

Grant Agreement

Illinois Coal Workers and Communities in Transition Project

This Grant Agreement is between The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, a body corporate and politic organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, on behalf of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, through Sponsored Programs Administration, 1901 South First Street, Suite A, Champaign IL 61820-7406 ("UNIVERSITY"), and Harlem Consolidated School District 122 ("GRANTEE").

Background and Authority

WHEREAS, the UNIVERSITY is charged by the State of Illinois to enhance the lives of citizens in Illinois, across the nation and around the world through leadership in learning, discovery, engagement and economic development.

WHEREAS, the School of Labor and Employment Relations is an Institution within the University of Illinois system.

WHEREAS, the Climate Jobs Institute is a unit of the School of Labor and Employment Relations, established by the Illinois General Assembly through the University of Illinois Act, 110 ILCS 305/165 and charged by the state to conduct research to support the state's transition to a strong, equitable decarbonized economy.

WHEREAS, the Climate Jobs Institute receives funding from the State of Illinois to perform this research in the Fiscal Year 2025 funding cycle and beyond.

WHEREAS, the Harlem Consolidated School District 122 has research expertise related to documenting and sharing oral histories of veterans, workers, and community leaders in Illinois.

WHEREAS, Nicholas Stange is a Principal Investigator on a grant proposal titled Illinois Coal Workers and Communities in Transition Project, submitted by Harlem Consolidated School District 122 to support the research objectives of the Climate Jobs Institute.

NOW THEREFORE, the UNIVERSITY has determined the grant, Illinois Coal Workers and Communities in Transition Project will further the education, research, public service or economic development missions of UNIVERSITY and the Climate Jobs Institute.

Terms

1. **Grant Payment.** By this agreement, UNIVERSITY conveys to GRANTEE a grant of financial assistance in the amount of \$105,276.68 in support of GRANTEE's Illinois Coal Workers and Communities Research Project. UNIVERSITY will pay GRANTEE the funds in 2

installments, with the first **fixed-price** installment of \$20,296.68 grant funds to **be paid within 30 days upon signing this agreement** for work performed from April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, provided that GRANTEE has first returned a signed original of the agreement to UNIVERSITY, together with GRANTEE's Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) or other identifying information documented in the manner required by UNIVERSITY. A subsequent **fixed-price** payment of \$84,980 will be provided **upfront** for work performed from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The second payment will be provided within 30 days of receiving a progress report (**due July 1, 2025**), upon determination that adequate progress has been made on tasks, milestones, and deliverables, as outlined in Attachment A. Payments provided after June 30, 2025 are subject to renewal of state funding.

2. **Use of Grant Funds.** GRANTEE must: use the grant funds solely for the Project, which is described in **Attachment A**. GRANTEE shall not: use the grant funds for lobbying, to carry on propaganda, otherwise attempt to influence legislation or to influence the outcome of any public election, or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive; or pay any subcontractor or subgrantee with grant funds, unless UNIVERSITY approves the payment in advance.
3. **Reports.** GRANTEE shall complete those activities included in Attachment A. GRANTEE will be responsible for the submission of a progress report **due July 1, 2025**, a progress report 9 months from project start date, and a final report at the conclusion of the project. Reports shall describe the GRANTEE's progress made on tasks and deliverables and expenditures of grant funds.
4. **Term/Termination.**
 - 4.1. **Term.** This agreement is effective on the date of last signature and expires on June 30, 2026. No later than 45 days after expiration or termination of this agreement, GRANTEE must return to UNIVERSITY all unobligated grant funds. No grant funds will be available for expenditure for more than two years.
 - 4.2. **Immediate Termination.** UNIVERSITY may terminate this agreement immediately and without notice for any of the following reasons: (a) material breach; (b) GRANTEE entering into an arrangement for satisfaction of creditors, receivership, or bankruptcy, either voluntarily or involuntarily; or (c) GRANTEE ceases to exist as a legal entity. GRANTEE will refund to UNIVERSITY all grant funds, including accrued interest, paid if termination is due to material breach.
 - 4.3. **Termination without Cause.** Either party may terminate this agreement by giving notice of its intention to terminate at least 30 days in advance of the intended effective date of termination. GRANTEE will refund to UNIVERSITY the unexpended grant funds if GRANTEE terminates this agreement before it expires.
 - 4.4. **Non-Appropriation of Funds.** GRANTEE acknowledges that the source of funds for this agreement is the State of Illinois and that UNIVERSITY may terminate this agreement immediately at any time during the term, without penalty or further payment obligation, if UNIVERSITY receives notice or information that the State funding source may fail to appropriate or otherwise make available funds for the agreement.

5. **General Terms**

- 5.1. **Compliance.** GRANTEE shall comply with all applicable laws in conducting the Program.
- 5.2. **Record Retention and Audit.** GRANTEE shall maintain adequate books and records to verify proper use of grant funds for a minimum of three years after expiration of this agreement. GRANTEE shall make available to UNIVERSITY and its representatives for review and audit all such books and records during the retention period. GRANTEE shall cooperate fully with any audit conducted by UNIVERSITY.
- 5.3. **Liability.** UNIVERSITY is not liable for any actions of GRANTEE, including GRANTEE's use of grant funds.
- 5.4. **Anti-Terrorist Financing Compliance.** GRANTEE certifies its compliance with all laws restricting or prohibiting engaging in transactions and dealings with countries, entities, or individuals subject to economic sanctions administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. GRANTEE shall promptly notify UNIVERSITY of any change in circumstances pertaining to this certification occurring during performance of the Project.
- 5.5. **Certification.** GRANTEE certifies that all information in this agreement and Attachment A are true and correct to the best of GRANTEE's knowledge, information and belief and that the grant funds shall be used only for the purposes described in this agreement.
- 5.6. **Force Majeure.** Each party will be excused from performance of the agreement only to the extent that performance is prevented by conditions beyond the reasonable control of the affected party. The party claiming excuse for delayed performance will promptly notify the other party and will resume its performance as soon as performance is possible.
- 5.7. **Relationship of the Parties.** The parties are independent contractors with respect to each other. This agreement does not create an agency, employment, partnership, or joint venture relationship between the parties.
- 5.8. **Use of Name.** A party shall not use the name of the other party in any form of advertising or publicity without the express written permission of the other party. GRANTEE shall seek permission from UNIVERSITY by submitted the proposed use, well in advance of any deadline, to the Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs, University of Illinois, Third Floor Swanlund Administration Building, 601 East John Street, Champaign, IL 61820; Email publicaffairs@illinois.edu.
- 5.9. **Severability.** If any provision of this agreement is held unenforceable, the provision shall be severed, and the remainder of this agreement will continue in full force and effect.
- 5.10. **Merger.** This agreement with all attachments constitutes the entire understanding of the parties concerning the subject matter of this agreement and supersedes all previous or contemporaneous communications, either verbal or written, between the parties and relating to the same. Purchase orders issued after this agreement do not amend or supplement the terms of this agreement but are issued as a payment mechanism only.

- 5.11. **Assignment.** Neither party may assign this agreement, in whole or in part, without the prior written approval of the other party.
- 5.12. **Amendments.** No modification of this agreement shall be effective unless made by a written amendment signed by each party's authorized signatory.
- 5.13. **Governing Law and Jurisdiction.** This agreement is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, U.S.A., without reference to its conflict of laws provisions. Any claim against UNIVERSITY shall be made in the Illinois Court of Claims. Any dispute arising out of or related to this agreement shall be litigated in state court located within the State of Illinois. GRANTEE: (i) consents and submits to the jurisdiction of any state court located within Illinois; (ii) consents to delivery and service of process by means of the notice of provisions established in this agreement; and (iii) shall not bring any action or claim against UNIVERSITY in any other jurisdiction.
- 5.14. **Export Control.** Each party acknowledges that performance of all obligations under this agreement is contingent on compliance with applicable United States laws and regulations controlling the export of technical data, computer software, laboratory prototypes and other commodities. The transfer of certain technical data and commodities may require a license from the cognizant agency of the United States government and/or written assurances by GRANTEE that GRANTEE will not re-export data or commodities to certain foreign countries or nationals thereof without prior approval of the cognizant government agency.
- 5.15. **Waiver.** The failure of either party at any time to enforce any provisions of this agreement shall not constitute a waiver of that party's right to later enforce the provisions of all terms of the agreement.
- 5.16. **Counterparts.** The parties may sign this agreement in counterparts, which together constitute the agreement. Facsimile, copied, and electronic signatures, such as in a scanned PDF, constitute original signatures.
- 5.17. **Notices.** To be enforceable, all notices must be in writing and sent by either certified mail, return receipt requested, or by commercial overnight courier service to the party's representative named below. Notices shall be effective upon actual receipt. Each party may change its representative at any time by written notice to the other party.

University Representative
Sponsored Programs Administration
Director, Pre-award
Address: 1901 S. First Street, Suite A
Champaign IL 61820
Phone: 217-333-2187
FAX: 217-239-6830
E-mail: spa@illinois.edu

GRANTEE
Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
Title: Click or tap here to enter text.
Address: Click or tap here to enter text.
Phone: Click or tap here to enter text.
FAX: Click or tap here to enter text.
E-mail: Click or tap here to enter text.

Representation of Signatories. Each party represents that the individuals signing this agreement on its behalf are authorized signatories with power to bind the party to a contract.

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

By: _____
Paul N. Ellinger, Comptroller

Signature of Comptroller Delegate

Printed Name and Title of Delegate

Date: _____

GRANTEE:

Click or tap here to enter text.

By: _____
Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Date: _____

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS CLIMATE JOBS
INSTITUTE**

Richard Benton, Executive Director of the Climate Jobs Institute

Date _____

By _____
Simon Restubog, Interim Dean of the School of Labor and Employment Relations

Date _____

Attachment A.

(Harlem Consolidated School District 122 Scope of Work)

About the Harlem Documentary Project of Harlem Consolidated School District 122

The Harlem Documentary Project (HDP) is a collective of teachers, alumni, and students based out of Harlem High School in Machesney Park, Illinois. Through the project, Harlem High School juniors and seniors take media studies classes. Each student learns how to film interviews and creates a short documentary. During the first ten years of the project, the primary objective was to document and share oral histories of American veterans from the Harlem community. Since 2022, the project has expanded its scope to include all and any stories of individuals who impact the Harlem community. Students in the class have recorded over 150 oral histories and produced over 100 documentaries. Most of the documentaries can be found [here](#).

HDP's most recent long-form documentary project, [Take Your Own Notes](#), features the stories of five women veterans who live in the greater Rockford, IL area. Take Your Own Notes screened at local film festivals including Beloit International, Mosaic, Route 66, and St. Louis as well as community viewings at Rock Valley Community College and the Oregon Coliseum.

Project Team

- Nicholas Stange: Harlem High School teacher and co-sponsor of Harlem Documentary Project
- Kyra Newnam: Harlem High School teacher and co-sponsor of Harlem Documentary Project
- 2 Harlem Documentary Project Students (per school year)
 - 1 High School Senior
 - 1 High School Underclassman (to create continuity between school years)

Project Component Roles

- Historical & Background Research: Co-Lead
- Community-based Research: Co-Lead

Letter of Support

For this project proposal, HDP submitted a letter of support from Ronald "Terrell" Yarbrough, Superintendent of Harlem Consolidated School District 122.

Project Objectives

Through the tasks listed in this scope, HDP aims to address the following project objectives.

- Explore the impacts of coal plant/mine closures on workers and communities, the challenges faced, and opportunities to transition to new economies.
- Document the stories and experiences of Central and Southern Illinois workers and communities, as previously neglected voices in the state's and nation's clean energy transition.
- Develop research opportunities for high school and university students to engage in the history of local areas.

Quarter 4 of FY 2025 Tasks & Deliverables (April 1, 2025-June 30, 2025)

Task: Identify relevant archives (related to coal, labor, gender, race, family, community planning, etc.)

HDP will assist the Department of Urban & Regional Planning (DURP) and the Climate Jobs Institute (CJI) in identifying relevant archival sources specific to the research areas as well as Illinois coal and labor history more broadly. Relevant archives will include items like photo collections, oral histories, and historic newspapers. These items will be identified through channels like libraries, historical societies, museums, union archives, private company archives, and personal collections.

- Deliverable: Status summary (this task will continue into the next project year)

Task: Provide input on overall scope for community/stakeholder engagement in Randolph, Christian, Jasper, and Tazewell Counties (and surrounding areas)

HDP will work with CJI and the project team to develop the overall scope of stakeholder engagement and research interviews, including ethical engagement practices. We will determine a) categories and numbers of stakeholders to engage, b) number of stakeholder engagements and events, c) purpose of engagement, d) overall questions to answer, e) compensation for participants, f) risks and benefits to participants, and g) specific roles of project team. This framework will assist in developing the IRB human subjects online project form.

- Deliverable: Engagement framework

Task: Provide input on outreach plan for Randolph, Christian, Jasper, and Tazewell Counties

HDP will provide input to create an initial outreach and recruitment plan for each of the research sites and surrounding areas and additional stakeholders as applicable. Outreach plan development will include creating contact lists, developing outreach methods, developing outreach messaging and materials, and establishing outreach roles.

- Deliverable: Outreach plan & materials

Task: Provide input on interview protocols and human subjects research protocols

HDP will review the following:

- Interview question list for workers (currently employed or former coal industry)
- Interview question list for community leaders, including local planning officials

- Outreach plan and recruitment materials used to identify research participants
- Participant compensation plan

HDP teachers, Nick Stange and Kyra Newnam, will complete the Community Partner IRB Training. This training introduces learners to the basics of human subjects research – the terminology, people, and methods. It also reviews the history of research abuses that has informed current ethical principles, rules, and regulations.

- Deliverable: IRB submission materials

FY 2026 Tasks & Deliverables (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

Task: Continued from FY 2025 - Identify relevant archives (related to coal, labor, gender, race, family, community planning, etc.)

HDP will continue identifying relevant archival sources specific to the four counties as well as Illinois coal and labor history more broadly. This will be an ongoing process as researchers engage more deeply with community members and workers.

HDP will also include 1-2 high school student researchers in archival research. Each student will complete a photojournalism article that includes historical photos and present-day photos. Students will work together to complete a short form (between 3-5 minutes) historical documentary that incorporates archival materials related to coal and labor in Illinois.

- Deliverables: Research memo, with a compilation of archival research; two photojournalism articles and one short form historical documentary created by students.

Task: Assist with compiling, summarizing, and visualizing historical & background research into StoryMap

HDP will submit select findings and metadata to CJI (including a standardized citation, location, and subject or category) from background and archival research. HDP will review findings and identify research gaps that still need to be filled. HDP will review the StoryMap compiled by CJI and Extension for accuracy before it is published. The StoryMap will include demographic information; photos; videos; maps of plants, mines, and abandoned mine lands; historical narrative; and more for each county/research area. The purpose of this StoryMap is to provide the history and current state of coal and energy transition in the research areas. A StoryMap will allow the public to access the information and is an aesthetically pleasing way to include photo/audio, data visualization, and written narrative.

- Deliverables: Background research summary, StoryMap for engaged research areas.

Task: Assist with site visits in research study areas

The project team will set up phone calls with key stakeholders to explain the purpose of our research and set up times for initial in-person site visits to get to know the community. HDP will assist with initial site visits, working with project team members to coordinate schedules. These site visits will include activities like meeting with community leaders, Extension educators, and

union members; driving around the county; taking expositional photos and videos; visiting the plants; visiting public libraries, community spaces, and other sites of interest. HDP will focus on capturing video and audio footage.

- Deliverable: Preliminary suite of photo/video footage from field visits

Task: Assist with 2-6 pilot research interviews with key actors in engaged counties

Based on initial engagement and recommendations by partners, the project team will conduct 2-6 research interviews with key actors to build trust with communities and workers and pilot our interview questions. Interviews may be conducted during initial site visits or on subsequent visits based on participant availability and interest. Pilot interviews may also be conducted over Zoom if that helps with scheduling for participants. For in-person interviews, project partners will coordinate schedules to establish an interview team for each visit (lead interviewer, notetaker, etc.). Data security and participant safety will be determined through IRB protocol. Note that high school students will not be involved in conducting research interviews requiring an IRB.

- Deliverable: 2-6 recorded interviews

Task: Assist with research interviews with workers, community leaders, local planning officials, and other key energy transition actors

Following pilot research interviews, the project team aims to conduct 15-40 additional research interviews. HDP teachers will assist with these interviews in coordination with project partners. Note that high school students will not be involved in conducting research interviews requiring an IRB.

- Deliverable: 15-40 recorded interviews

Task: Initial outreach in target communities for documentary project

In 1-2 counties/research areas where the project team has developed trust and relationships, HDP will conduct outreach with local teachers' unions and schools with the goal of establishing relationships to produce a multimedia documentary project that features stories related to coal, labor, and energy transition in the places they live. Working alongside the Labor Education Program (LEP), HDP aims to build relationships with local schools to create an exchange of knowledge and collaborative opportunities for students in different parts of the state.

- Deliverable: Established contacts in engaged counties

Task: Create framework and methodology for documentary project

Based on relationships, research interview findings, and collaborative opportunities, HDP will work with DURP and LEP to create a framework and methodology for the multi-media documentary project to be completed in 1-2 research areas. The framework will identify partner roles and methods. The project team anticipates that the documentary project will include oral histories, walking interviews, documentary photography and videography among other methods.

- Deliverable: Framework and methodology for documentary project

Framework considerations include:

- Overall methodology and vision for deliverables
- Rolling consent structure that inserts checks and balances that reestablish or change consent as requested by the narrators
- Explanations on the security and preservation protection measures in place for oral histories, walking interviews, and related
- Sustaining relationships with narrators and participants

Additional questions to consider include:

- What harm might emanate from doing this project?
- What are the interviewer/institutional limitations within this project?
- How does this project empower, improve, or preserve community participation?
- Have we crafted a mutually beneficial relationship with the community before starting the project?
- In what ways do community participants support this project?

Task: Begin filming and processing oral histories and walking interviews

After building trust with narrators who are interested in participating in the documentary project, HDP will begin filming oral histories and walking interviews. Alongside DURP, HDP will process oral histories and interviews including transcripts and closed captions. As applicable, Harlem High School students will engage in filming oral histories and documentary methods. The possibility for a work-based summer internship may be arranged based on student interest and administrative approval.

- Deliverable: Video or audio recordings of 5-10 oral histories or walking interviews

Task: Video creation

During this project year, HDP will edit two short-form videos (5-10 minutes each) using documentary footage captured in FY 2026. These videos may include visuals of the spaces research participants move through, scenes from site visits, and preliminary personal stories collected. These videos will not include any secure information from IRB-subject research interviews. The purpose of these videos is to provide grounded visuals of this place-based project. The videos may be posted on partner websites or social media to bring awareness to the project.

- Deliverable: 2 short-form videos

Task: Present preliminary findings at Conferences

HDP will share research at the Oral History Association Conference in October 2025 or related conferences.

- Deliverable: Multimedia conference presentation.

Budget Justification

Labor: We are requesting a budget for labor because our expertise will be critical to the success of this project. We bring over ten years of experience collecting oral histories and producing documentaries. In addition to these skills, we have been educators for over 15 years and have implemented numerous projects that focused on student engagement in local communities.

Travel: We are requesting a budget for HDP teacher and student travel. This project requires significant fieldwork across the state and all potential communities are at least over three hours away. These trips will be integral to the project because of the on-site relationship building, location scouting and interviews that are necessary.

Gear: We are requesting a budget for documentary filmmaking gear that will be used solely for this project and related research. HDP will be primarily responsible for capturing video and audio footage. We require the listed gear to produce high quality multimedia projects that can be shared with research participants, policymakers and the general public. Having two interview kits will allow for the project team to conduct interviews in multiple locations which would reduce travel cost for the project.

Research Dissemination: We are requesting a budget for research dissemination to share the results and products of our work. This may include conferences, film festivals, community film screenings, educational screenings and more. This is essential to empowering the voices of the workers and communities impacted.

