

Community Assistantship Program

...a program of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)

Revitalization Project

Prepared in partnership with
Honor the Earth

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CURA CAP Research Assistantship Position with Honor the Earth
Fall, 2015
Claire Stoscheck

The CURA CAP Research Assistantship position at Honor the Earth was a rich learning experience for me, and I thank Honor the Earth staff for the opportunity to learn about and support their work. I also thank CURA for making this opportunity possible and supporting me in this work.

Through this Research Assistantship, I was able to produce five products which helped to support Honor the Earth's environmental justice work. A brief description of each product follows:

1) Enbridge Energy Sandpiper Pipeline Public Hearing-June 4th 2015-Honor the Earth's Report Prepared for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe: I read, coded and analyzed themes which emerged from testimony from the June 4th Pipeline Public Hearing held by White Earth. I used direct testimony to back up themes which emerged from the transcripts. I wrote and formatted 22 pages (out of a total of 43 pages) draft report based on the testimony of community members, which can go on the public record and help further the movement to stop the Sandpiper Pipeline.

2) Analysis of the Minobimaatisiwin Questionnaire: I conducted qualitative analysis of this questionnaire, which focused on asking health and economic related questions to community members in Rice Lake. I wrote a 12-page report which described the questionnaire, the sampling strategy, and methodological limitations, as well as an analysis and summary of themes that emerged from the questionnaires. This report can help support Honor's work documenting the health and economic inequities that exist in the communities along the potential pipeline route, and also to help create a baseline which can help when planning programs and strategies.

3) Revised Survey and Creation of Survey Documents: I spent a good deal of my assistantship revising the Minobimaatisiwin Questionnaire so that it could be used as a random sample survey, and therefore its findings can be applied to the general population . I divided it into two

surveys: 1) a Household Survey and 2) an Individual survey, which I put on Google Forms for ease of data entry and analysis. I ran the survey by several evaluation experts as well as qualitative and quantitative researchers at the Humphrey, and based on these conversation and my own analysis, I revised the questions. The goal was to make the analysis of the survey straight forward. I also created a consent form, as well as recommended Analysis and Sampling Strategy guides for future survey implementers. This ground work was conducted so that future Honor staff can implement the survey using a (close to) random sample, so that the results can be more representative of the general population of the communities Honor is interested in surveying.

4) DATA COLLECTION SUMMARY- Public Health Profile of Pine Point CDP, East Lake (Spalding Township), and Rice Lake CDP: Another large part of my assistantship focused on collecting public health and social determinants of health data for the Pine Point, East Lake and Rice Lake communities, all of which would potentially be affected by pipelines. I conducted research using Census data, email communication with school districts near these communities, as well as internet research-- in order to fill out a table which included 61 health and social determinant of health factors. In order to choose these factors, I conducted a brief literature review of health issues in American Indian Communities. I then researched and filled out information for those 61 factors for the three communities, as well as for MN state as a whole, and for non-Hispanic Whites (to use as a point of comparison). I also added information on racial health disparities between non-Hispanic whites and American Indians in MN. This public health data summary can serve as a resource for future research on public health in these Native American communities by Honor the Earth staff and others.

5) Assistance on a Grant Application: For my final deliverable, I assisted Honor the Earth on a grant application for funds to help promote a food sovereignty project on the Mille Lacs Reservation.