Project Assistance Available from CURA

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs supports research and technical assistance through a number of individual programs, each with their own deadlines and application procedures. If you represent a community organization or government agency and are unsure which program listed below is most suitable for your project proposal, simply complete a general Community-Based Research Programs Application Form at www.cura.umn.edu/cbr and we will route your request to the appropriate program.

- The Community Assistantship Program (CAP) matches community-based nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, and government agencies in greater Minnesota with students who can provide research assistance. Eligible organizations define a research project, submit an application, and if accepted, are matched with a qualified student to carry out the research. The application deadline for spring semester 2012 assistantships (mid-January to May) is October 30, 2011. For more information, contact CURA community programs assistant Jeff Corn at 612-625-0744 or curacbr@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cap.

- The Community University Program funds quarter-time graduate-student assistantships for one semester to help community-based nonprofit organizations or government agencies with a specific project. The application deadline for spring semester 2012 assistantships (mid-January to May) is October 30, 2011. For more information, contact CURA community programs assistant Jeff Corn at 612-625-0744 or curacbr@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/communiversity.

- Neighborhood Partnerships for Community Research (NPCR) provides student research assistance to community organizations in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Twin Cities metropolitan area suburbs that are involved in community-based revitalization. Projects may include any issue relevant to a neighborhood’s or community’s needs and interests, including planning, program development, or program evaluation. Priority is given to projects that support and involve residents of color. Applications from organizations collaborating on a project are encouraged. The application deadline for spring semester 2012 assistantships (mid-January to May) is October 30, 2011. For more information, contact CURA community programs assistant Jeff Corn at 612-625-0744 or curacbr@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/npcr.

- The Community Geographic Information Systems (CGIS) program provides technical assistance in mapping, data analysis, and GIS to community-based organizations and nonprofits in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff at the CGIS program specialize in parcel-level mapping, demographic analysis, and Internet-based GIS technologies. The CGIS program has no formal application process or deadline to apply. Project requests can be made by phone or e-mail, and generally can be turned around within two weeks. For more information, to discuss potential projects, or for assistance with data needs, contact CGIS program coordinator Jeff Matson at 612-625-0081 or jmatson@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/cgis.

- The Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing trains people to work effectively in organizing and staffing neighborhood organizations. It trains new organizers and increases the skills of existing neighborhood staff through internships, workshops, and other programs. For more information about the program and the training opportunities available, contact Jay Clark at 612-625-2513 or clark037@umn.edu, or Margaret Kaplan at 612-624-2300 or mkaplan@umn.edu, or visit www.cura.umn.edu/mcno.

2010 State and Twin Cities Population Distribution Maps Available

CURA has partnered with the Cartography Lab in the University of Minnesota’s Department of Geography to produce four-color, poster-sized (17.5 by 20 inches) wall maps showing population distribution in the state of Minnesota and the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, using data from the 2010 U.S. Census. The statewide map shows population distribution at the county level. The Twin Cities metro area map shows population distribution at the minor civil division level, which includes cities, townships, and unorganized territory. Both maps include major water features and selected major roads and highways. The maps are available for download as PDFs at www.cura.umn.edu/node/7251 (statewide map) and www.cura.umn.edu/node/7250 (Twin Cities metro area map). For those wishing to print the maps, both Kinkos and the University of Minnesota’s John R. Borchert Map Library (map.lib.umn.edu) offer reasonable prices for printing from these files at full size.