

Report to W.K.Kellogg Foundation

Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University New Orleans

July 13, 2018

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Narrative Report Guidelines

The format below is suggested as a means of helping you provide information about your accomplishments and learning. Many of these questions address in general terms what you outlined in your proposal in specific terms. Feel free to use your own format or to modify this format as long as substantive points are included in the report. Strive to be brief and complete.

Project Summary:

Use the goals below (as stated in your proposal) to provide a **brief summary** of the strategies you have undertaken to achieve the goals and the methods by which you are assessing these efforts. Note if changes have been made to any goals. *Changes are noted in italics below.*

The goals of the Economic Security for Vulnerable Families project are to: (1) enhance the reach of JSRI's research and education efforts to increase the number of faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, and members of the general public who will have access to better information about issues of economic, social, and racial justice and be empowered to work toward social and economic change, (2) broaden JSRI's organizational capacity by supporting continued and new research and knowledge products specific to food security in Louisiana and educational equity in Louisiana and Mississippi, and (3) utilize press and media to spread the results of this research more widely and effectively.

To achieve the first project goal, we will continue to strategically produce, publicize, and distribute timely action research and educational materials to advocates, faith-based communities, coalition partners, public officials, and citizens. These materials will enhance stakeholder understanding, awareness, and support for addressing social and economic issues affecting vulnerable children and families. Issues JSRI will continue to focus on, with an emphasis on racial equity throughout, include family income, health insurance coverage, housing affordability, school segregation, wage equity, unemployment, education gaps and equity, and food insecurity. *Developments include:*

a) The JustSouth Index 2017 was completed in March, 2018, utilizing data from the U.S. Census released in fall, 2017. Rather than a local press conference, JSRI released the Index on May 3, 2018 at a Congressional staff briefing in Washington, D.C., in collaboration with Catholic Charities USA, the Justice and Ecology Office of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, the Kalmonovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor of Georgetown University, and the University of Notre Dame's Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities. Loyola media relations staff timed press releases for the five Gulf South states and nationally to coincide with the staff briefing. The Index used the same nine social indicators as in the first Index and applied them to all fifty states and the District of Columbia with special information on Louisiana, Mississippi, and the other three Gulf South states. The Index took longer to complete and release due to the need to develop and use outside designers (the university no longer provides this service) and to arrange the Washington, D.C. congressional staff briefing and recruit the new organizations for the event.

b) Working in conjunction with the Advisory Board of JSRI, JSRI initially developed and then tested a fifty-state educational equity index with the board in April, 2018. The results indicated that state-level analysis and comparison was more difficult and less reliable than the JustSouth Index because of the inconsistency of education-related data at the state level on the nine indicators selected. It was determined that, because of the key roles played in education at the county level (funding, policy, access, etc.), the educational equity index would be more useful and reliable if focused just on Louisiana and Mississippi and developed with county-level data making comparisons more useful for educators, thought leaders, policy-makers, and the concerned public. This pushed the anticipated publication date from the spring of 2018 to the fall of 2018.

To increase the reach and impact of our efforts, we will actively work to grow and track our traditional and social media presences and the number and strength of organizational partnerships.

Second, related to our goal of developing a new focus on food security and food justice in Louisiana, we will build upon the work of our 2015-16 Emerson Congressional Hunger Fellow by producing hunger-specific research focused on Louisiana. This research will be useful for organizations in the Greater New Orleans area that are working on issues related to food insecurity and food justice, with whom the Hunger Fellow has developed new connections during her time with JSRI.

The food security in Louisiana report is scheduled to be published in December 2018. It is well-known that the public's attention to hunger is heightened in the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and this should comport with JSRI's efforts to broaden the impact of targeted research on the public's consciousness.

Finally, regarding our goal to more strategically impact public opinion by expanded use of print and media outlets, JSRI will actively work to grow and track our traditional and social media presences, utilize professionally prepared press releases and press conferences to launch research reports, and commit a staff member part-time to employ social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. The project budget includes funding for layout, printing, and dissemination of research reports in highly attractive formats.

Progress Toward Goals (2-5 pages)

Use this section to provide more detail on the progress made toward goals during the grant year just completed. In addition, if not already addressed, please consider the following:

1. Activities: Describe activities undertaken this year, including the outcomes and lessons you have learned from this year's experiences. If some intended activities were not undertaken, please note them and explain why they were not pursued. Describe any new activities or modifications and why they were added.
 - a) As noted above, the JustSouth Index 2017 was timed to the census data released in the fall of 2017, writing, analysis, and website map design (see www.loyno.edu/jsri/indicators-map) in the last months of 2018, design and printing by March, 2018, and release in May, 2018 (see http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/sites/loyno.edu.jsri/files/JustSouth_Index_2017.pdf). Statements from the congressional staff briefing by Fr. Kammer and Dr. Bustamante can be found at http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/sites/loyno.edu.jsri/files/JSRI_2017_%20JustSouth_Index_Media_Packet.pdf
 - b) The initial design of the educational equity research was proposed to the Advisory Board in November 2017; it contained twelve indicators in four focus area: access; resources; achievement; and diversity. It was revised to use only nine indicators in three areas (access, resources, and achievement) to respond to their input in the following months. Applied to data for all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the index draft was re-presented to the Advisory Board in April, 2018. After that meeting, the fifty-one jurisdiction approach was deemed inadequate. Dr. Bustamante and Dr. Mitchell have shifted their focus to Louisiana and Mississippi, still using the indicator approach, to look at county-level educational data and analysis in four key areas: access, community conditions affecting education, resources for education, and achievement.

c) With the intensity of work on the JustSouth Index and the multiple revisions of the educational equity index, as well as the development of the new food security in Louisiana report and the reprise of The State of Working Mississippi, it became necessary to postpone indefinitely the reprise of Too Much for Too Many: What does it cost families to live in Louisiana. As can be seen below, several of our regular articles in the quarterly or monthly focused on living wages, wage disparities based on race and gender, minimum wage, and retirement benefits.

2. Outcomes: If you have modified your intended outcomes, indicate the changes. Please describe any unanticipated outcomes. Does your experience to date suggest that original expectations for achieving these outcomes were realistic? If not, why not? How are you dealing with unrealistic expectations?

We over-anticipated the number of reports which we could complete in a short period of time due to several factors: a small core staff; the complete redesign of the educational equity index (a new product); staff changes (Dr. Bustamante will be taking a position with the Louisiana Workforce Commission in August, 2018); the anticipated need to rely in part on consultants in the hiring interim; and the failure to have sufficient summer 2018 intern assistance.

3. Environment/Challenges/Opportunities: Describe factors or circumstances (positive and/or negative) within your environment affecting progress toward achieving goals either generally or as they relate to specific activities. What challenges and opportunities have developed and how are they being approached?

The most significant environmental factors concern the data available on various facets of education across fifty-one jurisdictions. It is often inconsistent, collected in a less timely fashion than the federal census, and not as centralized. This has led JSRI, after discussion with our Advisory Board, to focus on Louisiana and Mississippi and to “drill down” to the country level where key decisions about education are largely concentrated.

4. Collaboration: If your project is collaborating with other organizations or institutions, describe how these relationships are helping or hindering your progress toward addressing needs.

a) The key new collaborations were associated with the release of the results of the JustSouth Index 2017 at the congressional staff briefing: Catholic Charities USA, the Justice and Ecology Office of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, the Kalmonovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor of Georgetown University, and the University of Notre Dame’s Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities.

b) We anticipate working with the Hope Policy Institute, Mississippi Center for Justice, and Catholic Charities in Mississippi in developing the policy recommendations to be contained in the State of Mississippi [2019] and in the report's release. We do not anticipate problems with these collaborations.

c) In his work on educational equity, Dr. Mitchell has developed new relationships with the Orleans Parish School Board division of Equity Initiatives (Black male initiative white paper), the Archdiocese of New Orleans Religious Education (racism resources for high schools), and the Equity in All Places/Youth discipline coalition (on school discipline practices). These are helpful endeavors in general.

5. Observations: Please share any other observations not noted above.

It is important to note that the JSRI staff continue writing for our regular publications—the JustSouth Quarterly and the JustSouth Monthly on issues of economic justice and racial equity, as well as for newspapers and other publications. The quarterly reaches 1,600 readers and the monthly is sent to those readers as well as all faculty, staff, and students, more than 6,500 people in all. The multiplier effect can be very important. Some select articles on economic justice and racial equity are listed below with links:

QUARTERLY:

Spring 2018

- [The Fear of a Black Ballot](#)-- Nik Mitchell, Ph.D. [on voter suppression]
- [Catholic Social Thought and Voting](#)-- Fred Kammer, S.J. [on the right to vote]
- [Justice Completed](#)-- Alí Bustamante, Ph.D. [on voting rights restoration in the Gulf South]

Winter 2018

- [Working for Dignity](#)-- Alí Bustamante, Ph.D., Brendan Gottschall, S.J. [on living wages in the Gulf South]
- [Markers of Plenty](#)-- Nicholas Mitchell, Ph.D. [on race, ethnicity, gender, and wages in Louisiana]

Fall 2017

- [The Mystery of Evil in the Racial Divide](#)--Thomas F. Clark, S.J.
- [Catholic Social Thought and Racial Solidarity](#)-- Kammer
- [On Being Born into the Integrated South](#)-- Mitchell

Summer 2017

- [Confederate Ghosts: The Clash of Civilizations](#)-- Mitchell

MONTHLY ENEWS:

April 2018-- [Building a Culture of Encounter](#)

- Dr. Sue Weishar remembers our most recent Ignatian Teach-In on Mass Incarceration.

March 2018-- [Arming Teachers](#)

- Dr. Nicholas Mitchell argues against putting more guns in our nation's schools.

January 2018-- [For the Common Good](#)

- Dr. Alí Bustamante gives evidence in support of increased minimum wages reducing recidivism rates.

August 2017-- [The Real Threat of White Supremacy](#)

- Dr. Nicholas Mitchell addresses the threat of White supremacy in light of the recent riot in Charlottesville, VA.

June 2017--[Conflict of Interest](#)

- Dr. Bustamante discusses why protecting retirement is in the Common Good.

Future Plans (1-2 pages)

1. List the project and evaluation activities you intend to pursue during the next reporting period for each intended goal/outcome and note whether and how they involve modifications. (This list is what you will report on next year.)

a) Summer, 2018: completion of the Advisory Board survey as stakeholders of JSRI's core activities under this grant; beginning work on Louisiana food security report; and continued work on Louisiana-Mississippi educational equity index.

b) Fall, 2018: completion and release of the Louisiana-Mississippi educational equity index; completion and release of the Louisiana food security report; work on The State of Working Mississippi; and beginning work on the JustSouth Index 2018.

c) Winter 2018-19: completion and release of The State of Working Mississippi; analysis, writing, and design of The JustSouth Index 2018.

d) Spring 2019: release of The JustSouth Index 2018; completion of the Advisory board survey as stakeholders of JSRI's core activities under this grant.

2. What will be done this coming year to increase the likelihood that the project will be self-sustaining by the end of the grant period?

a) At the end of May, 2018, JSRI began its long-desired direct mail campaign, after careful screening and culling of a mailing list of about 2,000 names and addresses in our database to approximately 1500 potential donors. The results of the first month of responses (June 2018) were 29 gifts totaling \$15,850 dollars. We anticipate further gifts in July and possibly August. We will do another such mailing, most likely in December, and another in the spring of 2019. This is one of three new endeavors in improving financial support for JSRI.

b) In the summer of 2017, JSRI subscribed to the Jesuit Province Grants Collaborative, purchasing the services of its grant-writers for \$15,000, made possible by a gift from a member of our Advisory Board. While we had support from Loyola's Institutional Advancement staff in the past, this gives us a more comprehensive approach to foundations and corporations. The initial results for the first year are a \$5,000 grant and a pending near-decision on a further \$46,000 grant for our work on hyper-incarceration. We are purchasing a second year of grant-writer services, again made possible by the same member of our Advisory Board. This will give us a second year to access the effectiveness of this modality of fundraising.

c) In the fall of 2018, JSRI will launch a capital campaign to raise \$2 million dollars more to complete the Loyola portion of the planned endowment for JSRI (now \$1 million). The case statement is in draft now. The Jesuit Province now holds \$3 million endowment for JSRI.

3. What indications are there that this project can (or cannot) be adopted elsewhere?

If a university and donors will make an initial endowment possible, the combination of university resources and commitment to justice and racial equity can give rise to significant new endeavors in the areas of racism and poverty, as well as (in JSRI's case) immigrant inclusion.

Dissemination (1/2 page)

1. What information or evaluation findings from your project have been made available to the field and how?

The JustSouth Index was distributed in hard copy to over 1,500 persons on JSRI's mailing list, and the media reports of the index reached more than 275,000 readers through such outlets as *Crux* (a Catholic news summary outlet), *Philanthropy News Digest*, and *Microsoft News* (on-line), according to Loyola's media relations staff. The Index for 2017, as well as the 2016 edition, are both on the JSRI website and the map is available as indicated above.

Other studies and media relations releases on them will be distributed through JSRI's social media outlets and well as Loyola's media relations lists for press and media in the respective geographical areas. See social media report in separate Evaluation report.

2. What plans do you have, if any, at this time for disseminating information about your project during the next year and at the conclusion of foundation funding?

We will continue our hard-copy JustSouth Quarterly to approximately 1,600 persons and our JustSouth Monthly to our mailing list and all faculty, staff, and students of the Loyola University – more than 6,500 persons). All reports funded by the foundation include acknowledgement of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation on the cover of the printed report and well as in the director’s introduction.

Other (1/2 page)

1. Please list issues that you would like to discuss with your foundation program officer/lead.

At some point in the coming year Fr. Kammer would like to be able to discuss the question of general support for JSRI from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, if such is possible, as distinct from project-focused support.

2. If helpful, attach any “selective” electronic appendices which clarify information contained in the body of the report – please be selective. Do not include copies of newspaper articles, brochures, or detailed statistical reports.
 - Do send DVDs, print reports, videos, books, booklets, documentaries, training guides, web links or other media **that were produced expressly with Kellogg grant funds as a means to inform and educate the public about your project.**

Hard copies of the JustSouth Index 2017 already have been sent to foundation staff. Links to various items are contained in the preceding sections of this report.

NB. On August 13, 2018, Loyola University will have a new president: Tania Tetlow, J.D., succeeding Rev. Kevin Wildes, SJ.