

What Have Development Funds Done for PAA?

Activities Funded through the PAA Development Campaign

In 2008, the PAA initiated a major development activity designed to raise funding for programs and activities that would enhance the dissemination and impact of demographic research and extend and deepen networks of collaborators, both domestically and internationally. The [PAA Development Committee](#) raised \$1 million in challenge-grant money from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. It also launched the PAA Fund Campaign inviting members to provide matching contributions in spring, 2009. As of December 2012, PAA members had contributed a total of \$ 710,035, including pledges and bequests. The Campaign formally ends in April, 2013 but the popular Honor-a-Colleague Program is expected to continue indefinitely.

Five specific goals have guided decisions by the PAA Board of Directors about the investment of development funds:

- Promote and support demographic research and training;
- Expand the public profile of the PAA;
- Broaden the international activities of the PAA;
- Promote the scientific value of population data; and
- Enhance benefits of PAA membership, encourage membership, enrich population scientist networks.

In addition to considering activities proposed by the standing committees of the PAA, the Board periodically also allocated funds to activities proposed by individual members. The Board has committed development funds to short-term projects, as required under the terms of the foundation grants. Beginning in 2010, the [Initiatives Committee](#) has taken responsibility for soliciting funding requests, reviewing applications, and making funding recommendations for final approval by the Board. During 2009-2012, the Board approved 33 out of 47 requests from the PAA's standing committees and 16 out of 44 requests from the members. As of October 2012, \$876,544 had been expended and an additional \$295,508 has now been committed for future activities. What have we accomplished? Here are some examples:

Expanding the PAA's International Outreach

The International Outreach Committee has been able to double the number of travel awards that allow developing country colleagues to participate in the association's annual meetings. The Committee has also expanded collaborative activities with population associations in other countries, further enriching our opportunities for networking with international colleagues. Development funds have supported member-initiated activities to improve demographic training and research dissemination in Africa and to develop comparative research with international partners.

Strengthening the impact of our field by expanding our journal

The PAA has increased the number of pages in *Demography* to step up the flow of research results. *Demography* will soon begin publishing six issues per year. The entire contents of *Demography* have been deposited in PubMed.

Informing policy-makers

The PAA's Government and Public Affairs Committee (GPAC) has undertaken congressional briefings and developed fact sheets on topics that highlight the importance and value of population research and data. Other briefings have informed staff at the Congressional Research Service and the Government Accounting Office. The PAA Fund supported a "Capitol Hill Day" the day before the 2011 PAA Annual Meeting to enable PAA members to visit with their congressional representatives. PAA has also joined the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowships program, an activity that greatly enhances PAA's presence in Washington DC and also benefits early career demographers with an interest in policy.

Promoting and enhancing demographic data

GPAC briefings have educated policy makers about the importance of demographic data. The Committee on Population Statistics has held training workshops on the use of federal data resources in conjunction with PAA meetings and member-initiated activities have provided training on non-federal population databases. A new project will engage PAA members in the development of strategies to improve the measurement of race and Hispanic origin by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Member activities have developed a public-use mortality database for five countries in Latin America and held an international conference on methods for surveying and enumerating hard-to-reach populations.

Educating the public

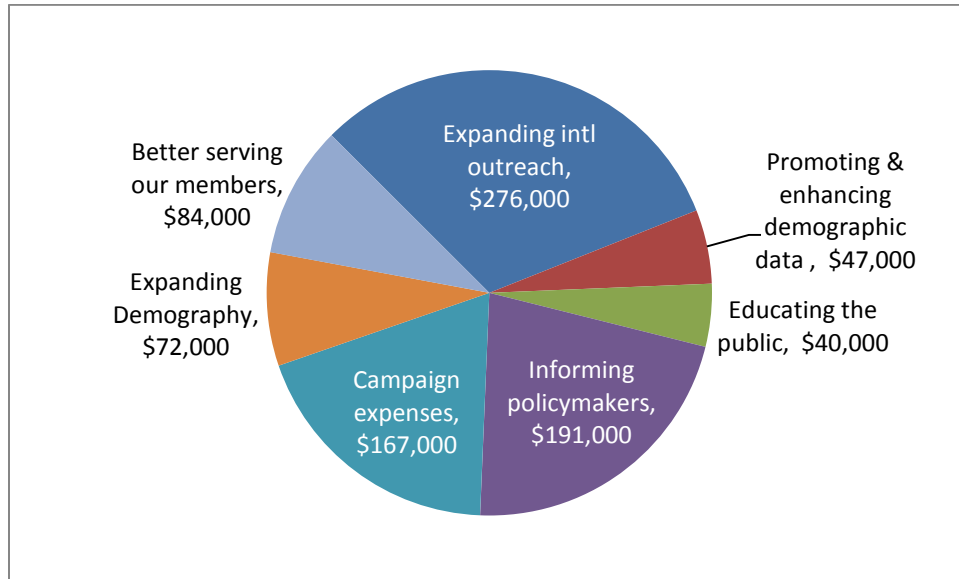
The PAA supported the Census@School project, an international school program for grades 4 through 12 that improves school-age children's statistical literacy and understanding of surveys and censuses. A member project will reach out to the blogging community with information on demographic tools and concepts.

Better serving our members

The PAA is expanding its activities for early career demographers, recently through a planning meeting, and this coming year, with a PAA mentoring reception and a targeted announcement space on the PAA website. New member activities address the engagement of minority group students and anthropologists in demographic research. Development funds also launched the Early Achievement Award and strengthened the sustainability of the overall awards program.

PAA development funds enhanced the activities of the Applied Demography Committee at the annual meetings; provided partial funding support for conferences designed to advance demographic research; funded improvements to the PAA website and a member survey; and will allow PAA to update its oral histories of past PAA presidents.

This chart shows development fund investments as of October 31, 2012 in each of these areas:



What now? We will be celebrating the success of the PAA Fund Campaign at the PAA annual meeting in New Orleans, and rightly so. PAA members have truly stepped to the plate to strengthen and enrich our organization. Although campaign activities will wind down, PAA will still need your continued support. Some of the most successful activities undertaken with development funds should continue, but funding needs to be found within the PAA operating budget and/or ongoing contributions. The Honor-a-Colleague Program will continue and members will continue to receive invitations to contribute to the PAA on an annual basis.

Thank you PAA!