Title: Piloting Outreach Activities among Low to Moderate Income, Prime-Age Black and Hispanic Workers

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Brief project abstract (no more than 1-2 paragraphs)

In the past year, Viceisza, Calhoun, and Lee conducted a literature review on racial disparities in retirement preparedness and the impacts that outreach and communication can have on retirement outcomes. A key finding is that there is relatively little work studying the differential impacts of outreach across different racial and ethnic groups. This project has two primary aims: (1) assess retirement knowledge among low to moderate income, prime-age workers (25-50 years old) with a special emphasis on Blacks and Hispanics and (2) pilot outreach experiments to improve retirement knowledge and preparedness. For aim (1), we propose using the Retirement Knowledge Scale (Blanco et al. 2020, HRS module) and other retirement and financial knowledge related questions from the Understanding America Study (UAS). For aim (2), we propose to design experiments that will be informed by secondary data analysis, such as the UAS, and prior findings in the behavioral economics and peer effects literatures. The pilot experiments will be conducted with convenience samples of Black and Hispanic low to moderate income, prime-age workers, e.g., at Spelman College and in collaboration with the UAS (feasibility and budget for data collection for this project to be explored prior to submission of a full proposal). The long-run goal is for the findings from this study to be scaled up and applicable to improve retirement preparedness among Black and Hispanic workers, e.g., in collaboration with the UAS and the Social Security Administration (https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/icap.html).

Focal and/or program areas

This project relates to focal area #1 (Disparities by race and ethnicity), focal area #3 (Improving communication and outreach), focal area #5 (Improving service delivery), and topic 1 of special interest (Racial equity and support for underserved communities).