

Edward M. Gramlich Fellowship in Community and Economic Development



Summer 2016

Bridging the gap between research and practice

Gramlich Fellows spend a summer investigating policy and practice challenges faced by public and nonprofit sector organizations in real time, in partnership with NeighborWorks America, a national practitioner network, and the Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard's nationally recognized housing research center.

What former Fellows have to say:

Having access to the dynamic network of academics, policy makers, practitioners, and industry leaders that the Fellowship provides presents **an exceptional opportunity** to design your research in an almost "real time" context, making it pertinent, relevant, and revealing the path to achieve further impact. The Fellowship **changed the course of my career**, becoming the stepping stone that transformed thoughts and ideas into projects and action.

– Eduardo Berlin, 2010 Gramlich Fellow, CEO, Mapdwell

Access to **an outstanding network** of professionals led directly to my current job position. They were truly interested in the work I was pursuing and **provided key guidance** at critical points. Being able to present my findings in a forum of professionals in the field and obtain direct feedback was invaluable.

– Jeffrey Morgan, 2011 Gramlich Fellow, Director of Real Estate Development, Historic Boston Incorporated

This Fellowship was a great opportunity to step back and **see the big picture** of what's happening in the community development field, while also delving into the details of current initiatives. Through the research and the training institute, I made many connections with professionals and **learned about current trends and leading initiatives**. These connections and the mentoring of staff at JCHS and Neighborworks have enriched my experience at Harvard.

– Nathalie Janson, 2015 Gramlich Fellow, MUP candidate, Harvard Graduate School of Design

A list of former projects, complete details on the fellowship, and application instructions are available at:
<http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/students/fellowships>



Who should apply:

Harvard graduate students not in their graduating year who are in planning, public policy, law, business, economics, administration, sociology, education, or related fields who have commitment to and knowledge of the community and economic development fields. Must be entrepreneurial and committed to co-developing, leading, and completing a minimum 10-week analytical project (full-time) that is suitable for publication. Fellowship award includes \$8000 compensation.

ENERGY
DIVERSITY
CITIES HOUSING
SUSTAINABILITY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
NEIGHBORHOODS
NONPROFITS
EQUITY

Each summer, two fellows are selected and matched with projects according to their background, experience, and interests.

Summer 2016 Potential Projects:

Promoting Diversity in Leadership of the Housing & Community Development Sector: What are organizations at various levels—local, regional, and national—doing to promote diversity? What strategies can be gleaned from other sectors?

Boston's Gentrification and Community Revitalization - A Tale of Contrasts: When gentrification and revitalization collide, it creates a world of opposing interests: how can a community attract capital, investment, and desired amenities, while preventing displacement of low-income residents who face “pricing-out” after market appreciation? Should focus be on creating diversity in communities or on preserving ethnic neighborhoods?

Partnerships between Public Housing Authorities and CDCs: What are the opportunities and challenges of partnerships between Public Housing Authorities and CDCs, especially in rural counties? This involves reviewing some innovative models of collaboration such as Randolph County, WV and Las Animas County, CO, identifying lessons for possible expansion or replication of these type of partnerships.

Resident Behavior and Energy Efficiency: What kind of affordable housing is delivering the best results in energy efficiency through promotion of resident behavior? Can behavioral economics teach us any strategies? How do you change resident behavior? Are there lessons from other countries that could be incorporated?

Paying for Solar Energy in Affordable Housing: How do solar improvements get paid for in multi-family construction? There are some innovative financing methods, such as the National Housing Trust example. What are other possible financing strategies?

Family Health and Wellness Initiatives Fit for National Efforts: As practitioners develop measures to improve the health and wellness of America's families, research is vital in evaluating these programs for efficacy. From exercise initiatives to chronic disease self-management, identify which practices should be implemented at the national level and highlight the critical role affordable housing and community development play in promoting family health and wellness.

Analysis of the Rural Development Multifamily Crisis: The rental assistance contracts for many USDA Rural Developments built in the 515 program 30 to 40 years ago are expiring. Many properties will “fall out” of the national affordable housing portfolio. What can the USDA do to handle this looming crisis?

Innovative Models for Sustainable Funding of Community Development Organizations: Can new, sustainable financial models be adopted in the face of declining public resources to support affordable housing and community development? How do social impact investing or social impact bonds translate to affordable housing and community development?

How to Apply:

Send resumé, cover letter, two letters of reference (we suggest one from a faculty member and one from a professional affiliate in the community or economic development field), current address, phone, and e-mail address to james_chaknis@harvard.edu.

In your cover letter, please answer the following questions:

- How have your past professional and educational experiences prepared you for this fellowship opportunity?
- What interests you most about this opportunity and what do you hope to learn?
- Why does the field of community and economic development interest you?

Application deadline February 29, 2016.

The Edward M. Gramlich Fellowship in Community and Economic Development is co-sponsored by JCHS and NeighborWorks® America. The fellowship is named for Edward “Ned” Gramlich, a former member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and former chairman of NeighborWorks, who was a strong and consistent advocate for consumer protection in the financial arena.

For additional information, please contact

James Chaknis, Communications Coordinator: james_chaknis@harvard.edu, 617-495-7908

Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University

1 Bow Street, Suite 400

Cambridge, MA 02138

www.jchs.harvard.edu

