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Waukesha & Jefferson County

December 12, 2022

I. City of Lake Mills Sandy Beach Survey

This project was in partnership with Drake Daily, City Manager with the Common Council, and contracted through UW-River Falls Survey Research Center. To inform the public and increase transparency of the effort, an article was written in the Daily Union explaining the benefits of a random sample and how that was generated. General interest from residents in participating was evident through questions directed to the City Manager and Council members as to how they can participate resulted in Council deciding to allow for the addition of self-selecting participants. The link was then promoted on the City's Webpage

- Survey launched 10/26, closed 11/11
- As of 11/10, had 324 responses- Margin of error is currently less than 5.5% and responses are randomized, therefore we have higher confidence that the estimates are not biased (completion goal was 371 responses from 2,182 randomly selected residents)
- Limit of responses was increased limit to 546 as survey was opened for additional responses
- Of 589 responses, 546 responses will be randomly selected for analysis
- Presentation and report being prepared for beginning of January, formal presentation also requested

III. Poverty Simulation in Jefferson County

The Jefferson County Extension office facilitated a Poverty Simulation with Jefferson County Human Service staff on Wed. 11/16 at the County Fairgrounds Building. The program ran from 1-4 PM.

Overview:

- Approximately 60 Human Services staff participated.
- To run this large-scale educational event, 20 staffers from the community provided assistance in the experience serving in comparable roles and then highlighting their mission to help make connections

Evaluation Results:

- 39 evaluation responses collected
- Scale was 1-5 with 1 = No understanding, and 5 = Almost Complete Understanding
 - Pre/Post Simulation Participants' understanding of the difficult choices people with low resources need to make each month stretching limited income increased from 3.64 to 4.35
 - Pre/post Simulation Participants' average understanding of the difficulties in improving one's situation and becoming self-sufficient on a limited income increased from 3.51 to 4.38
 - Pre/post Simulation Participants' average understanding of the emotional stresses and frustrations created by having limited resources increased 3.51 to 4.48
 - Qualitative data/open-ended questions need additional analysis and discussion for application... initial findings showed:
 - Participants were empathetic and identified the stress, frustrations, struggles, barriers, challenges and reliance needed on partners/family/friends (good or bad) to address household needs.
 - Experience was reflected on in relation to the folks they work with.
 - Opportunities identified include financial literacy programming to have better financial outcomes; being more mindful of participants realities and responsiveness in meeting urgent needs; having a person or department to help direct people to resources for all departments; 'how' staff communicates to participants is just as important as 'what' they are communicating; addressing Early Childcare needs/gaps and transportation issues

Next Steps:

- Discussions to follow using evaluation data with Human Service leadership
- Requests were made for two additional Poverty Simulations in spring (Fort HealthCare Clinics and Human Services)
- Extension Specialists have been asked to help update the program
- Additional resources are being considered to assist with local requests

III. New Programming Concept:

To support an increase civic participation, a Local Government Academy program was successfully designed and implemented in cooperation with the City of Waukesha. This effort was designed to create a pipeline of new talent to become more involved with local government operations. Goals included increasing interest and candidates to serve on local boards, commissions and committees. Increase understandings of city operations to address misinformation; and to increase and bridge social and relational capital amongst residents, city leaders and partnering organizations.

This model is available to scale up or down depending on need/interests.

What communities would you recommend engaging this opportunity with? Is there a need at the County level to consider development of a Local Government Academy?

IV. Statewide Opportunities for Local Government Officials

We worked on an initiative to help inform Jefferson and surrounding counties with statewide Training Opportunities for Local Government Officials. This is also housed on the Waukesha Extension webpage. Current opportunities to promote/participate include:

a) The Public Management Profession and Environment (Date: December 13, 2022)

Being an effective public manager requires understanding the profession and the impact of a changing managerial environment. Step outside your daily duties to explore the history and characteristics of American public administration in this self-paced online course. Explore how the profession is changing, how your position is affected by trends outside the organization, and what issues you need to monitor in the coming year.

This course is part of the the Certified Public Manager® Eastern Wisconsin Colleague Group (CPM-East) being held at the UW-Madison Extension office in West Allis. For more information about the CPM-East, visit <https://localgovernment.extension.wisc.edu/cpm-east/>.

b) Productivity and Quality Improvement (Date: December 14, 2022)

Take a systematic approach to identify what's necessary to initiate and sustain organizational productivity and quality improvements. Through assessments and tools, examine current productivity and quality improvement efforts and then explore ways to improve systems, align activities, build processes designed for success, and create a culture that supports your efforts.

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c) Local Government Leadership Academy (Dates: January 12, 2023 - September 19, 2023)

Taking control of uncertainty and successfully steering through frequent bends in the road is the fundamental leadership challenge of our time. As catalysts for continuous improvement, leaders must realize that to build organizations which are simultaneously purpose-driven, performance-focused and principles-led is mission-critical. New circumstances require fresh solutions and that's what the Local Government Leadership Program is all about!

The academy runs from January through August and includes two 1-day workshops in Stevens Point, group virtual meetings, and self-paced learning activities. Expect about 2 hours/week of LGLA commitment, which includes attending sessions, self-study materials, and completing assignments.