

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT RESEARCH AND POLICY UPDATE



## Community Development Project Research & Policy Initiative Update *Fall 2010 – Spring 2011*



### Recent Research and Policy Accomplishments

The end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 have proved to be another busy time for the Research and Policy Initiative at the Community Development Project. We have released four new reports in partnership with community groups, with topics ranging from collective bargaining for domestic workers to green jobs in the South Bronx. As always, we also continue to coordinate and support a number of coalitions and alliances working to build power in NYC's low-income communities.

As a result of our research support, community organizations have seen their social justice campaigns move forward and a number of our partners have achieved concrete policy successes in the past year. Our trainings have helped increase the capacity of community organizations and furthered leadership development efforts. Reports, education and advocacy tools have aided organizational base-building and increased the presence and profile of community organizations in the media and with government officials.

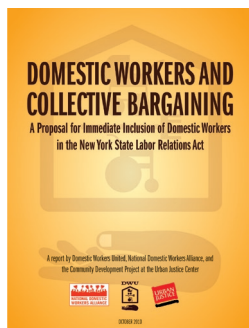
This update includes information about reports recently published by the Research and Policy Initiative in partnership with a number of community-based organizations. It also includes information on some of our current and upcoming projects to be completed in the near future. For more information about our reports or current projects, please contact Alexa Kasdan, Director of Research and Policy at [akasdan@urbanjustice.org](mailto:akasdan@urbanjustice.org). Thank you for your continued support of the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center!

Alexa Kasdan, Director of Research and Policy,  
Urban Justice Center, Community Development Project

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## NEW REPORTS

### DOMESTIC WORKERS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING



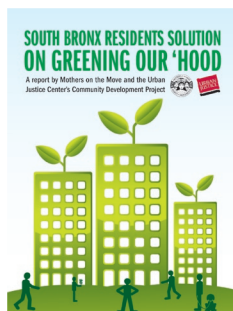
In partnership with Domestic Workers United and the National Domestic Workers Alliance, CDP's Research and Policy Initiative and workers' rights legal team collaborated to produce a report titled "Domestic Workers and Collective Bargaining: A Proposal for the Immediate Inclusion of Domestic Workers in the New York State Labor Relations Act." Following the historic passage of New York State's Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, this report analyzes the groundbreaking possibility of collective organization and bargaining among privately employed domestic workers in New York State, and recommends eliminating the unjust exclusion of domestic workers from the New York State Labor Relations Act. The report bases its conclusions on the results of extensive survey and interview data, as well as legal research and analysis, about the particular challenges domestic workers face in their workplaces—namely, their employers' homes. [View Report](#)

### BUILDING THE MEKONG: HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND FORGING THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COMMUNITY IN THE BRONX



In March 2011, CDP and CAAAV released a report documenting the Southeast Asian community's need for a community center in the South Bronx. "Building the Mekong: Healing the Wounds of War and Forging the Future of the Southeast Asian Community in the Bronx" presents results from a survey project conducted by CAAAV members, with research support from CDP. Survey results show a loss of culture among the youth and a lack of services for older Southeast Asians in the Bronx. CAAAV is proposing to combat these problems through the creation of the Mekong Center, a community center in the Bronx that would offer cultural programs for youth and culturally and linguistically appropriate services for older Southeast Asians. This new report will be used by CAAAV as a tool to fight for the Mekong Center. [View Report](#)

### SOUTH BRONX RESIDENTS' SOLUTION ON GREENING OUR 'HOOD



Mothers on the Move (MOM) in collaboration with CDP's Research and Policy Initiative released a report documenting three intersecting issues affecting residents of the South Bronx; high unemployment rates, deteriorating housing conditions, and poor health. "South Bronx Residents' Solution on Greening Our 'Hood" summarizes the findings of surveys and focus groups conducted by MOM members, who are also residents of the South Bronx. The report also includes the community's solution for addressing all three issues: a green jobs program that would train and place public housing residents in jobs focused on retrofitting and greening existing New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments. This timely report highlights the voices of public housing residents, whose opinions will help inform the larger green jobs policy debate, particularly within the NYCHA community. [View Report](#)

### DOING THE WORK THAT MAKES ALL WORK POSSIBLE



This report released by CDP and DAMAYAN, is the culmination of a multi-year, participatory study focusing on Filipino domestic workers, that included surveys, focus groups, interviews, a literature review and data analysis. DAMAYAN members actively participated in all aspects of the research. "Doing the Work that Makes All Work Possible" documents the economic difficulties and harsh working conditions many Filipino domestic workers face on a daily basis and the impact on their families and livelihoods. The report also includes many concrete recommendations that will help improve the lives and working conditions for all domestic workers and their families. [View Report](#)

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## CURRENT PROJECTS

### Methadone Clinic Research with VOCAL-NY

VOCAL-NY and CDP are conducting a participatory research project to explore the key problems faced by patients of Methadone Maintenance Treatment Programs (MMTP) and to identify ways to improve patient satisfaction, retention in care and address neglected health issues. Survey and focus group findings will be summarized, along with secondary data, in a final report that is set to be released in the spring of 2011.

### Impact of Mayoral Control with Teachers Unite

Teachers Unite and CDP are conducting research to document the lack of meaningful teacher, parent and student involvement in NYC schools. Under Mayor Bloomberg's policies of mayoral control, teacher, parent, and student decision-making power has been significantly reduced. As a result, community involvement bodies including, School Leadership Teams, District Leadership Teams and Community Education Councils, lack real power in making decisions about their schools. Survey results, combined with focus groups and secondary research will be summarized in a report to be released near the beginning of the 2011 school year.

### Immigrant Services Research with New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE)

CDP is working with NICE to document fraudulent and predatory practices of immigrant service providers and employment agencies in Queens. This will be done through a coordinated canvass of all immigrant service providers and employment agencies in Jackson Heights, Elmhurst and Corona, Queens as well as surveys and focus groups with new immigrants that have accessed these services. Research results will be documented in a final report that will be used to support NICE's immigrant consumer justice campaign.

### Vacant Property Identification with FIERCE

CDP is working with FIERCE on a participatory action research project to: identify vacant properties for the development of a LGBTQ community center; determine specific priorities for services and programs at the center and; to develop a clear design and budget for the community center. FIERCE is working to develop a community center so that LGBTQ youth of color have a safe place to access services and programs. Results of the canvassing and visioning will be presented in several formats, including maps, fact sheets, renderings and a final report.

### Research for Organizing Toolkit

This toolkit will include a comprehensive set of popular education activities and tools to for organizations to use in every phase of their participatory action research projects, from research design to report writing and dissemination. The toolkit will be designed for organizers and community members to build concrete research skills that can be applied to actual research projects that they are working on within their organization. The toolkit will be available online and in print and is set to be released this summer.

## Research and Policy in the News



### Trabajadoras domesticas en la lucha

October 29, 2010

By Gloria Medina

[http://www.urbanjustice.org/pdf/press/hoy\\_28oct10.pdf](http://www.urbanjustice.org/pdf/press/hoy_28oct10.pdf)



### The State of Public Housing

June 18, 2010

The Brian Lehrer Show

<http://www.wnyc.org/shows/bl/2010/jun/18/state-public-housing/>



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT RESEARCH AND POLICY UPDATE

## Urban Justice Center, Community Development Project, Research and Policy Initiative

The Research and Policy Initiative of the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center draws from participatory-action research methodology to provide assistance to community organizing groups working in low-income, largely immigrant communities and communities of color throughout New York City. CDP provides methodological and technical assistance in research and policy to help strengthen and further the strategic development and implementation of partners' organizing campaigns.

### Assistance Provided:

- Development, design and implementation of participatory research methods;
- Development and design of qualitative and quantitative research instruments such as surveys, focus groups, interviews and canvassing tools;
- Development and conducting of trainings focusing on various participatory research methods;
- Assistance in strategic development of public policy recommendations;
- Assistance in strategic media and communications work;
- Secondary research and literature reviews;
- Development of databases;
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis;
- Production of reports and other materials to be used for program development, outreach and advocacy;
- Assistance in the development of programmatic, organizing and policy-oriented strategies stemming from research.

For more information, please contact

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<http://www.urbanjustice.org/ujc/extra/community/research.html>

