

CARSEY
INSTITUTE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Carsey Institute

Five-Year Report 2008-2013

Building Knowledge for Families and Communities

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Visit our websites at:

www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu
www.unh.edu/madpp
www.nhlistens.org



Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire, where I trust you will find a wide range of applied research and resources relevant to your interests. The Carsey Institute strives to create timely, objective, and useful analyses of critical social, economic, and environmental issues facing families and communities. We also offer training, civic engagement tools, and degree programs that engage people in work related to our mission.

The Carsey Institute is the University of New Hampshire's major interdisciplinary applied research center for scholars working at the intersection of the social, health, behavioral, and environmental sciences. We have a network of distinguished fellows both within the university and at other locations in the United States. Graduate students conduct substantive research here under the supervision of faculty across multiple fields. Increasingly, undergraduate students participate in the institute's research and outreach programs. In these ways, we help to fulfill the university's research, teaching, and engagement missions.

In the following pages, we offer a brief snapshot of each of our projects and policy areas. While most of our audiences engage with one or two areas of our work, we have grown significantly in recent years, with new programs, new experts, and new research projects, all of which feed back into our mission: building knowledge for families and communities. Please take a few minutes to learn something about each of these exciting ventures. You can also read more on our websites or by contacting any of our researchers. I hope you find that the resources at the Carsey Institute are helpful in your work. If you have thoughts about the work of the institute and the challenges faced by families and communities, I hope you will be in touch with me.

Best wishes,

Bruce Mallory
Interim Director
Bruce.Mallory@unh.edu

An Introduction to the Carsey Institute

Overview

Since 2004, the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire has been a powerful presence in supporting vulnerable families and community development. While we have grown dramatically since then, every element of our work connects back to our focus, *building knowledge for families and communities*.

At the core of our work is a new model. We have harnessed academic horsepower and applied it to everyday concerns. We walk with a “foot in both worlds,” understanding the complexity and value of rigorous, high-quality applied research as well as the current realities of our partners in communities, organizations, and agencies.

These partners work every day to improve the lives of vulnerable populations and to promote and implement sustainable community development. Our research supports these objectives by collecting and analyzing complex data to understand the issues and the policies and programs that can best resolve problems. Our programs also offer training and networks that enable our partners and intended audiences to stay at the forefront of their fields.

Informing Audiences Across the United States

Carsey researchers and fellows are in nearly constant communication with our audiences. We travel regularly to Capitol Hill to meet with staffers eager to understand the latest research on vulnerable populations. We offer popular webinars on topics ranging from microfinance and community development to demographics and rural poverty. Community groups, advocates, and foundations come to us for our faculty expertise and rigor. We were panelists at the National Governors Association meeting, and we sat at the dais with the Brookings Institution when the National Conference of State Legislatures discussed state policies to end poverty. We sit on task forces and presidential forums on work and family. Nearly every week, we send new Carsey research reports and program updates to the media and our mailing lists of over 20,000 readers.

Providing a Trusted Information Resource

We offer high-quality analysis to concerned citizens who are seeking data without political bias or a hidden agenda. In an increasingly partisan media landscape, our work is quoted across a wide variety of outlets, from the *Huffington Post* to Fox Business, from NPR to the *Wall Street Journal*. The *New York Times* and *USA Today* quote Carsey Senior Demographer Kenneth Johnson on stories involving demographic issues and topics. Both Kristin Smith’s and Beth Mattingly’s work on the challenges working parents face has appeared in *Time* magazine, *USA Today*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Washington Post*, and on public radio. We bring nuanced, objective analysis to today’s policy conversations.

Creating Programs for Students, Residents, Organizations, and Leaders

At Carsey’s Center on Social Innovation and Finance (page 22), we offer conferences, certificate programs, and a Master of Arts degree to provide development professionals the talent, skills, knowledge, and networks needed for successful community and economic development. NH Listens (page 15) works at the state and local level to support nonpartisan, public deliberations on complicated policy issues. Our Carsey Evaluation Program (page 20) works with organizations to systematically collect and analyze data about the effectiveness of policies and programs.

Establishing a National Reputation

We are building a national reputation for the University of New Hampshire in the area of family and community research while enriching students' learning experiences. Undergraduate and graduate students have extraordinary opportunities to work on research teams, learn cutting-edge skills, and experience problem solving in the field. Social innovation internships, research support fellowships, the John G. Winant Fellowships, and the Peter C. and Kristin Van Curan Nordblom Summer Fellowship all support students financially while they learn the skills necessary to succeed in advanced study or in their post-graduation occupations.

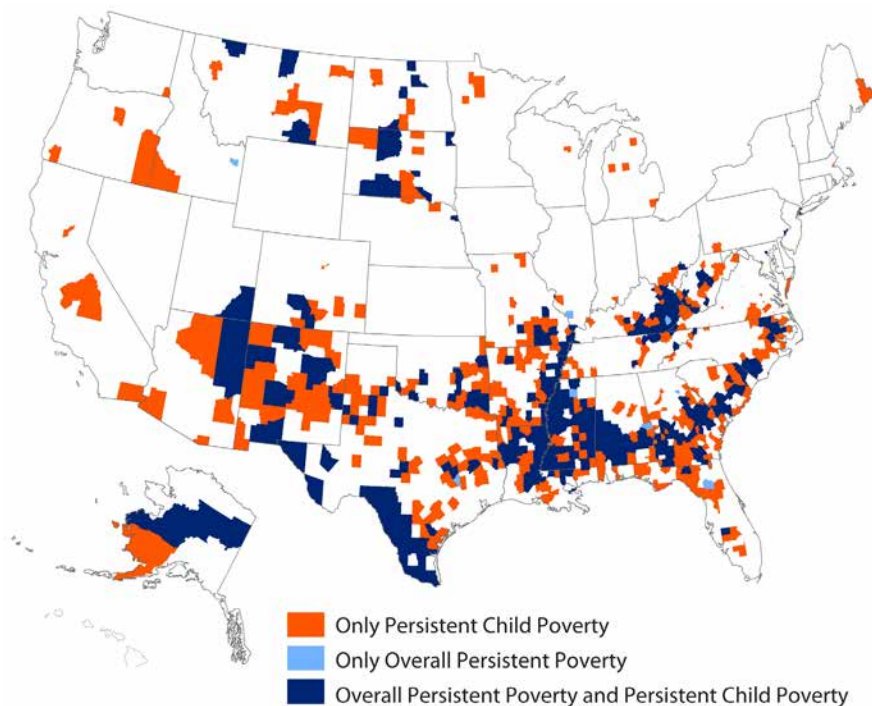


The Carsey Institute was launched through a generous gift by University of New Hampshire alumna Marcy Peterson Carsey. She is pictured here in 2011 (on the left), along with the Carsey Institute's Founding Director Mil Duncan (center), and UNH President Mark Huddleston (right).

Building Knowledge for Families and Communities

With the support of the University of New Hampshire and our funders (page 29), and the experience of our researchers and our local, national, and international partners, we look forward to continuing to build knowledge for families and communities in the decades to come.

Overall and Persistent Child Poverty, 1980-2009



To read about this topic, see the brief "More Poor Kids in More Poor Places: Children Increasingly Live Where Poverty Persist" by Marybeth J. Mattingly, Kenneth M. Johnson, and Andrew Schaefer, located at www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publication.



Carsey on Campus

Campus Partners

Center for the Humanities
 Child Study and Development Center
 Crimes Against Children Research Center
 Environmental Research Group
 Family Research Laboratory
 Hamel Center for Undergraduate Work
 Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans,
 and Space
 Institute on Disability
 Justiceworks
 NH Institute for Health Policy and Practice
 NH GRANIT
 NH Small Business Development Center
 Stormwater Center
 Sustainability Institute
 UNH Cooperative Extension
 UNH Survey Center

Our Mission and Goals

Founded through a partnership with the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Health and Human Services, the Carsey Institute is built on the foundation of interdisciplinary, applied research relevant to the design of public policy. Over the years, we have developed strong relationships with all of the University of New Hampshire's colleges and over a dozen academic departments. Our goal is to be a home for researchers working across disciplines to shed light on challenges that vulnerable families and community development professionals face.



University of New Hampshire Professors
 Rebecca Glauber, Michael Swack, Joel Hartter, and Cesar Rebellion

Faculty Support

- » Thirty UNH faculty members currently have appointments as Carsey fellows (page 27) through 2015. They come from every college on campus and work to support Carsey research through workshops, assistance with proposals, publishing options, networking opportunities outside of their college, and mentoring on analytical methods.
- » The Carsey Research Development Working Group has supported faculty research through consultations and training since 2005.

Student Researchers

- » The Carsey Institute offers research opportunities to undergraduate students through INCO 590 (Student Research Experience). INCO 590 is a variable credit course during which a student works on a research project or several projects with mentorship from a faculty member. Typically, students have an interest in policy research and in our core program areas, including poverty, community and environment, women and work, and children and youth.
- » For graduate students, we provide research and study opportunities in interdisciplinary sciences and public policy. Research projects associated with the Carsey Institute involve teams of graduate students, research staff, and junior and senior faculty members.

Fellowships

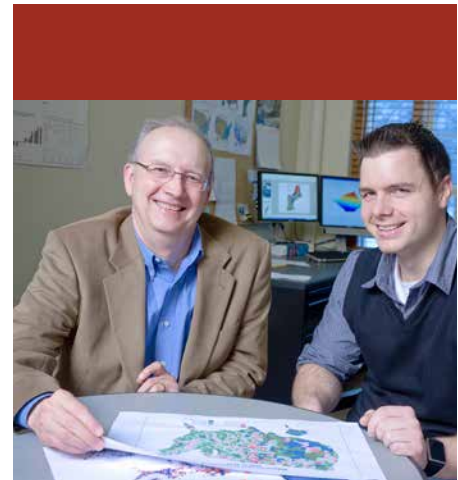
- » Undergraduate students engage with Carsey through the competitive Social Innovation Internships and the John G. Winant Summer Fellowships, which support students financially while they learn the skills to launch them into their “mission-driven” careers.
- » Graduate students can receive research support fellowships and assistantships through faculty-led research projects, and the Peter C. and Kristin Van Curan Nordblom Summer Fellowship supports a research assistant in New Hampshire’s North Country each summer.

Degree and Certificate Programs

- » The Master of Arts in Development Policy and Practice, launched in 2011 (page 24), has faculty from five colleges, teaching a multi-ethnic, international group of students each year both on campus and online.
- » The Sustainable Microenterprise and Development Program (page 25) provides training and networking opportunities for practitioners from around the globe. Representing the fields of microfinance, enterprise development, social enterprise, and community-based and rural development, they gather each year in Durham, New Hampshire; Ghana; Togo; Tanzania; and online to complete intensive certificate programs that further their careers and strengthen their communities.

Events

- » The Carsey Brown Bag Series encourages researchers to present their ongoing work to an informal audience of other faculty and graduate students interested in learning about findings and techniques.
- » The Center on Social Innovation and Finance (page 22) invites experts from around the region to talk about the latest innovations in social enterprise.



Senior Demographer Kenneth Johnson and Research Assistant Luke Rogers



Social Innovation Interns Visit Revolution Energy



Sustainable Microenterprise and Development Program Ghana Students

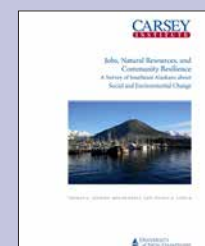
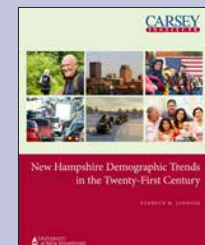
Research and Publications

Our robust publications program allows our staff and fellows to reach a wide audience of global policy leaders, media, practitioners, and academics. We work with researchers to adapt their work for these audiences and promote their findings to audiences who will use the research in their own work. Publications cover national and regional topics related to our policy and research areas, including rural America, New Hampshire and New England, vulnerable families, demographic analysis, civic engagement, community development finance, sustainable development, evaluation, education, and health. We release new research as fact sheets, briefs, and reports nearly every week throughout the year.

➔ SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CARSEY RESEARCH AT WWW.CARSEYINSTITUTE.UNH.EDU.



CARSEY PUBLICATIONS



University of New Hampshire, Durham Campus

Carsey partnerships and fellows come from every college across the campus.





Vulnerable Families

Looking Through Different Lenses to Understand Today's Vulnerable Families

Since 2004, the Carsey Institute has built a team of experts who study challenges and opportunities for vulnerable families. Our work focuses on providing timely data analysis to policy makers and community leaders. Carsey's vulnerable families research is unique for two reasons. First, our partners on the ground help inform the work of our researchers. Second, we look through multiple lenses to understand the challenges facing families today, including using place (urban, suburban, and rural) as a context for changes over time. We look at county, state, and national data on a variety of issues that affect Americans' daily lives, including:



- » Poverty (especially among children and in chronically poor places) and economic mobility
- » Social safety nets, including Earned Income Tax Credits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- » Impact of the recession on families, in relation to poverty, the safety net, and the labor force
- » Child maltreatment and its consequences
- » Income trends
- » Health, especially health insurance coverage, and access to healthcare and healthy foods
- » Education disparities
- » Work and family, including child care costs and access to paid sick leave

With this knowledge of a broad array of issues impacting children and families, the Vulnerable Families team is able to provide analyses that address social and policy change.



Providing Rigorous Analyses to Policy Makers

We put timely analyses into the hands of key policy makers, legislators, and other stakeholders to help illustrate year-to-year and long-term changes in the economic conditions that affect America's vulnerable families. Our analyses inform pending legislation and the legislative debate. In addition to briefs and reports, Carsey research is presented in:

- » Capitol Hill meetings with staff from national senators' and representatives' offices to share information on Carsey's recent research, purpose, and history
- » Informative presentations across the country to academics, policymakers, advocates, and lay citizens
- » Popular webinar on demographic changes that reach an even wider audience
- » Peer-reviewed journals

Informing the Public Through the Media

Our experts help inform the public and media about critical policies and trends. Our analyses contextualize and expand their understanding of these issues by offering historical perspectives, incorporating the most recent data available, and exploring policy implications. In recent years, our research has appeared in thousands of media outlets, including major newspapers, television news outlets, and radio. With our interest in rural issues, we also regularly speak to regional newspapers as they work to tell a local story about trends that affect families in their area.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS GARNERING NATIONAL ATTENTION

- » Over Sixteen Million Children in Poverty in 2011
- » Beginning Teachers Are More Common in Rural, High-Poverty, and Racially Diverse Schools
- » Who Cares for the Sick Kids? Parents' Access to Paid Time to Care for a Sick Child
- » Understanding Child Abuse in Rural and Urban America: Risk Factors and Maltreatment Substantiation
- » Renters More Often Burdened by Housing Costs After Recession: Nearly Half of All Renters Spent Over 30 Percent of Income on Housing by 2010
- » Reliance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Continued to Rise Post-Recession
- » More Poor Kids in More Poor Places: Children Increasingly Live Where Poverty Persists
- » One Million Additional Children in Poverty Since 2009: 2010 Data Reveal Nearly One in Four Southern Children Now Live in Poverty

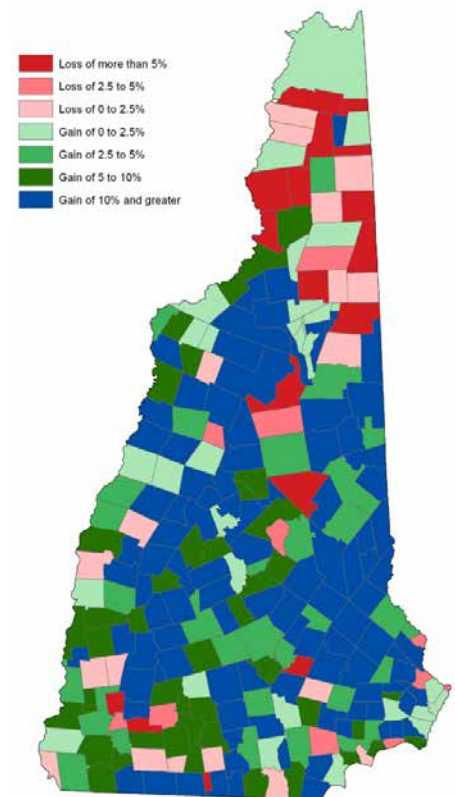


Demographic Analysis

At Carsey, we examine demographic trends at several levels: statewide in New Hampshire and other states, regionally in the Northeast, and nationally in the United States. We study demographic change over time and among multiple groups including young adults, older adults, and racial and ethnic groups to understand population dynamics and trends. Our demographers are particularly interested in relating demographic trends to place, focusing on different place types such as rural areas, high-amenity regions, and farm areas, as well as large urban cores and suburban areas. We are focused not only on population change, but also in the processes that cause change—how migration and births and deaths combine to produce changes in our population structure. Policy makers, educators, and the media, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, NPR, and Fox Business, cite our work extensively to inform the public and policy development.



Population change in New Hampshire from 2000-2010



What's Happening Now

Our series of reports on New Hampshire have affected local thinking about demographic trends in the state. Our findings reveal:

- » Although the population in New Hampshire is aging, the population is not particularly old right now. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, New Hampshire ranked twenty-fifth among states for the percentage of citizens over 65.
- » Although racial and ethnic diversity remain modest, New Hampshire is becoming more diverse; more than 50 percent of the state's population growth between 2000 and 2010 was among minority groups.

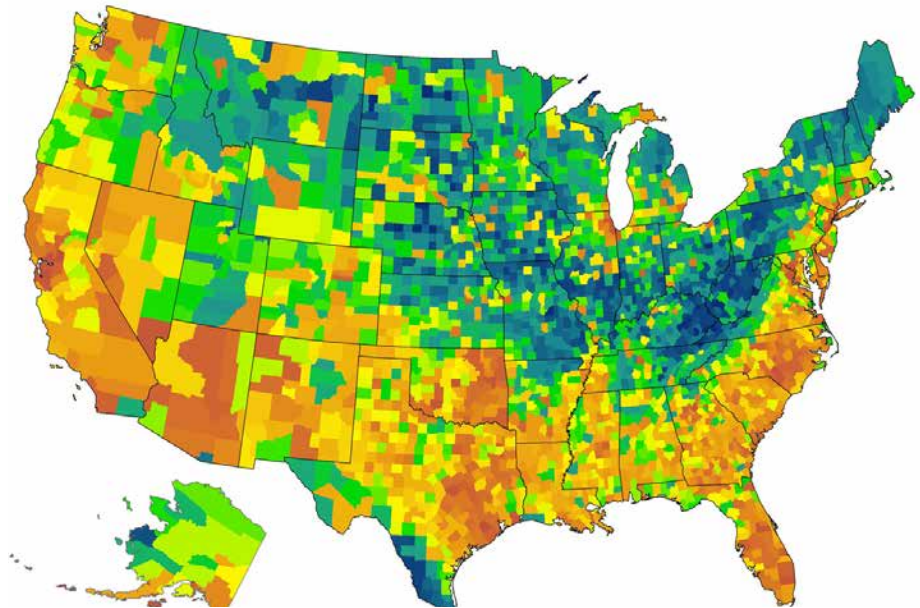
Our applied research briefs on national trends provide insight about persistent child poverty, the importance of natural population increase to our country's growth, and the workplace.

- » Each year we report on child poverty data at the state and place level as it is released by the American Community Survey.
- » The persistent population decline in parts of rural America has gone largely unnoticed, even though for the first time in U.S. history, deaths now exceed births in more than just remote corners of rural America. West Virginia as a whole had more deaths than births in 2010.
- » Employed wives' contribution to family earnings reached a historic high in 2009, accelerating substantially over the Great Recession due in large part to a decrease in husbands' employment and earnings.

To read about this topic, see the report "New Hampshire Demographic Trends in the Twenty-First Century" by Kenneth M. Johnson, located at www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publication.

What's Happening Next

- » Continued analysis of demographic trends in New Hampshire and the United States with a particular focus on the growing diversity and aging of the population.
- » Analysis of the impact of the economic recession on migration trends and the implication of such migration trends for the future of the state, region, and nation.
- » Analysis of the combined impact of migration patterns and landscape change on U.S. forests and the impact on carbon footprints.



To read about this topic, see the brief “The Changing Faces of America’s Children and Youth” by Kenneth M. Johnson and Daniel Lichter, located at: www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publication.

Social and Economic Indicators

Carsey’s social indicator databases provide policy makers, community development practitioners, researchers, and the general public with socioeconomic data that is interactive and easily accessible on our websites. The data, gathered from multiple sources, enable users to see trends in their communities that take place over time. Nonprofit and community organizations, for example, incorporate these data into their proposals to justify requests for financial support.

Our current regional databases include:

- » Socioeconomic indicators of the North Country, covering northern New Hampshire and adjacent counties in Vermont, Maine, and Quebec, Canada.
- » Northern New England Indicators, with data at the state and county level for New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont.



Much of our indicator data look at populations in northern New England.



Civic Engagement

At the center of civil society is an engaged citizenry. Involvement in community and the ability to work with other engaged citizens allow residents to build knowledge for families and communities by working together successfully toward common goals. Carsey's civic engagement work unfolds through both regional and national research, and a program initiative, NH Listens.



Both of these areas are fundamental to Carsey's work. The policy world creates large-scale, generic solutions to problems. Research helps to tailor those solutions to the needs of local communities. NH Listens hears directly from the people who are affected by the policies. In our civic engagement work, we both research the factors that help people get more involved in their communities and train them to be more effectively involved.

Current and Upcoming Research



- » We will again participate in the National Civic Health Index in 2013, creating a New Hampshire Civic Health Index in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship and Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University.
- » On an ongoing basis, our researchers report on trends and issues affecting communities across the nation so that communities can craft solutions to the types of social problems and challenges identified in our research. For example, an extensive study conducted in Coös (pronounced COE-oss) County, New Hampshire, by Michele Dillon, UNH professor of sociology and past Carsey fellow, culminated in a report investigating how local community leaders in Coös assess the initiatives, challenges, opportunities, and progress in the North Country during a time of economic transition.
- » Granite State Future—We will team up with the nine regional planning councils across the state in the two-year project, Granite State Future. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct long-range planning at the regional and state level. We'll bring together citizens to think about how to preserve what's best in New Hampshire and anticipate changes ahead, ensuring we have a long-term vision for the most livable and healthy state in the country.



Overview

NH Listens, a civic engagement initiative of the Carsey Institute, works to strengthen New Hampshire communities by helping citizens participate directly in discussions about policies that affect their daily lives. Established in 2011, we engage state residents in local and statewide conversations on a broad range of topics to bring about informed, innovative solutions to complex issues. At the core of our work, we organize fair, nonpartisan discussions throughout the state, help communities establish their own local Listens organizations, and train facilitators for public engagement.



Learn more at www.nhlistens.org.


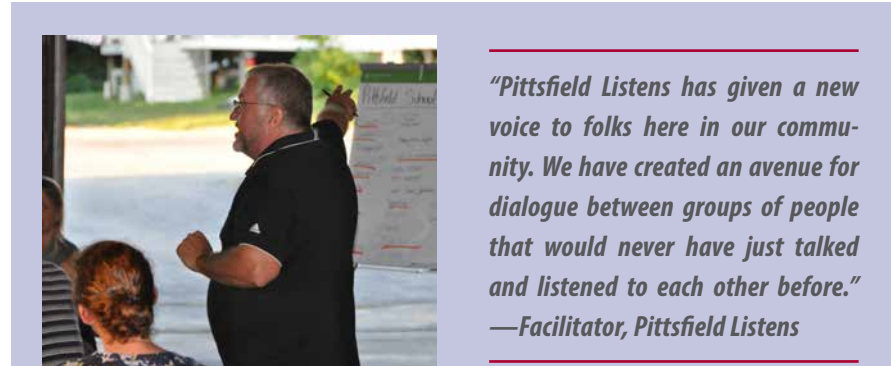
Statewide Conversations Gather Input From Residents

NH Listens' statewide conversations range from topics as diverse as gambling to outdoor recreation. Partnering with the governor's Water Sustainability Commission, we solicited input from residents on another compelling topic: ways to provide safe, clean water for future generations. Other upcoming discussions include Granite State Future, in partnership with the nine regional planning commissions in the state, and the Living Room Conversations on Bridging Political Divides.



Local Initiatives Help Communities Tackle Difficult Issues

We work closely with local Listens groups across the state and other partners to establish local initiatives. For example, with Pittsfield Listens, we helped to spearhead a community-wide discussion about the transformation of Pittsfield's schools by training youth and adult facilitators, designing a public art project, and hosting meetings to talk about what residents desire for their school system and the community. While NH Listens provides support and resources, leadership and community organizing for these initiatives are entirely local.



"Pittsfield Listens has given a new voice to folks here in our community. We have created an avenue for dialogue between groups of people that would never have just talked and listened to each other before."

—Facilitator, Pittsfield Listens

Facilitator Network Bolsters State's Capacity For Neutral Conversation

Throughout the year we train facilitators in civic and public engagement and on how to hold constructive conversations between people who disagree with one another. Facilitators register in the NH Listens Facilitator Network and are called upon when needed for local and statewide projects. In addition to serving a civic purpose, facilitators acquire skills they can use in their own lives and interactions.



New Hampshire and New England

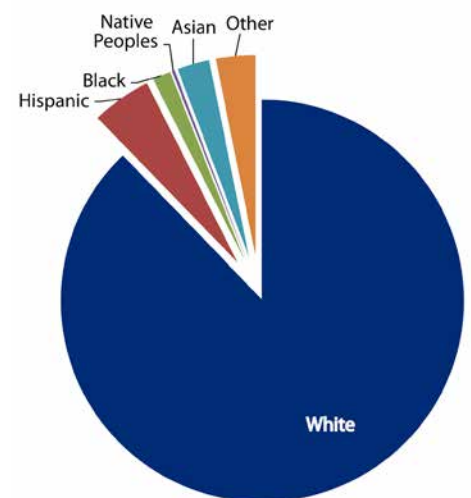
The Carsey Institute has established itself as a key source of research and information on the issues and challenges facing vulnerable families, community development, and civic engagement in New Hampshire and New England communities. Our timely and rigorous demographic research, policy analyses, and program evaluations make us unique among New Hampshire public policy institutes.

Our work in the Granite State and the region is often inspired by our statewide partners, who inform and guide our work with their experiences on the ground. Our goal, regardless of the project, is always to bring applied research and program experience to real-time issues and inform stakeholders with high-quality analyses and tools to further their own work. Recent examples include:

- » [Tracking Change in the North Country](#) (page 17) is a longitudinal research project examining attitudes and experiences among Coös County residents. The work includes the Coös County Youth Study, the North Country Community and Environment Survey, and Socioeconomic Indicators in the North Country.
- » [Demographic analysis](#) (page 12) by Kenneth Johnson, Kristin Smith, and Beth Mattingly identifies current trends in the population, with current maps and data to inform policymakers and community leaders across the state. This analysis is particularly focused on population changes that have an impact on communities, families, and institutions across the state.
- » [NH Listens](#) (page 15) brings people together for engaged conversations and informed community solutions. Our experts work on the local and state level to facilitate and support civil, public deliberation of complex, polarizing issues.
- » [The Carsey Evaluation Program](#) (page 20) provides rigorous program evaluation, applied research, and evaluation technical assistance and training. The program works with foundations, government agencies, and nonprofit and for-profit organizations with missions that address the needs and challenges of low- and moderate-income families and their communities.
- » [Center on Social Innovation and Finance](#) (page 22) hosts research projects that bolster social innovation in New England and nationally. To ensure that teaching, research, and community outreach activities mutually reinforce one another, the center selects projects that have both academic and practical components in their design, implementation, and impact.
- » [Stonyfield Entrepreneurship Institute](#) (page 22) is an annual, highly interactive, intimate venue for networking, storytelling, and problem solving for hundreds of for-profit and nonprofit entrepreneurs to learn more about sustainable, smart business tools they can apply to their work.



New Hampshire Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, Under Age 18, 2010



To read about this topic, see the report “New Hampshire Demographic Trends in the Twenty-First Century” by Kenneth M. Johnson, located at www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publication.

Tracking Change in the North Country

The Tracking Change in the North Country research program has three components: a ten-year Coös Youth Study, a socioeconomic indicator website, and structured surveys and interviews with North Country leaders and residents.

The Coös Youth Study

The focus of this study is to understand the transition of Coös youth from childhood to adulthood and the choices and constraints they face making decisions about residence, employment, and education. Launched in 2008, the study seeks to track all of that year's seventh and eleventh graders attending the county's public schools over the course of ten years. The intent of the research is to understand the transition to adulthood in this region and to contribute to community strategies to support youth in attaining their goals. The project involves a focused community effort, which is made possible by the ongoing cooperation of participants, parents, teachers, superintendents, principals, and community leaders.

Recent highlights and upcoming events include:

- » Continued data collection and comparison of the outlook of high school seniors in 2009 and 2013.
- » Regular releases of findings from the research highlight the most recent data from our surveys.
- » Regular meetings with stakeholders to discuss the findings and incorporate their questions into future surveys.
- » Annual presentations of our findings and the facilitation of small discussions at the North Country Educational Services' Professional Development Day, which brings together educators from across the region.

Socioeconomic Indicators of the North Country

This interactive indicator site helps researchers, policy makers, and residents see trends in population, income, education, employment, health, housing, and other community issues at the county level and over time. We provide data on counties in northern New Hampshire and adjacent counties in Vermont, Maine, and Quebec.

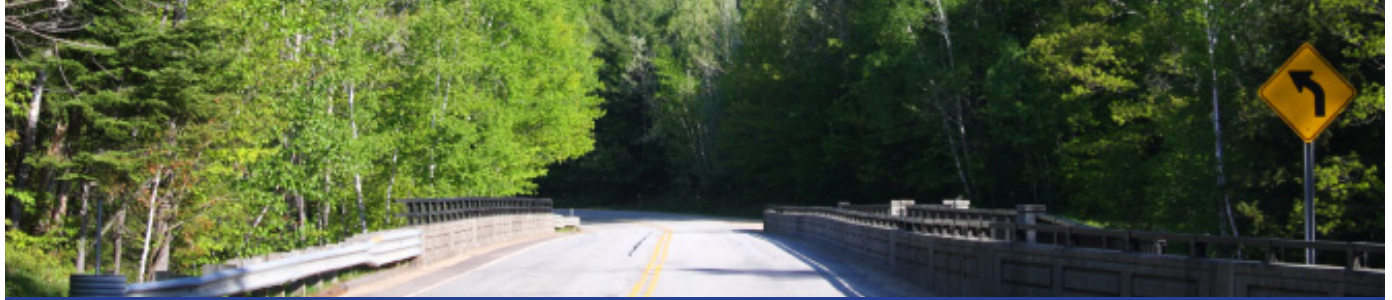


Photo by Linda Grey, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

The site combines secondary data from sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The data are collected regularly and updated online at <http://trackingchange.sr.unh.edu>.

North Country Community and Environment Studies

As one of our Community and Environment in Rural America (CERA) study areas (page 19), we periodically conduct telephone surveys to learn more about how Coös County residents view the changes happening in their communities and the region. From 2009 to 2011, we conducted a case study of community change through interviews and surveys of community leaders, observations, group conversations, and content analysis of relevant newspapers and documents. The research culminating from this study includes a conference paper for the Eastern Sociological Society, a Carsey brief entitled "Stretching Ties: Social Capital in the Rebranding of Coös County, New Hampshire," and a report entitled "Forging the Future: Community Leadership and Economic Change in Coös County, New Hampshire."



Rural America

Rural America is at the heart of our work; we are dedicated to reporting on the challenges and opportunities facing rural families and communities and understanding the complex effects of policy changes in different parts of rural America. Our work explores changes in the economy, family labor dynamics, child poverty, and demographics and the effects of these changes on vulnerable families and communities across the nation.

What's Happening Now

- » In addition to a steady flow of applied research briefs reporting on conditions in rural America, we produce comprehensive publications such as our recent background report assessing the impacts of federal farm bill programs on rural communities. This report concludes that the most important farm bill programs for rural communities are the rural development and nutrition programs because of their wide reach and direct impacts on all rural community inhabitants, not just farmers.
- » Carsey serves on the steering committee of the Natural Rural Assembly, which helps develop and advocate for policies supporting rural America, operating as a research arm of the assembly.

What's Happening Next

- » We are integrating our social science research with bio-physical science examining water, forest, and other natural resources to understand how economic growth and changing land-use patterns affect ecosystems and the services they provide.
- » Our Vulnerable Families team (page 10) annually updates child poverty numbers by place and state and evaluates health insurance coverage for children and adults.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- » Over Sixteen Million Children in Poverty in 2011
- » Southeastern Kentuckians Remain Optimistic Through Great Recession: Growing Concerns about Sprawl, Housing, and Recreational Opportunities
- » Stretching Ties: Social Capital in the Rebranding of Coös County, New Hampshire

Sustainable Development

The Carsey Institute's interdisciplinary research team focuses on sustaining rural communities and ecosystems by building knowledge of the socioeconomic conditions, ecosystem changes, and policy opportunities in natural resource-dependent communities in the United States and overseas.

With a special focus on rural America, our timely and thoughtful research helps community leaders and policy makers understand the realities of challenges occurring today. The biggest component of our work in this area is the Community and Environment in Rural America project (page 19), which we launched in 2007 to better understand changing social, economic, and environmental factors in highly diverse rural communities and the implications for sustainable development policies and practices.

Community and Environment in Rural America

As part of the Carsey Institute's Community and Environment in Rural America (CERA) project, we have asked more than 22,000 rural Americans how they feel about the changing social, economic, and environmental conditions in their communities. Through reports, academic articles, briefs, and presentations, we communicate our findings to rural advocates and policy makers, community development practitioners, and community leaders, informing the policies affecting these communities. Current projects building on the national surveys are underway in Alaska, Washington state, and northeast Oregon.



Rural Counties Surveyed by the Community and Environment in Rural America (CERA) Project



NORTHEAST OREGON SURVEY ON COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Joel Hartter, a faculty fellow at Carsey and an assistant professor of geography at the University of New Hampshire (above, right), leads a three-year project in northeast Oregon to understand how the people and landscapes in the counties of Wallowa, Union, and Baker are changing.

The Communities and Forest in Oregon (CAFOR) project involves scientists from the University of New Hampshire and the University of Florida and is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Three parallel parts to the project are running simultaneously: examining local forest conditions, studying broader landscape changes over a thirty-year period using satellite images, and analyzing how area residents view forests and changes in their communities.

The project involves 1,500 telephone interviews, public forums, and a mail survey to 2,000 landowners. Knowing where and why community members' perceptions diverge from satellite and forest-survey data can inform the work of local organizations, national and state agencies, and landowners. The information can help them better tailor forest management practices and education or extension activities.

FOUR TYPES OF RURAL PLACES

It no longer makes sense to think of rural communities as primarily agricultural or sparsely populated, idyllic retreats. Analytically, we find it useful to think in terms of four broad, overlapping types of rural places, each with its own opportunities, problems, issues, and relationships. Their characteristics shape how they respond to change and to policy responses.

- » **Amenity-Rich** rural places are booming and must avoid the development of two-tiered communities with unequal access to economic opportunity and must balance growth with the conservation of natural amenities.
- » **Declining resource-dependent** rural places must attempt to substitute traditional natural resource dependence with more diversity and new products such as organic agriculture and wind and solar energy.
- » **Chronically poor** places must address challenges with the core social and economic infrastructure and develop the social capital needed to chart more prosperous paths forward.
- » **Amenity-decline** areas illustrate a shift from extractive to service industries. These transitions create the need for new management approaches that can accommodate sustainable use and environmental conservation.



Evaluation Resources

Rigorous, systematic evaluation and applied research are necessary for understanding the characteristics, strategies, outcomes, and effectiveness of initiatives, programs, and policies. The Carsey Institute Evaluation Program provides client-driven evaluations, technical assistance and training, and applied research services to state, regional, and national foundations, nonprofit organizations, state and federal agencies, and international funders. We work in the areas of education, environment, health, social services, and community economic development.

The Evaluation Program:

- » **Develops project and program logic models**
- » **Identifies and develops appropriate evaluation questions, indicators, and measures**
- » **Designs and conducts formative and summative program evaluations**
- » **Conducts evaluations and assessments focused on process and implementation, program theory and contexts, decisions, costs, outcomes, impacts, and effectiveness**
- » **Monitors program performance and policy implementation**
- » **Carries out applied quantitative and qualitative research on issues relevant to programs and policies**
- » **Provides technical assistance and training to build evaluation capacity**

How We Work

Our staff of social scientists is concerned with conducting evaluations and research of the highest quality, utility, and cost-effectiveness. We work closely with clients to choose the right questions to investigate and the most appropriate methods for producing accurate and credible results. In planning technical assistance and training, we clarify client needs and develop effective strategies tailored to the organization. We also collaborate with our university colleagues in the development of grant proposals and the evaluation of their projects.



The Carsey Institute's evaluators work with organizations whose missions support vulnerable families and communities.

Recent Evaluation Projects

- » **Tillotson Targeted Investment Initiative (for Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund)**—A five-year initiative to support business development and early childhood development in northern Vermont and New Hampshire and southern Quebec. Includes technical assistance and training to build the evaluation capacity of initiative staff and grantees, and evaluation of implementation and outcomes.
 - » **Evaluation of More Than Wheels (for More Than Wheels, Inc.; funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)**—A three-year impact assessment and process evaluation of More Than Wheels, a nonprofit program providing car loans and financial counseling to credit-poor clients, using quasi-experimental longitudinal and comparison group designs to assess program impact on financial, health, and social outcomes.
- 
- » **LifeBridge Mentoring Program Evaluation (for LifeBridge, Inc.)**—Mixed methods evaluation of the social and academic outcomes of a middle and high school mentoring program serving at-risk youth and their parents in northern New Hampshire.
 - » **Impact Assessment of the CDFI Fund (for Reznick Government/U.S. Department of Treasury)**—A eighteen-month financial, economic and social assessment of the impact on communities of a federal grant program providing funds to community development finance institutions.
 - » **Sustainable Microenterprise and Development Program (for The MasterCard Foundation)**—Evaluations for program improvement of an international training program in Africa and New Hampshire for mid-career microfinance and enterprise development professionals.
 - » **Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC) Grant Program (for U.S. Forest Service)**—Evaluation of the dissemination and use of research produced by grantees of the NSRC grant program of the Northern Forest region of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.
 - » **New Americans Sustainable Agriculture Project (for Coastal Enterprises, Inc.)**—Evaluation of a project to assist recently resettled refugees in growing gardens for food consumption and sale.
 - » **Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) Evaluation (for Northern Forest Canoe Trail)**—Evaluation of perceptions and use of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail organization's resources by businesses along the waterway, organization members, and waterway users in the United States and Canada.
 - » **Programme of Advancement through Health and Education (P.A.T.H.) (for Sanigest Corporation and Government of Jamaica)**—Qualitative study for an impact evaluation of the Government of Jamaica's conditional cash transfer program for child outcomes including education attainment and preventive health care use and consumption.

EXAMPLES OF OUR APPLIED RESEARCH

New Hampshire Kids Count (for Children's Alliance of New Hampshire)

- » Indicator data collection and dissemination for the Annie E. Casey Kids Count initiative describing New Hampshire children's well-being, including gathering of information for annual data books.
- » A study mapping the geographic distribution of food insecurity, healthy food outlets, and public sources of food, and the gaps in access and availability of food to those at risk of food insecurity.
- » A series of studies of New Hampshire children and youth focusing on child homelessness, student discipline in the schools, and the status of youth.

Rural Participation in Federal Child Nutrition Programs (for Food Research and Action Center)

- » Studies of participation by rural households in the United States in major federal child nutrition programs such as the National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program.

Resident-Owned Communities of New Hampshire (for Meredith Institute/New Hampshire Community Loan Fund)

- » Study comparing economic outcomes of resident-owned with investor-owned manufactured home parks.

Interactions among Climate, Land Use, Ecosystem Services, and Society (for National Science Foundation/NH EPSCoR)

- » A study assessing the research-related communications between the project's ecosystem scientists and its stakeholders.

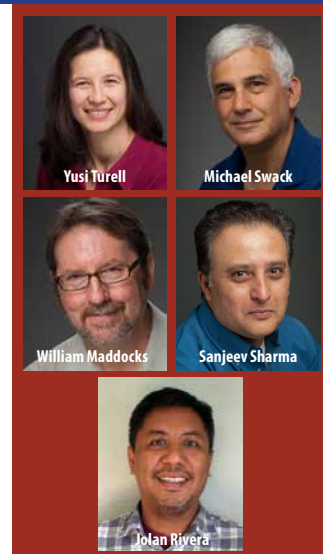


Center on Social Innovation and Finance



The social innovation field combines the passion and purpose of a social or environmental mission with the rigor and accountability of a market-based approach to enterprise design, financing, and operations. Influenced by broad trends in philanthropy, investment, and public policy, social innovation often occurs at the increasingly blurry boundaries between for-profit, nonprofit, and public sectors.

The Carsey Institute's new Center on Social Innovation and Finance serves as an interdisciplinary hub for teaching, research, and field-building activities in social innovation. By adding new offerings in the classroom and in the real world, the center showcases current faculty leadership in community finance, sustainable economic development, and social entrepreneurship. The center supports several training, certificate, and degree programs as well as original research and applied projects in community development finance and social enterprise. The following pages outline some of our current efforts.



By combining high-level education, cutting-edge research, and practical, engaged outreach, the center:

- » Bolsters social innovation in New Hampshire and New England, building the state's and region's capacity to develop, sustain, and scale innovative and effective responses to social needs
- » Promotes enhanced access to financial capital nationally and internationally through innovations in finance products, impact investing, and strategic philanthropy
- » Introduces University of New Hampshire students to social innovation models through the Carsey Social Innovation Internship program and ongoing engagement in Net Impact UNH

Stonyfield Entrepreneurship Institute



Our annual two-day "boot camp" for social entrepreneurs is co-managed with Gary Hirschberg, CEO of Stonyfield Farm. The institute has served thousands of entrepreneurs by offering an intimate and stimulating environment to learn about financing, marketing, and managing change.

Gifts/Sponsors for the Stonyfield Entrepreneurship Institute

ADP
American Express OPEN
Checkmate Payroll Services
Citizens Bank Foundation
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First Colebrook Bank
Hinckley Allen & Snyder, LLP
Inc.com

K&L Gates
New Hampshire Business Review
New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority
Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios, LLP
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green, PA
Stonyfield, Inc.
Whittemore School of Business and Economics

Community Development Finance

Through research, published findings, and webinars, the center's researchers support the capacity building of community development financial institutions (CDFIs).

CDFIs are private financial institutions that are dedicated to delivering responsible, affordable lending to help low-income, low-wealth, and other disadvantaged people and communities join the economic mainstream.

Current and future projects:

- » **The "Scale Project."** The center is working with ROCUSA to develop an online platform to serve resident-owned manufactured housing communities through training, networking, and bulk purchasing. This platform will help co-op business managers and homeowners to share resources, save money, and operate more effectively.
- » **CDFI Capacity Building.** Through a combination of research, training, and technical assistance, the center is building the capacity of CDFI stores to respond to the nation's economic crisis. Funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and in collaboration with NeighborWorks, this work helps CDFIs to improve their capitalization and liquidity and to manage risks in their loan portfolios.
- » **CDFI Impact Evaluation.** The center is evaluating the impact of CDFI lending and investment both on borrowers (and other users of CDFI services) and on the communities they serve. Funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and in collaboration with Reznick Group and the Carsey evaluation team, this work will identify replicable best practices of the most effective CDFIs and inform the Department of the Treasury's investments in the CDFI sector.
- » **Developing a plan for a state government** to create a statewide CDFI that will serve other CDFIs as well as individual borrowers.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- » CDFI Industry Analysis: Summary Report
- » Capital Markets, CDFIs, and Organizational Credit Risk
- » Financial Innovations Roundtable: Developing Practical Solutions to Scale Up Integrated Community Development Strategies
- » The Local Agricultural Community Exchange: Outcomes and Lessons Learned from a Public-Private Initiative to Revitalize a Downtown Community
- » Stretching Ties: Social Capital in the Rebranding of Coös County, New Hampshire

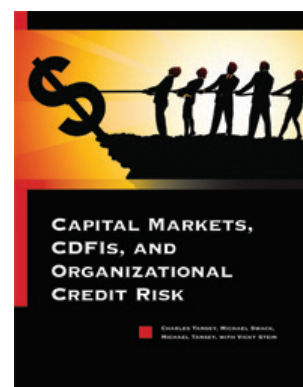
Financial Innovations Roundtable

Created in 2000, the Financial Innovations Roundtable creates cross-sector partnerships among conventional and nontraditional lenders, investors, and markets to provide low-income communities with increased access to capital and financial services. The Financial Innovations Roundtable is a "think-do" tank—an action-driven, implementation-focused, policy-level initiative composed of highly respected financial leaders who work and collaborate on the defined tools and needed resources to implement a scale solution for the community development finance field. Participants represent a powerful assemblage of finance professionals and nonprofit leaders from a diverse range of institutions including banks, credit unions, insurance companies, investment firms, public agencies, ratings agencies, CDFIs, foundations, pension funds, religious institutions, and universities.

Sponsors for the Financial Innovations Roundtable

AltruShare
Ford Foundation
Heron Foundation
Impact Community Capital LLC
Wells Fargo

Some of the most successful ideas developed at the Financial Innovations Roundtable have been implemented, resulting in new tools, policies, and practices that have resulted in millions of dollars being invested in affordable housing, small and minority businesses, community facilities, and other community development efforts.



The Carsey Institute's Michael Swack co-authored a book about community development financial institutions in 2010 with Charles Tansey and Michael Tansey. You can download it on our publications page or purchase the book at Amazon.com.

Master of Arts in Development Policy and Practice

The Master of Arts in Development Policy and Practice is an ideal opportunity for early- and mid-career professionals working in development fields and those from public agencies, international and domestic nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), nonprofit organizations, and private corporations. Over fourteen months, students study both on campus in Durham and online from their home communities, applying their studies to real-time problems by carrying out a field project in their home community or elsewhere. With a specialization offered in Sustainable Microenterprise and Development, this Master of Arts program is a unique opportunity for professionals seeking to gain an advanced degree while staying in their current positions.



**Faculty Director Michael Swack Meets
with a Master of Arts in Development
Policy and Practice Student**



RECENT STUDENT PROJECTS

- » Dolores Women's Cacao Project (Belize)
- » Ensuring Sustainability and Profitability in New Hampshire's Fishery (USA)
- » Citizenship Support in Portland, Maine (USA)
- » NGO Response to the Horn of Africa Famine (Somalia)
- » Immigrant Parent Educational Support Structure (USA)
- » Information Management in the Microinsurance Sector (Philippines)

"What makes the learning environment unique at the master's degree program is that most of the professors are field practitioners with decades of experience—combined with extensive academic credentials. Acceptance of diversity of thought in the classroom is nurturing and comforting for independent thinkers. In addition, the structure and duration of the program allows for flexibility to balance being a student and family responsibilities."
—Master's degree candidate

*We have our own website at:
www.unh.edu/madpp.*

Sustainable Microenterprise and Development Program



The Sustainable Microenterprise and Development Program provides training and networking opportunities for practitioners in the fields of microfinance, enterprise development, social enterprise, and community-based and rural development. Over the past thirteen years, we have trained more than 1,600 practitioners from more than seventy-five countries around the globe. The program offers an intensive and highly relevant professional training experience with a concentration on program planning and implementation of client and community-inclusive economic development strategies. With the increase in Internet access worldwide, the program is currently adding online training options to increase access to our renowned faculty, in addition to our on-the-ground certificate programs in Ghana, Togo, Tanzania, and New Hampshire each year.

➔ FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE WWW.CARSEYINSTITUTE.UNH.EDU/SMDP.

"This is so far the best program I have experienced for development workers. It is effectively designed to add value and make development interventions more meaningful and rewarding for people. I would be very glad to have more opportunities to train in this program."—Student of Ghana program



Savings Group Member in Ghana

Social Innovation Internship

The Social Innovation Internship is a paid summer internship for impact-focused undergraduates at leading local social enterprises, both for-profit and nonprofit. In addition to their internship, students visit other host organizations and receive hands-on learning about the theory and practice of social innovation. There is a deliberate cross-fertilization of student majors and interests in order to build a strong cohort of changemakers.

After a transformative summer, social innovation interns return to campus motivated and equipped to support their peers toward "triple bottom line" careers. In 2011, former interns founded Net Impact UNH, a chapter of the international Net Impact organization supporting 30,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional members to use their jobs to tackle the world's toughest problems. With the center's guidance, Net Impact UNH continues to support students across the university through:

- » Social entrepreneurship lectures
- » Triple Bottom Line Career Fair
- » Student-managed sustainable investment fund
- » Social Venture Track of the Holloway Prize Innovation-to-Market Competition
- » Engagement in the activities of local social enterprises



Social Innovation Interns

Recent Internship Hosts

American MoJo
CCA Global Partners
City of Manchester Department of Health
Dare Mighty Things
Humanitarian Organization for Local Development
More Than Wheels
New England Footwear Manufacturing
Pax World Management
Revolution Energy
ROC USA
Veris Wealth Partners

Staff and Leadership



Bruce L. Mallory
Interim Director



Jessica Bean
Vulnerable Families
Research Scientist



Susan Colucci
Administrative Assistant



Barbara Cook
GIS Technician



Melanie Higgins Dostie
Business Manager



Curt Grimm
Deputy Director



Michele Holt-Shannon
Associate Director,
NH Listens



Eleanor M. Jaffee
Evaluation Research Associate



Kenneth M. Johnson
Senior Demographer



Laurel Lloyd
Communications Coordinator



William Maddocks
Program Coordinator, Sustainable
Microenterprise and Development



Beth Mattingly
Director of Research
on Vulnerable Families



William Meub
Vulnerable Families
Research Associate



Jolan Rivera
Program Director, Master of Arts in
Development Policy and Practice



Sanjeev Sharma
Registration and Administration
Coordinator



Kristin Smith
Family Demographer



Amy Sterndale
Communications Director



Michael Swack
Faculty Director, Center on
Social Innovation and Finance



Yusi Turell
Executive Director, Center on
Social Innovation and Finance



Daniel Umbro
Web and Social Media Coordinator



Wendy A. Walsh
Research Associate



Barbara Wauchope
Director of Evaluation

Fellows

SENIOR FELLOWS

[Vicki Banyard](#), Professor, Psychology, University of New Hampshire

[Mark Ducey](#), Professor, Forest Biometrics and Management, University of New Hampshire

[David Finkelhor](#), Director, Crimes against Children Research Center, Co-Director, Family Research Laboratory and Professor, Sociology, University of New Hampshire

[Kevin Gardner](#), Professor, Civil Engineering, University of New Hampshire

[Ross Gittel](#), Chancellor, Community College System of New Hampshire

[John Halstead](#), Professor, Environmental and Resource Economics, University of New Hampshire

[Lawrence Hamilton](#), Professor, Sociology, University of New Hampshire

[Paul Kirshen](#), Research Professor, Civil Engineering, Environmental Research Group, and Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, University of New Hampshire

[David B. Pillemer](#), Dr. Samuel E. Paul Professor, Developmental Psychology, University of New Hampshire

[Sally Ward](#), Professor, Sociology, University of New Hampshire

POLICY FELLOWS

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[Dee Davis](#), President, Center for Rural Strategies

[Mil Duncan](#), Research Director, AGree

[Leif Jensen](#), Professor, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Pennsylvania State University

[Daniel T. Lichter](#), Ferris Family Professor, Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

[David Moore](#), Founding Director, UNH Survey Center

[Jack Northrup](#), President, New England Market Research

[Rogelio Saenz](#), Dean, College of Public Policy, University of Texas at San Antonio

[Ann Tickamyer](#), Professor and Head, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

FACULTY FELLOWS

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[Rosemary Caron](#), Associate Professor, Health Management and Policy, University of New Hampshire

[Katie Edwards](#), Assistant Professor, Psychology, University of New Hampshire

[Charlie French](#), Program Team Leader, Community and Economic Development, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

[Rebecca Glauber](#), Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of New Hampshire

[Suzanne Graham](#), Associate Professor, Education, University of New Hampshire

[Joel Hartter](#), Assistant Professor, Geography, University of New Hampshire

[Cesar J. Rebellon](#), Associate Professor, Sociology, University of New Hampshire

[Thomas Safford](#), Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of New Hampshire

[Dante J. Scala](#), Associate Professor, Political Science, University of New Hampshire

[Jayson Seaman](#), Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Affiliate Assistant Professor of Education, University of New Hampshire

[Erin Hiley Sharp](#), Assistant Professor of Family Studies and Youth Expert, University of New Hampshire

[Nena F. Stracuzzi](#), Senior Research and Teaching Fellow, Northeastern University

[Corinna Jenkins Tucker](#), Associate Professor, Family Studies, University of New Hampshire

[Karen Van Gundy](#), Associate Professor, Sociology and Coordinator, Sociology Graduate Program, University of New Hampshire

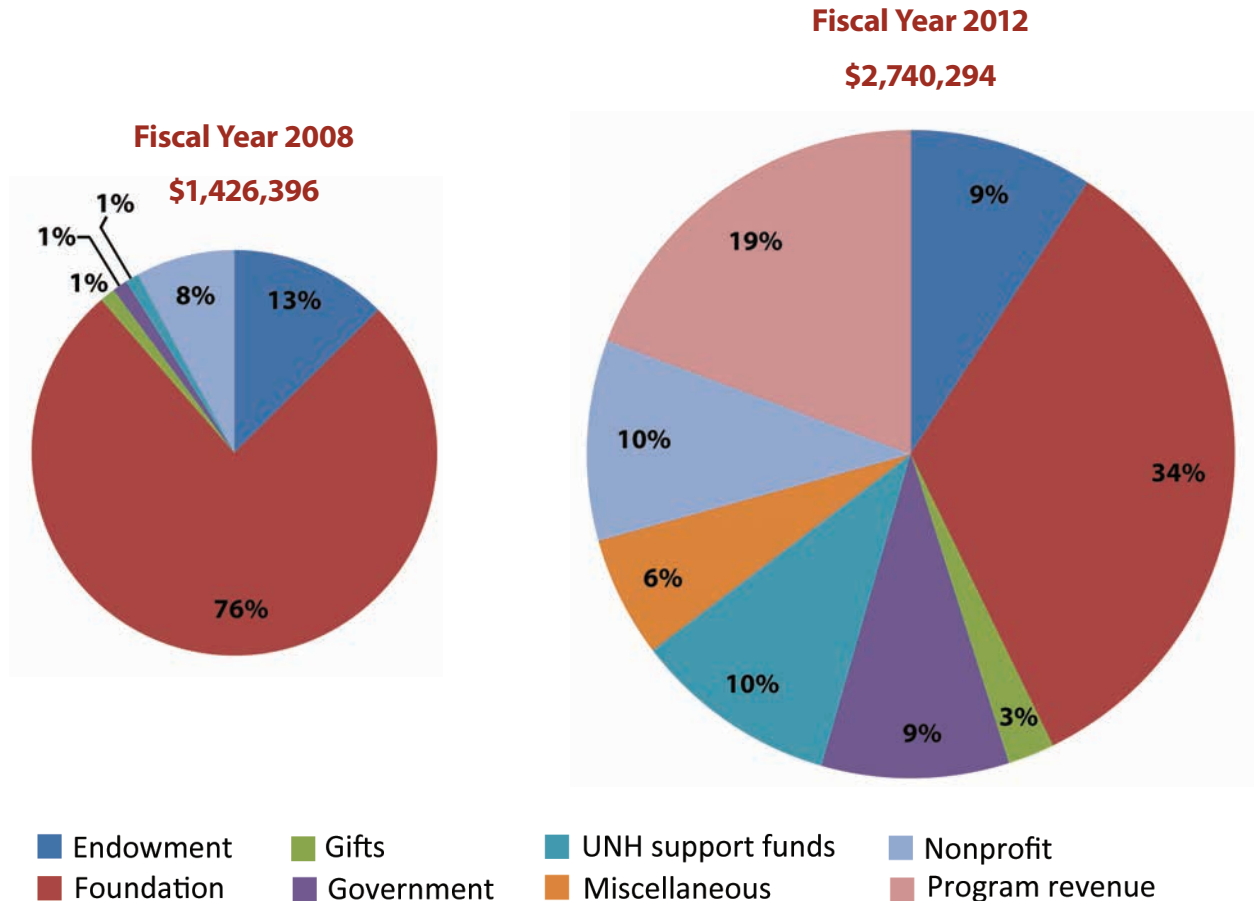
[Cameron P. Wake](#), Research Associate Professor, Climatology, University of New Hampshire

[Melissa Wells](#), Associate Professor, Social Work, University of New Hampshire

[Fiona Wilson](#), Assistant Professor of Strategy, Social Entrepreneurship, and Sustainability, Whittemore School of Business and Economics, University of New Hampshire

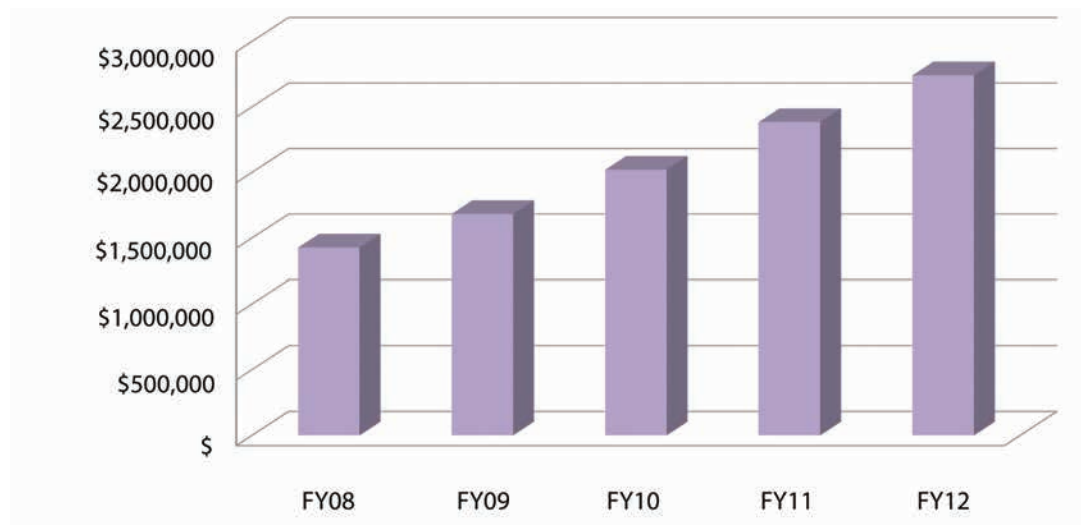
Financials

Carsey Institute Funding



Carsey Institute Annual Budget 2008-2012

Over the past five years, our budget has increased between 15 to 20 percent each year.



Funders

The Annie E. Casey Foundation
Anonymous
Biomass Energy Resource Center
Marcia Peterson Carsey
The Center for Rural Strategies
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
The Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Columbia University
Endowment for Health
The Family Resource Center
The Ford Foundation
The Foundation for Seacoast Health
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Maine Community Foundation
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation
The MasterCard Foundation
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More than Wheels (formerly Bonnie CLAC)
Mountain Association for Community Economic Development
Nashua Regional Planning Commission
National Institutes of Health
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Science Foundation
NeighborWorks America
New Hampshire Catholic Charities
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development



University of New Hampshire alumna Marcy Peterson Carsey established the Carsey Institute through a generous gift in May 2002.

New Hampshire Humanities Council
New Hampshire Rivers Council
Peter C. and Kristin Van Curan Nordblom
North Country Council
Northeastern States Research Cooperative
Northern Forest Canoe Trail
Northern Forest Center
Northwest Area Foundation
Oxfam America
John H. Pearson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
The Pittsfield Youth Workshop
Janet Prince and Peter Bergh
Public Welfare Foundation
The Rockefeller Foundation
Russell Sage Foundation
Sanigest Internacional—Jamaica PATH Program
Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture—Forest Service
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W. K. Kellogg Foundation
White Mountains Community College
Women Advancing Microfinance,
New York City Chapter
Ellis A. Woodward

Notes

Notes

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www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu

www.unh.edu/madpp

www.nhlistens.org

