraduate major, offering seniors the opportunity to integrate and apply their academic knowledge and skills in a real-world policy environment. Projects are listed with the name of the community partner.

BikeWalk NC: Students collected and analyzed data by conducting a literature review on NC's Current bike and pedestrian infrastructure; analyzing the rural-urban disparity in infrastructure funding, creating GIS maps that demonstrate these findings; and distilling their data-dense findings into a visually engaging postcard targeted at legislators.

Camp Corral: Students analyzed a 2017 survey to identify areas of need among the families served by Camp Corral, the impacts of the camp on families served, and the importance of the camp to the families served.

Carolina Campus Community Garden:

Students conducted a feasibility study to determine whether the garden should expand its current distribution network and determine which departments would be optimal partners. The team conducted a budgetary and output analysis, a stakeholder analysis, and produced a fundraising and development portfolio.

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (Fall 2017): Students developed policy briefs and advocacy guides for Carolina Farm Stewardship Associations' Community Food Strategies initiative on two local-level food policy issues in North Carolina: backyard poultry ordinances and policies that promote urban agriculture on municipal land.

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association (Spring 2018): Students developed policy briefs and advocacy guides on local food certification and purchasing programs to provide resources for various stakeholders of local food systems. Additionally, the team evaluated a policy checklist to determine the status of local food policy in Orange County, North Carolina, and provide recommendations for future policy.

Centre for Homeownership and Economic Development Corporation: Students conducted a literature review that examined current lending practices by banks, credit unions, and CDFIs; they then analyzed federal data that describes which institutions are providing loans, and which types of businesses receive these loans in Orange, Chatham and Granville Counties; and finally, surveyed small businesses in these three counties about their experiences with accessing credit and pursuing small business loans.

College Advising Corps (Fall 2017): Students helped with identifying schools with high and low levels of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion rates. Additionally, the students developed a repository of FAFSA completion best practices.

College Advising Corps (Spring 2018): Students conducted a literature review on the topic of higher education attainment surrounding college enrollment trends. The team then aggregated CAC state and regional level college enrollment data to compare trends across demographics of schools over time.

Dementia Inclusive Durham: Students conducted a survey of Masonic Lodges in Durham to assess the level of knowledge of dementia among members to provide a foundation for DID's efforts to increase awareness and understanding in the community.

East Durham Children's Initiative: Students conducted a literature review that examined math and reading curriculums used by afterschool programs that serve low-income students. Afterwards, students compiled a list of reading interventions, along with staffing means, costs and evaluation protocols used; finally, the students drafted an interagency evaluation plan to inform evaluation of EDCI afterschool partner programs.

Golden LEAF: Students conducted research about scholarship alumni network practices and used this information to survey and interview scholars in order to evaluate interest and develop a framework the Golden LEAF Foundation could use to create an alumni network for its scholars.

Improving Parenting Programs: Students located, mapped and analyzed parenting programs in North Carolina for the Women's and Children's Section of the NC DPH. Then students developed case studies on 10 programs across the state to provide insight to success as well as ways to increase access to these programs.

Institute for Emerging Issues (Fall 2017): Students supported the Institute for Emerging Issues' upcoming forum on "Creating a More Cohesive NC" by collecting existing data on civic engagement, dialogue and deliberation, and interviews with key experts and organizations nationally and in North Carolina and producing a report on the key themes from the research with case studies that highlight promising programs.

Institute for Emerging Issues (Spring 2018): Students analyzed key components of the economic and community growth disparity between North Carolina's rural and urban communities by collecting data, conducting interviews, and analyzing relevant case studies to provide a best practice plan for a regionally coordinated approach.

Inter-Faith Council for Social Services: Students conducted a literature review and stakeholder interviews to propose revisions to the Good Neighbor Plan (GNP) in order to better align it with best practices in supporting individuals experiencing homelessness as well as the experiences of IFC stakeholders.

Miracle Feet (Fall 2017): Students investigated the feasibility and necessity of developing a global child protection policy for local nonprofit MiracleFeet. This project examined the current landscape of global child protection policies and administered a survey to providers.

MiracleFeet (Spring 2018): Students conducted interviews, surveys, and a literature review to discover the key successes and challenges of its new health application, CAST. The team created a best practices tool and summary document to evaluate CAST's progress.

Musical Empowerment: Students conducted a literature review of peer mentorship programs, music programs, and music-mentorship programs and used this information to create and administer a survey to gauge the overall impact of ME from the perspective of its participants.

North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (NCSPAC): The team conducted a literature review, constructed a dataset using conviction records and the Criminal and Infraction Public Records Search (CIPRS) database, and analyzed this dataset to determine recidivism rates for North Carolina DWI offenders, identify characteristics associated with recidivation, and provide policy recommendations for the Commission.

Orange County Arts Commission: Students identified new funding opportunities by surveying peer communities to find successful public funding models and interviewing local stakeholders to determine the feasibility of applying these models to Orange County.

Orange County Criminal Justice Resource Department: Students evaluated the implementation of the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument-Revised (VPRAI-R) in Orange County, North Carolina by preparing a VPRAI-R user manual, interviewing relevant courthouse stakeholders, and analyzing data on pretrial outcomes.

Orange County Department of Social Services Adolescent Parenting Program: Students conducted focus groups to determine best practices and next steps for a potential program expansion of the Orange County Department of Social Services Adolescent Parenting Program.

Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness: Students researched successful collaborations between Public Housing Authorities and Continuums of Care. Students identified areas of improvement within Orange County to ensure coordination and efficiency between organizations which would ultimately improve the overall process of ending homelessness.

Resourceful Communities: Students identified three policies that affect rural food access in North Carolina for the non-profit Resourceful Communities and developed briefs accompanied by tools that educate community members and offer action steps that community leaders can use to address the policy issues in rural NC.

WCHS Community Capacity: Students conducted a landscape review of existing CCB programs. They identified Promise Zone and Best Babies Zone as successful program models and conducted interviews to gain greater insight. Students created recommendations for future CCB program development, and formulated strategies for successful program implementation.

WCHS in NC DPH- Preconception Peer Education (PPE) Best Practice: Students conducted interviews with PPE programs across the country to compile a set of recommendations and best practices for the development, implementation, and evaluation of a PPE program focused on non-African American minority communities.

WomenNC: Students conducted a gender analysis of Durham, focusing on the impact of gentrification on women of color, and the ability of low-income women of color to access affordable housing.