Mika Clark
Senior Associate

M.P.P., Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley
B.A., Development Studies, University of California, Berkeley

2019 – Present ***Senior Associate***
Social Policy Research Associates

2012 – 2018 ***Associate***
Social Policy Research Associates

2010 – 2012 ***Senior Early Childhood Policy Associate***
Safe Passages, Oakland CA

2009 – 2010 ***Consultant***
Department of Human Services, City of Oakland, CA

2005 – 2008 ***Elementary English Teacher***
Primaria Pablo L. Sidar, Tlahuitoltepec, Oaxaca, MX
Colegio Mexico-Americano, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, MX

2005 ***AmeriCorps* VISTA YouthCorps Leader***
San Jose Conservation Corps, San Jose, CA

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

Areas of Expertise:

- Early childhood development
- Youth development
- Social emotional learning
- Educational equity

Research Methods and Approaches:

- Mixed method research
- Social Network Analysis
- Data collection, cleaning, and analysis
- Program evaluation and implementation

REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Early Childhood

First 5 California Kit for New Parents Evaluation. SPR partnered with the American Institutes for Research on an evaluation of a free parenting resource provided by First 5 California (F5CA). The evaluation sought to understand the effectiveness of Kit distribution methods for reaching the intended populations, including ease of access by F5CA priority populations; parent/caregiver experiences with the Kit, including the materials that families find most useful; and the Kit's impact on parent/caregiver knowledge and behaviors.

Project Director: Oversaw SPR's role on the project, including the design, administration, and analysis of a survey sent to over 400 Kit distributors across the state and interviews with F5 county commission staff and community-based distributors; led reporting writing; and conducted interviews with parents.

First 5 Monterey County Outcomes Evaluation. This project was an outcome evaluation of three programs funded by First 5 Monterey County. The programs aimed to better connect families with community resources, support the development and training of early childhood educators, and provide information about the importance of early childhood to the general public in Monterey County.

Task Leader: Developed data collection instruments; conducted focus groups with parents, early childhood educators, and service providers; led quantitative data collection and analysis; and contributed to final reporting.

Evaluation of First 5 Ventura County. Over several years, SPR worked closely with First 5 Ventura County (F5VC) to strengthen its data collection instruments and evaluation processes, assess progress towards key family outcomes, and shed light on how F5VC meets the needs of Ventura County's young children and families. Over numerous contracts, the evaluation included focus groups with parents, analysis of parent surveys, administrative and developmental assessment data, and interviews with First 5 funded partners.

Project Director: Developed data collection instruments, oversaw quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis; led report writing; engaged clients and partners.

Evaluation of the Oakland Fund for Children and Youth. Since 2014, SPR has led a mixed-methods evaluation that examines the quality and outcomes of school-based and community-based programs funded by Oakland's Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY) and Oakland Unified School District's Expanded Learning Department, ranging from parent support and education programs for families with young children to youth workforce initiatives. The evaluation includes an analysis of parent and youth surveys, structured site visit data, interview and focus group data, and administrative program data on an annual basis.

Project Manager: Oversee quantitative and qualitative data collection, including collection of school district data; Develop data collection tools; conduct site visits, interviews, and quantitative data analysis; and report writing.

San Francisco's Child Care Facilities Fund (CCFF). CCFF is a collaborative effort across city agencies, private foundations, other funders, and non-profit staff that seeks to increase the quantity of licensed care options and enhance the quality of child care, especially in the city's neighborhoods with more low income families and children. The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) administers technical assistance for child care providers seeking to enhance their business offerings and sustainability, alongside funds for physical environment improvements. SPR's evaluation efforts document CCFF's history and implementation; perceived impact on children, families, childcare quality and providers; and implications for the field. Further, the evaluation seeks to gather feedback from city agency staff, childcare providers, and Black and Brown families to provide LIIF with a set of recommendations for better reaching and serving child care programs that ultimately support Black and Brown community members.

Quantitative Task Lead: Oversaw survey design, administration, and analysis. Oversaw the collection and analysis of administrative data collection. Contributed to development of deliverables including PowerPoint presentations and final report.

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Expanded Learning

Evaluation of San José Learns. Since 2018, SPR has led the evaluation of San José Learns, examining after-school learning programs funded by the City of San José that provide educational enrichment and a supportive, safe place for K-3 students across six school districts. The evaluation has included an analysis of student outcomes, parent and staff interviews and focus groups, a formative assessment of the development of the initiative, and technical assistance to prepare the program for future evaluation efforts.

> *Project Director:* Oversee data collection and reporting, develop data collection tools, and provide technical assistance to client.

Evaluation of Oakland Unified School District Expanded Learning Programs. SPR partnered with OUSD to evaluate school-based after school programs. This evaluation included 59 youth school-based programs funded by OUSD and the Oakland's Fund for Children and Youth (OFCY).

> *Tasks and Methods Lead:* Oversaw youth surveys, phone interviews with agency directors, and administrative program data on an annual basis. Prepared annual report.

Evaluation of West Contra Costa Unified School District's Expanded Learning Programs. SPR provided technical assistance to West Contra Costa Unified School District to help strengthen the district's evaluation and Continuous Quality Improvement process, including structured site visit observation tools, survey tools, and quarterly reporting. SPR also completed required reporting for state and federal grants and produced annual reports for expanded learning stakeholders.

> *Project Director:* Oversaw data collection and reporting, developed data collection tools, and provided technical assistance to client.

Youth Development and Empowerment

Evaluation Capacity Building for the Hidden Genius Project. The Hidden Genius Project is a non-profit organization that runs an immersion program for young black men in high school, in which they learn skills in computer programming and entrepreneurship and receive intensive mentoring and supportive services. This project offered capacity building assistance to the Hidden Genius Project in order to prepare the organization for future evaluation work. Assistance includes development of an evaluation toolkit that included a comprehensive logic model and theory of change, an evaluation timeline, and an inventory of available tools and resources for evaluation.

> *Advisor:* Provided guidance on logic model development and tool creation to support evaluation plan development.

Program Assessment for the City of Berkeley's YouthWorks Program. SPR was contracted by the City of Berkeley to conduct a program needs assessment to inform its youth development and youth employment programming. Drawing on a literature review, surveys, interviews, and focus groups, SPR worked closely with YouthWorks staff to develop a logic model, a memo of recommendations for future program development, evaluation tools for future use, and training modules for city staff, partners, and youth participants.

> *Project Director*: Oversaw data collection and reporting, developed data collection tools, and provided technical assistance to client.

San José Public Library Foundation SEL Tool Kit Development. SPR partnered with the San José Public Library, the Monterey County Office of Education, and a Community of Practice of expanded learning

providers to refine, pilot, and disseminate a series of tools designed by program staff to assess and develop their social-emotional learning (SEL) supports. The toolkit includes curricula, a student SEL assessment and associated rubric, and a staff survey to gauge professional development needs. Over three years, SPR facilitated meetings to collaboratively design the student assessment rubric and align the tools with the CASEL SEL framework, led an iterative two-year pilot to strengthen the tools, and facilitated a series of trainings to help programs across the Bay Area utilize the tools.

> *Project Director:* Oversaw facilitation of focus groups and collaborative meetings, data collection, survey validity study, and development of supportive materials.

Evaluation of YouthBuild. This seven-year project examined the effects of the YouthBuild program on disadvantaged youths' educational attainment, employment and earnings, and other outcomes. The project included a large-scale random assignment study to measure impacts, a process study to understand program implementation and participants, a cost-effectiveness study, and survey of participants who will be tracked for up to four years after random assignment. The study sample for the random assignment component included more than 3,000 youth in over 75 YouthBuild programs throughout the U.S.

> *Site Recruiter and Key Analyst:* Recruited sites for random assignment, conducted site visits, data collection, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and report writing.

Evaluation of San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and their Families (DCYF)'s Justice Assistance Grant. This three-year project focused on the implementation and outcomes of San Francisco's Young Adult Court (YAC), a collaborative court model for transitional age youth. The evaluation had both implementation and outcome study components, assessing the early planning and implementation stages of the YAC, as well as key outcomes of interest at both the participant- and system-level, such as reduced recidivism and improved partner coordination.

> *Task Lead:* Led administrative data collection, analysis of outcomes data, and reporting.

Evaluation of DCYF's Youth Workforce Development Programs. This two-year mixed methods evaluation examined the effectiveness of youth workforce development programs funded by the City and County of San Francisco for at-risk youth, ages 14-17. The evaluation included an analysis of youth survey data, program administrative data, and program officer assessments. Eight half-day site visits were also conducted.

> *Key Analyst:* Analyzed administrative and survey data; conducted site visits, qualitative data collection and analysis, and contributed to report writing.

Evaluation of DCYF's Specialized Teen Programs. This mixed-methods evaluation examined the effectiveness of 68 youth development and youth leadership programs funded by DCYF for high school youth. Evaluation activities included analysis of a program survey, over 1500 youth surveys annually, program administrative data, school district data, and program officer assessments, as well as two rounds of interviews with 17 case study programs, site visits to 10 best practice programs, and youth focus groups of youth that DCYF is particularly interested in engaging (English Language Learners, Public Housing Youth, and LGBTQ youth). SPR developed multiple deliverables to support DCYF, including survey summaries, year-end reports for each program, an internal planning report for DCYF, public versions of the mid-project report and a final report, and learning papers on capacity building and reaching special populations.

> *Key Analyst:* Conducted site visits, qualitative data collection, and analysis.

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Equity and Community Change Efforts

Evaluation Support for Oakland Promise. Oakland Promise (OP), a non-profit organization that offers financial resources, educational programming and mentorship to prepare children and youth to thrive in higher education, contracted with SPR to support the development of its evaluation plan. Through this work, SPR documented the organization's evaluation and data needs, crafting an evaluation framework in collaboration with OP leadership and staff, and developing an evaluation plan to guide future evaluation activities and offer recommendations around how to meet data and evaluation needs.

> *Project Manager:* Oversaw data collection activities and the production of deliverables, led client communication, and managed the budget and contractual tasks.

Evaluation of San Francisco's Beacon Community School Expansion. In summer of 2019, Social Policy Research Associates (SPR) was hired by DCYF in San Francisco to conduct a five-year evaluation of the expansion of the Beacon Community Schools model. Findings from the first year focused on the early implementation of the Beacon expansion. In summer of 2020, SPR pivoted to conduct a developmental evaluation of the Community Hub Initiative (CHI), which sought to meet the needs of students most negatively impacted by the transition to distance learning in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Drawing on student records, administrative data, focus groups, and interviews, subsequent years of the evaluation focused on efforts by Beacon to support the transition back to fully in-person school, address student "learning loss," and continue to develop community school programming.

> *Project Manager:* Oversaw quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis, and reporting. Facilitated client meetings.

Evaluation of Departmentalized Instruction in Elementary Schools. On subcontract with Mathematica Policy Research, this multi-year project assessed the impact of departmentalized instruction in math and English language arts in 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Using a quasi-experimental design, this evaluation used administrative data from school districts, surveys from teachers, and video-observations of classroom instruction to assess teacher- and student-level outcomes of departmentalized instruction.

> *Recruiter and Administrative Data Collector:* Recruited school districts for study participation and collected administrative data, including student- and teacher-level data.

Evaluation of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Local Improvement Networks. This initiative was a collective impact effort comprised of networks of schools, pre-kindergarten providers, and expanded learning opportunity providers working together to design and implement integrated whole-child models to improve early math and social emotional outcomes. For this evaluation, SPR served as a learning partner to strengthen the development and implementation of these local proof point networks.

> *Task Lead*: Led social network analysis, conducted interviews, and contributed to report writing.

Evaluation of the Assessment for Learning Project for the Center for Innovation in Education. Supported by a national group of partner organizations, the Assessment for Learning Project is a multi-year grant program and field-building initiative inviting educators to fundamentally rethink the roles that assessment should play to advance student learning and to improve the K-12 education system. SPR conducted a formative evaluation as a learning partner to help strengthen the development and implementation of the initiative.

> *Task Lead*: Led tasks involving quantitative data collection and analysis, participated in qualitative analysis, and contributed to report writing.

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Impact Evaluation of Support for School Principals. On subcontract with Mathematica Policy Research, this multi-year project examined the impact of professional development for elementary school principals at 100 schools at 10 school districts. Using a large-scale random assignment design, this evaluation collected administrative data from school districts nationwide to gauge the impact of enhanced principal professional development on achievement and instruction outcomes of interest.

> *District Liaison:* Worked with recruited school districts and coordinated to collect administrative data on student achievement and teacher effectiveness.

Community Needs Assessment: Monterey County Office of Education's Migrant Education Program. The needs assessment examined the educational needs and achievements of migrant students in Monterey County, CA. Key project activities included surveys to district-level staff at 13 school districts, migrant resource teachers, service providers, and parents; site visits to selected school-based programs for migrant students, interviews with students, parents, and community leaders; and analysis of administrative data to prepare a summary report of community needs and student outcomes.

> *Task Lead:* Designed data collection tools, oversaw survey administration and administrative data collection, and analyzed quantitative data.

Impact Evaluation of the Pell Grant Experiments. This five-year project examined the impact of expanding Pell grant eligibility in two separate ways: (1) to allow those with Bachelor's degrees to receive a Pell; and (2) to allow those interested in short-term training (i.e., at least 8 weeks, but fewer than fifteen weeks) to receive a Pell. The project included a large-scale random assignment study (with a sample size of 10,800) to measure impacts, a survey of a sample of participants twelve months after random assignment, and the collection and analysis of administrative data on educational enrollment and completion, employment, and earnings for up to three years after random assignment.

> *Random Assignment Task Lead:* Implemented random assignment training and monitored the random assignment process.

SELECT REPORTS AND LEARNING PAPERS

Clark, M., Lin, C. (2023). First 5 California Kit for New Parents Study. Interim Findings #2: Kit Distribution Survey Results. https://www.ccfc.ca.gov/pdf/commission/meetings/handouts/Commission_Handouts_2023_08_17/Item%206%20-%20Attachment%20A%20-%20AIR%20Interim%20Findings%202%20-%20Kit%20Distribution%20Survey%20Results.pdf

Clark, M., Forte Frudden, J., Chen Cuellar, M., Lin, C. (2022). Oakland Fund for Children and Youth FY 2021-2022 Final Evaluation Report. https://www.ofcy.org/evaluation/2021-2022-evaluation-report/

Clark, M., Romero, E., Gonzalez, R. (2022). First 5 Monterey County's Care Coordination Strategy: Connecting Families Across Services. https://spra.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/First-Five-Monterey-EVA.pdf

Clark, M., McCaffrey E, Rodriguez, V. (2020). San Jose Learns FY2019-2020 Final Report. https://www.sjplf.org/reports/

Clark, M. Lewis-Charp, H., Estrella, R., Chavoya-Perez, V., Chen Cuellar, M. McCaffrey, E., Rae, S. Oakland Fund for Children and Youth FY 2019-2020 Final Evaluation Report. https://www.ofcy.org/assets/Uploads/OFCY-Final-Evaluation-Report-FY2019-2020-Full-Report.pdf

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Clark, M., Hogg, J. (2018). First 5 Ventura County Evaluation Report. http://www.first5ventura.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/8-2017-2018-F5VC-Evaluation-Report_revised.pdf

Wiegand, A., Manno, M.S., Leshnick, S., Treskon, L., Geckler, C., Lewis-Charp, H., Sinicrope, C., **Clark, M.**, Nicholson, B. 2015. Adapting to Local Context: Findings from the YouthBuild Evaluation Implementation Study. Report prepared for the US Department of Labor. MDRC, New York, New York. https://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/Adapting_to_Local_Context.pdf

Sinicrope, C., **Clark, M.**, Thomason, S., Lewis-Charp, H. 2015. Data Report for Our Children, Our Families Council. Report prepared for the San Francisco Mayor's Office. Social Policy Research Associates, Oakland, CA. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55b29790e4b0b85c405b2af2/t/55ddec36e4b01e5c160671c5/1440607306063/OCOF_Data+Report+Aug+2015.pdf

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