

September 9, 2016

Dear Councilmembers and City Manager Mr. Barker,

The School of City and Regional Planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology proposes work with the City of Clarkston on a unique, in-depth, city-wide survey of Clarkston's residents. Through this project, we seek to gain a representative understanding of the range of diversity in Clarkston, but also develop better insight into refugee and immigrant populations and their engagement with the city. The street-level survey will be conducted in 7 languages with focus on the experiences of native-born US citizens, naturalized citizens, legal permanent residents, and refugees currently living in Clarkston. We will also engage directly with leaders from the Somali, Sudanese, Iraqi, Syrian, Ethiopian, Eritrean, Burmese, and Bhutanese communities and host public outreach events at cultural and religious institutions throughout Clarkston.

The City Planning school, and Dr. Kim (the lead on this project) has successfully fundraised from major national donors (the American Studies Association) and other local funders (Welcoming Atlanta, Georgia Tech Foundation) to begin the data collection process. We plan to offer multiple mini-grants to local Clarkston based non-profit organizations to join us in partnership (Bhutanese Community Association, Somali American Center) and to create an outreach platform that is unbiased, ethical, and external (from GT to Clarkston) but also internal (from Clarkston's leaders to Clarkston's residents). All survey and focus-group participants will be protected, and private information will remain confidential. We are subject to University Review Boards on issues of ethical human research.

Included services:

- Access to the "Clarkston Census" data (both Dr. Kim and the City of Clarkston will have rights of use re: the data we collect through the resident survey of Clarkston). The City will receive a searchable electronic copy of the dataset itself (N=500) and a web-based template for future use.
- Survey Data analysis (comparative across race, gender, and ethnicity): also includes information on housing, infrastructure, transportation, healthcare, employment, education.
- Economic Data analysis (Dunn & Bradstreet business database analysis of self-employment patterns in Clarkston and the greater Clarkston area)
- Summary of focus groups with New American Pathways clients (varying from school-age children to elders who participate in programs and services in the City of Clarkston). This information will give greater detail into employment instability, barriers to movement, attraction to Clarkston (attractions out of Clarkston), certain longitudinal data points (previous homes, future movements, citizenship status changes).

Total requested funds: \$5000.00

The GT foundation has provided a matching grant to fund costs related to materials purchases (survey printing, maps, flyers), administrative or consultant fees, web design & other data processing needs.

Sincerely,

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