

Tisch College Community Research Center Past Microgrant Recipients

Resurrecting the Dreamland: A Case Study of Theatre's Impact on Cultural Identity Formation, Tulsa Race Riot of 1921

Recipient: Tara Watkins

One of the first TCRC microgrants was awarded to a Ph.D candidate in theatre and performance studies, to help fund her play writing project in Tulsa, OK. Tara partnered with the Greenwood Cultural Center to conduct story circles used to write a play recounting the events of the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921, in order to investigate the effects of drama therapy on easing cultural trauma. Her work was recently featured in Tufts Now; you can [read more about it here](#).

Tufts Medford and Community Health (MATCH) Initiative

Recipients: Marianna Athanassiou, Kelly Fahey, Jacob Garrell, Sophie Maki, Marianna Marques, Alexa Paiva, Wilna Paulemon, Isaiah Smolar, Brianna Xavier, Justin Zaslavsky,

A group of undergraduates collaborated with their professor, the Director of the Medford Office of Diversity, and the Director of the Medford Family Network (MFN), as part of a community health course to improve services provided to Medford's immigrant population and inform the development of an Immigrant Learning Center. TCRC funding was used to collect data from Medford's immigrant population to better understand their needs.

Service Delivery at Comprehensive Housing Developments and Resident Socioeconomic Outcomes

Recipient: Jaissa Feliz

This grant was awarded to aid in a master's thesis in the Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning (UEP) Department. Jaissa investigated the impact of social services provided to tenants by low-income rental housing developments on the socioeconomic outcomes of residents. A case study was conducted with her community partner, the Washington Beech Apartments—which is one of these comprehensive affordable housing developments—to collect and analyze data on socioeconomic outcomes, service use, and resident feedback on quality of services.

Perceptions and Knowledge of Processed Foods in 4th-6th Graders

Recipient: Rachel Bleiweiss-Sande

A Friedman Nutrition and Citizenship Fellow, Rachel sought to investigate children's perceptions of highly processed foods through several focus groups at Medford and Everett public schools. The results of these focus groups were used to inform the development of a processed food literacy tool to be administered to a larger cohort of participants in order to encourage the consumption of whole, minimally processed foods.

Evaluation of Smart from the Start: Understanding Smart's Theory of Change

Recipient: María Veronica Mingo

Working with the Tufts Interdisciplinary Evaluation Research (TIER) team, María helped her community partner Smart from the Start, an organization that seeks to address the achievement gap among low-income children by offering support services to families, evaluate their services and the effect they have on the community. Interviews with participants, focus groups, and discussion of findings with key stakeholders were used to assess outcomes and revise the organization's existing model.

Understanding the Care and Obesity-Related Behaviors of 0-5-year-old Children in Somerville

Recipient: Meera Menon

In collaboration with the Somerville Family Learning Collaborative (SFLC), Meera investigated obesity-related behaviors in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking parents of 0-5-year-old children, a community that is numerous in Somerville and disproportionately burdened by childhood obesity. Preexisting parenting surveys were translated and disseminated at settings like playgroups to better understand behaviors in this community that could be related to childhood obesity.