

## Fayette County Needs Assessment Proposal

College of Social Work  
Martin School of Public Policy and Administration  
University of Kentucky

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**Purpose:** The University of Kentucky College of Social Work (COSW) and the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration submit this prospectus designed to assist in assessing the articulated social service needs in Fayette County, Kentucky.

**Project Description:** It is proposed that the above stated purpose be accomplished via the administering of a needs assessment to agency partners and constituents. The partner agencies include those that fulfill social service as well as economic needs in the community that are geared to improve quality of life and well-being. The needs assessment will consist of three phases: (1) reviewing and mining of existing data gathered by community entities to identify emerging themes and patterns of needs/issues, (2) designing, administering a needs assessment based on identified themes, patterns, and relevant current trends, and (3) analyzing and disseminating the results of the community/agency needs assessment. The COSW and Martin School will work together to complete this task and work within their areas of expertise.

**Method:** It is estimated that this project will encompass three 4 month periods, beginning at the end of August, 2012 and continuing through December, 2013 (coinciding with the Fall, Summer, and Spring semesters in the UK Academic Calendar). The means through which the College of Social Work and the Martin School plan to address these responsibilities are outlined below.

**College of Social Work:** This project will be housed in the Master of Social Work Community and Social Development concentration as a site within which graduate social work students may fulfill their field practicum curriculum requirements. The graduate social work curriculum consists of two field placements, each requiring 300 hours of time. COSW will place 4-5 graduate students at this site for both semesters of their practica.

Graduate students who will be eligible for this placement and project will be either (1) advanced standing graduate students (graduate students who have earned an accredited social work undergraduate degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and a social work major GPA of 3.5 or higher), or (2) second year social work graduate students who have completed foundation graduate work and are in their specialization year of study. These students will have successfully completed their foundational research curriculum and will have either completed or be enrolled in the advanced research course and/or concentration specialization courses (e.g. Poverty and Inequality, Community Assessment, and Community Interventions), which will support their work on this project.

A designated COSW faculty member will assist in constructing the learning contract and provide general oversight and continuity to the needs assessment project. A COSW PhD student will be engaged to attend to the ongoing operation of the COSW student project component. In addition,

in accordance with expectations of our accreditation body (Council on Social Work Education) regarding field placements, we will need Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) to support the COSW by providing on-site student supervision and to assist with arranging other activities in which they can participate to address required competencies. Although much of the project under discussion is not place-based, we anticipate there will be times the students will need an office or meeting space at LFUCG.

***Martin School of Public Policy and Administration:*** This project will be undertaken by a group of 4 – 5 students in the Master of Public Policy (MPP) or Master of Public Administration (MPA) programs as their internship, a requirement of both degree programs. The internship requires 400 hours of time on the project. Students will be engaged in this project while undertaking the Martin School curricula that includes courses on quantitative and qualitative analysis, budgeting, and program evaluation. The coursework in the Martin School is scheduled so that courses focusing on analysis and program evaluation are taken at the beginning of the program.

A designated Martin School faculty member will develop a learning contract and provide oversight on the project. A Martin School staff member, with an MPP herself, will provide oversight and assistance on the ongoing operations.

**Deliverables:** At the end of each semester the students will present a summary of their progress to the Council orally and via written reports. The project will culminate in the dissemination of the needs assessment process and findings via a written report and oral presentation.

**Suggested Budget Requirements:** We anticipate that a joint budget of \$35,000 to successfully complete this project. These funds would be allocated among the two UK entities to cover the Project's day to day operation (\$2,000) to include faculty (\$5,000), staff (\$12,000), and/or Ph. D (\$16,000) student support.