CUP employs 30 personnel, including project directors, administrative staff, affiliated research faculty, and student interns. CUP began operations on July 1, 1995 under the leadership of Dr. Rodney D. Green and has raised over $32 million in external funding, developed partnerships with 80 community-based organizations, and placed 125 students as interns in community-based organizations. CUP’s activities range widely, including carrying out applied research and evaluation for public and private agencies engaged in community development and educational activities; developing affordable housing; providing direct services to the community; and developing scholarly work on the challenges of urban life. CUP leads Howard University’s effort to encourage community development content in the curriculum, directs urban and culturally contextual research activities, operates multiple community service programs, provides technical support to Washington, DC public and private community development and educational organizations, and collaborates extensively with other units of the University in achieving its mission.

CURRENT AND PAST PROJECTS

Pre-Kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Program and Child Care Subsidy Program Evaluations
Brooke K. Mckie, Ph.D., and Jo-Anne Manswell Butty Ph.D., Program Directors, 202-865-8584

The Pre-Kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Program and Child Care Subsidy Program Evaluations (PKEEP) was awarded to the Center for Urban Progress by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) in 2010 to provide high-level evaluation for the District of Columbia’s universal pre-kindergarten and child care subsidy program initiatives. CUP was selected for this role because of its cutting edge analysis of the District’s pilot program, the Pre-Kindergarten Incentive Program from 2006-2010. Its evaluation of PKEEP has included assessing the implementation of the standards-based, comprehensive, early care and education program by collecting and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data using standardized early childhood observation tools, student assessment instruments, and interviews leading to recommendations for strengthening the universal pre-kindergarten and emerging high-quality child care subsidy infant and toddler programs in D.C. Utilizing a cultural contextual approach, CUP has conducted observations in over 1000 pre-kindergarten, toddler and infant classrooms and child care family homes and has assessed over 2000 children in language development assessments. CUP has also conducted numerous focus groups and surveys with early childhood stakeholders.

Howard University Center on Race and Wealth, Janet R. Griffin-Graves, Ph.D., Program Director, 202-865-8582

The Howard University Center on Race and Wealth (CRW) was created in 2007 through a grant from the Ford Foundation. It is led by Dr. Charles L. Betsey and Dr. Rodney D. Green. The goal of the CRW is to enrich the dialogue and research on asset building, wealth accumulation, and racial wealth disparities. It supports the Ford Foundation’s initiative on Building Economic Security over a Lifetime by assessing the research and technical assistance needs of the Initiative’s state and regional asset building coalition grantees and enlisting a team of experienced researchers at universities across the country—Center Associates—to conduct studies on asset building issues of interest to the coalitions. The work of this virtual “think tank” of academic researchers is supported by research assistants from the graduate economics program at Howard University. Center Associates and their
graduate assistants work with coalition grantees to support each coalition’s specific mission with regard to wealth creation education and advocacy in its particular state or region.

**Neighborhood Networks Program, Deborah Bernard, Program Director, 202-865-8581**

The CUP Neighborhood Networks Program (NNP) operates computer-based learning centers in the DC Housing Authority (DCHA) Park Morton and Garfield Terrace public housing communities. NNP’s mission is to improve resident self-sufficiency, resilience and quality of life while bridging the digital divide. NNP serves Park Morton and Garfield Terrace adults, seniors and youth. NNP offers computer access and training, workforce development, academic and financial literacy and a myriad of youth enrichment programs that integrate the use of technology, artistic expression, physical activity and best practices to help youth gain vital life and academic skills, adopt healthy lifestyles and reduce risk behaviors in preparation for adulthood and positive citizenship.

**Business Development Division, Saheed Akinkuolie, Program Director, 202-483-3508**

The CUP Business Development Division, housed in the Frank Reeves Municipal Center, focused on new business development and existing business retention, with specialties in business financing, marketing and government contracting and procurement. Skilled business counselors provided free and confidential technical assistance to hundreds of the District’s entrepreneurs, business owners and managers, generating over $1 million in contracts annually. The Division provided training in strategic planning to ensure sustainable business growth, and partners with Shaw Main Streets and other organizations to broaden its reach.

**Workforce Development Training Program, Sandra Rattley, Program Director, 202-865-8587**

The Workforce Development Training Program provided information technology training for disadvantaged participants drawn largely from underserved communities near Howard University, including many re-entrants from incarceration. The program addressed the issue of unemployment and underemployment of adults with low skill levels by selecting, training, placing, and supporting retention of these individuals in unsubsidized employment. The Workforce Development Training Program has trained more than 225 people of whom 186 have gotten new or better jobs or higher pay in their current jobs.

**OTHER RECENT INITIATIVES**

- 21st Century Community Learning Center
- Upgrade for Uplift
- HOPE VI Evaluation Project
- Pre-Kindergarten Incentive Program Evaluation
- Lincoln Heights New Communities Initiative Evaluation Project
- District of Columbia Public School’s State Improvement Grant Evaluation Project
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Research Project
- Community Development Leadership Program

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