



Research Presentation

Black Mayors and Policy Responsiveness in Community Development Block Grant Spending

November 25, 2002

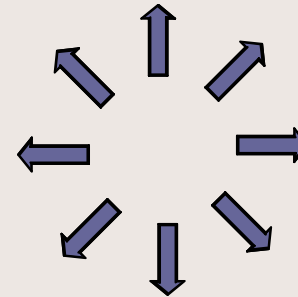
Eric Anthony Johnson

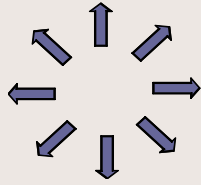
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Overview of Discussion

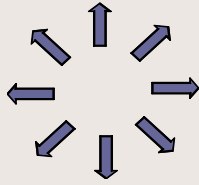
- Research Question
- Development of the Research Question?
- Addressing the research Question?
- Methodology
- Findings
- Conclusion
- Question and Answers





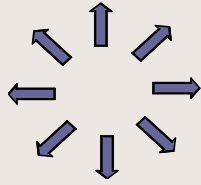
Research Question

- To what extent are Black mayors with majority Black populations implementing redistributive policy using the community development block grant (CDBG) program?
- Key literature that helped formulate Research Question
 - » Paul Peterson (1981) City Limits
 - » Adolph Reed (1988) The Structural Constraints of the Urban Black Regime
 - » Urban Regime Theory Literature



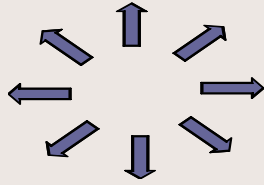
Development of Research Question

- Revolutionizing urban politics in America
 - Black electoral desire for redistributive policy
- The contradiction of democracy at the local level
 - Main impact beyond symbolic politics
- Limited literature on the policy impacts
 - Historical focus has been on electoral conditions
- The flexibility of the CDBG program



Addressing the Research Question

- Analyzed CDBG expenditures nationally and in top-twenty entitlement communities and in four cities headed by Black mayors with majority Black populations for the period 1997 through 2000. The four cities included:
 - **Atlanta, Georgia**
 - **New Orleans, Louisiana**
 - **Washington, D.C.**
 - **Detroit, Michigan**

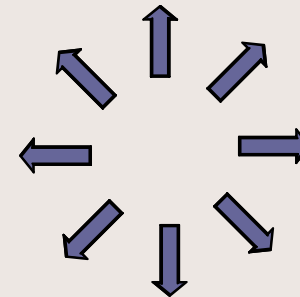


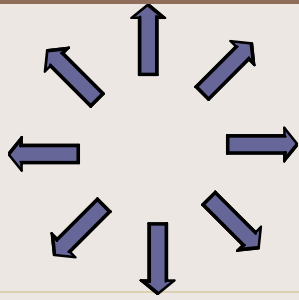
Methodology

- Two stage descriptive analysis approach
 - 1st General Analysis
 - National and top 20 CDBG entitlement expenditures
 - 2nd Specific Cities
 - Four cities headed by Black mayors
 - Data collection for descriptive analysis
 - HUD IDIS data 1997-2000
 - Classification of CDBG eligible activities into redistributive and developmental policy areas

Classification of CDBG Eligible Activities

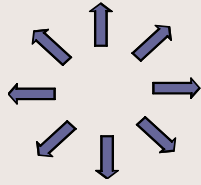
- **Redistributive Activities Non development in nature**
- Seniors (R)
- Homeless (R)
- Youth (R) Disabled (R)
- Child Care (R)
- Job Training (R)
- Health (R)
- Substance Abuse (R)
- Transportation Services (R)
- Fair Housing Activities (R)
- Welfare Assist CBDO's (R)
- Rental Housing Subsidies by CBDO's (R)
- Removal of Architectural Barriers (R)
- Other Housing Activities by CBDO'
- Direct Homeownership Assistance (R)
- Relocation (R)
- General Public Services (R) (Not specified)
- Crime Awareness (R)





Classification Cont.

- **Developmental Activities**
- **Non social service activities**
- Acquisition of property (D)
- Disposition (D)
- Clearance and Demo (D)
- Contaminated Sites (D)
- Urban Renewal Comp (D)
- Rehab Loans/Grants for Comm/Industrial Buildings (D)
- Comm/Industrial Land Acq/Disposition (D)
- Comm/Industrial Infrastructure Improvements (D)
- Commercial/Industrial Bldg. Acq/Construction/Rehab (D)
- Other Comm/Industrial Improvements (D)
- ED Loans/Grants (Including Section 108 Loans) (D)
- ED TA (D)
- Micro Enterprise Assist (D)
- Construct New Housing (D)
- Single-Unit Residential rehab (D)
- Multi- Residential rehab (D)
- Rehabilitation of Other Publicly Owned Residential Buildings (D)
- Acq for Rehabilitation (D)
- Residential Historic Preservation (D)
- Housing New Construction by CBDO's (D)
- Construction/Acq/Reconstruction of neighborhood Facilities (Senior, Youth, Homeless, Child Care, Health Facilities Etc.) (D)
- Parking Facilities (D)
- Non-Residential Historic Preservation (D)
- Flood Drain Improv (D)
- Water Improv, Sewer Improvements, Street Improvements / Sidewalks (D)
- Interim Assistance (D)
- Public Facilities/Improv (D)
- Parks and Recreational Facilities (D)



Research Findings

- **Historical CDBG Trends (1975-1999)**
 - 32% housing- 22% public facilities- 13% planning and administrative- and 13% public services
- **Current National Trends**
 - Developmental 86% -Redistributive 13%
 - Housing 35% - public facilities 25% - Planning and Administrative 15% and Public Services 13%
- **Top-Twenty Entitlement Cities**
 - Developmental 68% -Redistributive 16%
 - Housing 35% - public facilities 14% - Planning and Administrative 16% and Public Services 16%

Overall Findings in four Black Mayor Cities

- Three out of four were implementing redistributive policy
 - As witnessed by % over 15% Public Services Cap
- 24% Allocated Towards Redistributive Activities
 - 32% when Detroit is excluded
- 58% Allocated Towards Developmental Activities
 - 86% National – 67% Top-Twenty Cities
- Redistributive expenditures higher than national and top-twenty city average
 - 13% National – 16% Top Twenty Cities
- No distinct spending patters emerged among the four cities
- Priority setting is unique to each city and the four cities did not follow traditional CD patterns
- Potential Disconnect between policymakers and citizens may exist in three of the four cities
 - Community capacity maybe limited in understanding CDBG

Comparative CDBG Expenditures in Selected Four Cities 1997-2000

City	Redistributive	Developmental	Administrative
Atlanta	\$11,645,586 (28%)	\$23,333,643 (55%)	\$6,976,182 (17%)
New Orleans	\$20,331,526 (33%)	\$19,512,025 (31%)	\$22,453,226 (36%)
Washington, DC	\$46,389,707 (36%)	\$62,540,239 (49%)	\$18,460,696 (14%)
Detroit	\$23,966,526 (12%)	\$142,412,759 (74%)	\$26,264,240 (14%)

HUD IDIS Data 1997-2000

1/21/2015

Conclusion

- In the midst of fiscal, political and economic constraints redistribution is possible at the local level and may validate the existence of Black mayoral leadership beyond symbolic politics.
- The challenge for greater redistribution lies in the tug of war between addressing redistributive needs and the needs of the city's political regime. Addressing this issue can be divided into three critical areas:
 - Expanding group consciousness
 - Developing a cohesive urban policy agenda
 - Targeting limited resources
- The need exists for further research to probe deeper into the working of Black regimes from an accountability and policy impact perspective.



Questions & Answers

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