

For those who wish to remain on the reservations, we need to increase the options for making a living. Although the lack of attachment to the labor force appears to be a feature of life on many reservations, it is not equivalent to not working. Many reservation residents raise livestock and plant and harvest produce—activities often not reported as labor force participation. Taking these activities into account, however, one would still conclude that the lack of job opportunities is a critical problem on reservations. The hope of many observers is that economic development will someday provide jobs for reservation residents who need them, but we cannot afford to wait on the promise of economic development. What is needed is a large-scale public jobs program. This program could be modeled after existing workfare programs in that individuals who receive public assistance would be expected to participate. To provide a sufficient number of jobs, new public service jobs would have to be created.

The most important lesson to be learned from the reservations may be that it is economic, social, and physical isolation from the majority society that produces what we have come to call underclass behavior. This isolation has produced extreme poverty, high unemployment, unstable families, low rates of high school graduation, and high rates of alcoholism and/or drug abuse and crime on reservations and in central cities. These effects occur even, as is the situation on the reservations, where other aspects of social organization, such as kinship and community systems, seem strong. So the key to improving life for members of the underclass may lie in reducing their physical, social, and economic isolation. ■

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<sup>1</sup>The author wishes to thank Becky Sandefur for her research assistance.

<sup>2</sup>There are a number of analyses of the history of American Indian–U.S. relations and federal policy toward American Indians. A recent book by Stephen Cornell, *The Return of the Native: American Indian Political Resurgence* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988), examines in a clear and interesting fashion the attempts of American Indian groups to protect and maintain their way of life after being confronted with the overwhelming forces of European migration and military might. Francis Paul Prucha, in *The Great White Father: The U.S. Government and American Indians* (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 1984), discusses the changes in federal policy toward American Indians over the entire course of American history.

<sup>3</sup>This and other information on the American Indian population in 1980 are based on computations with published data from the 1980 Census. These published data appear in the volumes titled *General Social and Economic Characteristics and Detailed Characteristics and American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts on Identified Reservations and in the Historic Areas of Oklahoma*.

<sup>4</sup>Erol R. Ricketts and Isabel Sawhill, "Defining and Measuring the Underclass," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 7 (Winter 1988), 316–325.

## Funding opportunities for poverty research

### Small Grants Program: Institute for Research on Poverty

The Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will sponsor the ninth competition under the Small Grants program for research on poverty-related topics during the period July 1990 through June 1991. Two programs are offered: (1) several grants of up to \$12,500 each are available for work during the summer of 1990 and do not require residence in Madison; (2) a smaller number of grants of up to \$25,000 each are available for visitors in residence for a period of up to 4.5 months at either Madison or the Department of Health and Human Services during the 1990–91 academic year. Researchers must hold the Ph.D. If more information is desired, write for guidelines after October 1, 1989, addressing the request to Small Grants Program, Institute for Research on Poverty, 1180 Observatory Drive, Madison, WI 53706. Application deadline is mid-February 1990.

### Poverty, the Underclass, and Public Policy: University of Michigan

A research and training program on poverty, the underclass, and public policy is open to American minority scholars who will have completed their doctorates by August 15, 1990. The program is under the supervision of Sheldon H. Danziger, Professor of Social Work and Public Policy at the University of Michigan. It is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Applications are being accepted for a one-year period, beginning as early as July 1, 1990, but no later than September 1, 1990, and lasting a calendar year. Application deadline is January 10, 1990.

Postdoctoral fellows will conduct their own research, participate in a research seminar led by Danziger and Mary Corcoran, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy, and may collaborate with other University of Michigan faculty members while in residence in Ann Arbor. The type of research that will be funded is described in the Social Science Research Council announcement of research on the urban underclass (see following page).

For further information, contact Program on Poverty, the Underclass, and Public Policy, School of Social Work, 2060F Frieze Building, 105 S. State Street, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109–1285.

*continued on p. 42*

## Fellowships and grants for research on the urban underclass: Social Science Research Council

Three fellowship and grant programs are being offered to encourage research on urban poverty in the United States and to recruit and nurture talented and well-trained students and scholars to continue to work on the problems associated with concentrated and persistent urban poverty: its dynamics, consequences, and what can be done to overcome it.

The fellowships and grants are sponsored by the Social Science Research Council through its Committee for Research on the Urban Underclass. Funds are provided by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Foundation for Child Development. Students and scholars who are members of minority groups are especially encouraged to apply.

The three are designed to reach undergraduates, graduate students, and Ph.D.'s.

- *Undergraduate Research Assistantships* provide support for research conducted by undergraduate students in collaboration with faculty and/or advanced graduate students. Applications may be submitted by faculty members or universities or colleges for projects involving up to five undergraduates. For individual projects, the student must be a member of a minority group; for group research projects, at least half of the students must belong to minority groups.
- *Dissertation Fellowships* provide financial support for full-time research directed toward completion of the doctoral dissertation.
- *Postdoctoral Grants* will provide stipends and resources to cover research expenses for one year of research to applicants with a Ph.D. or comparable research experience.

Information and application materials may be obtained from Social Science Research Council, Research on the Urban Underclass, 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158 (212-661-0280). Application deadline is January 10, 1990.

## Special research focus: The Fund for Research on Dispute Resolution

The Fund for Research on Dispute Resolution announces a special initiative within its competitive grants program to encourage research on disputing and dispute resolution focusing on the underclass, the poor, minorities, and dependent populations. The Fund welcomes submissions addressing important disputing and dispute-processing research issues in these areas and anticipates supporting research addressing these social problems in upcoming rounds of grants.

The Fund encourages studies on disputing and dispute processing in different racial, ethnic, and cultural groups, and, in particular, efforts to study the impact of disputing patterns and processes on these populations. The Fund seeks to begin exploration of these issues and to move beyond program-driven evaluation. It encourages researchers to engage in critical examination of disputing and dispute handling and will support studies that are both theoretically grounded and socially useful.

For a copy of its 1989 program announcement and submission guidelines, contact the Fund for Research on Dispute Resolution, 1901 L St., N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036 (202-785-4637). The next deadline for submission of concept papers is September 15, 1989. The Fund is an independent research grants program supported by the Ford Foundation and affiliated with the National Institute for Dispute Resolution.

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### A contextual definition of the underclass (continued from p. 31)

<sup>10</sup>Obviously, the larger socioeconomic and political system provides the structure in which the more immediate contextual variables of household, neighborhood, and network are shaped. I focus here on the more proximate levels of social context, which both mediate the larger structural forces and reflect the unequal impact of those forces across social groups. Direct attention to the effects of economic cycles, industrial organization, forms of government, etc. on labor force attachment is needed but is beyond the scope of this article.

<sup>11</sup>See Mark Granovetter, "The Strength of Weak Ties," in Samuel Leinhardt, ed., *Social Networks: An Emerging Paradigm* (New York: Academic Press, 1977). This work has been substantiated by Edwina Uehara, who did a study of an inner-city poverty group (Uehara, "Job Loss and Network Mobilization among Poor Urban Black Women," Ph.D. disserta-

tion, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago, 1987).

<sup>12</sup>Uehara, "Job Loss."

<sup>13</sup>See Harley Browning and Nestor Rodriguez, "The Migration of Mexican Indocumentados as a Settlement Process: Implications for Work," in George J. Borjas and Marta Tienda, eds., *Hispanics in the U.S. Economy* (New York: Academic Press, 1985).

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>15</sup>See, for example, William Kornblum, "Lumping the Poor: What Is the 'Underclass?'" *Dissent* 31 (Summer 1984), 295-302.

<sup>16</sup>For example, breaking fixtures out of abandoned buildings, removing building materials from vacant lots and open demolition sites, selling government surplus food or other free goods not meant for resale.