



Population Association of America

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Dear PAA Member,

We are writing to let you know about an important initiative that will strengthen the Population Association of America (PAA).

As you know, the PAA is a nonprofit, scientific, professional organization established to promote research on population issues. We bring together researchers and teachers from across the academic spectrum, statisticians from government agencies, and practitioners from many fields who are united by shared values: high-quality population data, sound research based on data, and communicating the significance of research.

PAA is devoid of ideology and partisanship and is devoted to mentoring students and young scholars in their population research and data interests. *The PAA survives solely on membership dues and occasional foundation grants and remains a frugal organization.* Virtually all of the PAA's work conducted by officers, editors, and committee members is volunteered.

Recently, the PAA appointed a Development Committee to seek additional funds from foundations in order to strengthen essential activities. In recognition of the work we do and to enable us to do even more, the foundations awarded ***one million dollars for our Association!***

The grant proposals to the Gates, Hewlett, MacArthur, Packard and Rockefeller Foundations were all ***predicated on matching contributions from our members. The honor is great, but so is the challenge.***

To meet this challenge, PAA is launching a *Meeting the Challenge* campaign. The Development Committee has been charged with asking *each member* of our association to contribute to the PAA Fund to match the grants. As an indication of its support, most of the members of the Development Committee have made personal commitments of \$1,000 (some have pledged much more).

How will the grant money be used? The additional funds will permit our organization to expand our activities, to enhance our visibility and to broaden our accessibility without changing our basic structure and goals. Our three purposes are to:

- Expand current programs and research to more effectively communicate demographic knowledge and research to the broader public and policy makers.
- Serve the needs of members who need a strengthened network of collaborators domestically and internationally.
- Advance the field of population through our annual meetings and publication of the best scientific research.

Based on your suggestions, and the Board's approval, there are many exciting plans in place to utilize the funds. Examples of additional expenditures approved in the Fall Board meeting include: i) doubling the number of travel awards to the annual meeting for demographers from developing countries; ii) a

premeeting Wednesday workshop on the American Community Survey; iii) depositing all articles in *Demography* in the PubMed data base; iv) expanding mentorship opportunities within the PAA; and v) hosting two Capitol Hill briefings to convey policy-relevant demographic research to Members, their staffs and agency staff.

The current economic crisis is certainly on the minds of us all. Nevertheless, we are confident that if we **each do our part** we can enable PAA to be stronger and more visible than ever before. *The campaign will help to keep PAA dues low for all and very low for students and members from developing countries; and we are committed to keeping fundraising expenses to an absolute minimum.*

Please join us in making a contribution. For most members, this letter and occasional announcements will be the only appeals you will receive. However, members who have benefited from the PAA the longest may hear personally from a colleague on PAA's Development Committee, inviting your more generous participation. All contributions will be acknowledged on the PAA Newsletter and website. We know that you won't contribute because of the recognition, but it is a way of building the ownership of these important new gifts.

You can contribute in several ways:

1. Log on to PAA's website <http://www.popassoc.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3574> and charge it to your credit card.
2. Write a check and mail it with the form enclosed.
3. Contact a member of the Development Committee (see the attached list) to discuss the variety of ways that you can make a special gift such as a bequest in your will.

Your contribution will ensure that an organization that has been important to you will exist for people like you in the future. Thank you!



Kathleen Mullan Harris
PAA President



Greg Duncan
Past President



Robert D. Mare
President Elect