

Final Report for RRI Seed Grant  
“Location-Specific Amenities, Equilibrium, and Constraints on Location Choices”  
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The seed grant from the Regional Research Institute was a great help in getting started on this research topic. Most importantly, I have a large metropolitan-level database and the beginnings of a state-level database that can now be used not only for this research, but also for other research projects. Using the metro-level database, I was able to complete a draft of one paper, carrying the title of the seed grant above, which I presented at the annual meetings of the Southern Regional Science Association (SRSA), held in New Orleans, March 11-13, 2004. I am submitting a copy as a working paper with this final report. I have not finished the substantial revision that I had intended to complete prior to submitting the working paper, but should complete the revision by the end of this month. I will present this revised version at the North American Regional Science Association meetings in Seattle, WA, November 11-13, 2004. I intend to submit a revised draft of this paper to a professional journal by the end of 2004. Finally, I have identified an appropriate research funding program for migration studies through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). They have forwarded materials to me so that I can prepare a proposal for external funding for the October 1 submission deadline.

Kerry King, the GRA supported by the grant, spent almost her entire nine-month research period searching for and collecting data, documenting the data, and building the data base. The metropolitan data base is complete, with the exception of some revisions that I am currently completing. It includes a matrix of place-to-place migration flows for all metropolitan areas in the U.S., from the *2000 Census of Population*, as well as a large database of socioeconomic, demographic, geographic, and topographic place characteristics for all metro areas. Kerry also got a good start on the state-level database, including the matrix of state-to-state migration flows from the *2000 Census* and many state-level characteristics. Most of the data could be pulled from the Internet, though a large chunk, compiled in the *Places Rated Almanac*, had to be scanned as well as possible, then fixed up, with some data entered by hand. The database building process was slower than I had hoped, to a great extent due to Kerry's inexperience with SAS and with the data. I believe Kerry learned much about SAS, data sources, and the diligence and care required to build a high-quality database. Thus, while the process was slow at times, it provided a significant benefit in helping Kerry's development as a young research scholar.

I am excited about submitting a grant proposal. I received very good feedback and great encouragement at the SRSA conference. To my surprise and delight, the paper generated more discussion and ideas than any other paper I saw at the conference. Much of the discussion focused on the interesting applications of the paper's basic concept. This will help greatly as I work on the NIH proposal submission. The NIH proposal would provide support for expanding the current-period database, filling in the gaps (primarily for the 1985-90 migration period) in the historical state-level database, and help me address several interesting research applications.