Social Research &
Planning Council

A DIVISION of The United Way of Perth-Huron

Request for Proposal

For the preparation of a research report on
Newcomers in Perth and Huron Counties

Who we are & what we do:
The Social Research and Planning Council (SRPC) is made up of community representatives who are dedicated to the collection, analysis and distribution of information relating to social trends and issues in Perth and Huron County.   The intent of this research is to help residents, local government, social and human service agencies, and funding organizations to become educated on important social issues. The goal of this research will be to promote informed decisions on how the needs of those who are living in Perth and Huron County will be best served. As a Supported Partner of the United Way of Perth-Huron, the SRPC uses this research and information to address and support local community planning initiatives and to determine new avenues of research needed.

Reports:
The SRPC releases 1 or 2 reports annually. These reports contain statistical and anecdotal information, as well as, recommendations to address community issues. The reports also serve as a reference source for services relating to the particular issue at hand.

Previously Released Reports:
2015 – The Living Wage Report: What it takes to make ends meet in Perth and Huron Counties
2014 - The Heart of Community: A report on Volunteerism in Perth and Huron Counties
2013 – Opening the Door: A report on Violence Against Women in Perth and Huron Counties
2012 - Starting the Conversation: A Report on Substance Abuse and Problem Gambling in
        Perth and Huron Counties
2011 – The Road Ahead: A Study of Transportation Needs Across Huron and Perth County
2009 – Breaking the Silence: A Report on Elder Abuse in Perth County
2009 – Facing the Future: The Socio-Economic Impact of the Global Recession on Stratford, St. Marys
        and Perth County
2008 – It Affects Us All: A Report on Mental Illness in Perth County
2008 – Quality of Life in Perth County: A 2008 Profile Report

Project Description:
This report will investigate the Newcomer's experience in small and rural communities, specifically Perth and Huron Counties. As part of the investigation, this report will strive to reveal the barriers and obstacles New Comers face in Perth and Huron Counties, as well as determining what service gaps and employment barriers exist in this area.

Project goals and objectives:
Building on the existing preliminary data collection and an already developed report, The Newcomer Outreach and Needs Assessment (NONA), (made available upon request), the successful applicant will

continue to research the needs and barriers Newcomers face in Perth and Huron County.   The final determination of content will be discussed between sub-committee members and the successful applicant.

Objectives for final report:
1) *Review existing data and elaborate on:*
   Newcomer Perspective
   - Cultural and linguistic differences
     - Transfer of educational qualifications
     - Employment readiness
     - Health and emotional well being
   - Urban vs. rural experience
     - Reasons for migration
   - Integration
     - Newcomers
       - Degree of integration and factors influencing that cultural identity (how they maintain identity, importance of maintaining cultural identity)

2) *Investigate and Identify:*
   Community / Service Provider Perspective
   - Cultural and linguistic differences
     - Education needs
     - Employment suitability
     - Health care needs
   - Urban vs. rural experience
     - Reasons for migration to larger communities
   - Service gaps
   - Integration
     - Community (how they help newcomers integrate)
   - Work force diversity
     - inclusion efforts
     - specific employer barriers
     - professional bridging

   The Best practices already existing in other communities of similar size and population
   Create recommendations for next steps

Bid:
Funding for the project is provided by Social Research & Planning Council. The budget for this project will include all expenses (excluding printing costs) and HST. This proposed budget must include research, writing, travel costs, and basic word processing report layout costs and is not to exceed $20,000.

Requirements:
The successful applicant will demonstrate familiarity with and competency in: investigative research, collating and interpreting statistical data, formal and informal writing styles, knowledge of the community, and a demonstrated ability to deliver on the objectives of the project. They will also possess a demonstrated knowledge of Perth and Huron Counties, as well as, a solid understanding of both local and national statistical survey sources.

Deliverables:
1) A comprehensive report as outlined above provided in MS Word format
2) Two summary reports (1-2 pages), also in MS Word Format, presenting relevant information for
    a) Employers
    b) Community members

Time Line:

August 2016	RFP Released
September 2016	Successful Research Consultant Selected
October2016	Work Plan Approved and Project Start
Nov-Jan 2017	Data survey and analysis, rough draft created
Feb 2017	Final Report Due
Feb 2017	Summary Reports Due

Statement of Ethics:
The Social Research and Planning Council (SRPC) expect those who do research for the SRPC to act in an ethical manner. The principles of justice, concern for welfare, respect for persons, privacy, confidentiality, informed consent, and equity in research participation will be respected (as defined in the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans) (www.pre.ethics.gc.ca).

Application Procedure:
Please submit your CV, a preliminary work plan, two samples of similar work and the names of three references who can speak to your ability to complete this project to:

>   Social Research & Planning Council
>   The United Centre
>   32 Erie Street, Stratford Ontario
>   N5A 2M4
>   or email to: mokazaki@perthhuron.unitedway.ca

>   **by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 18th, 2016**

Contact:
Direct your inquiries to:
>   Tracy Birtch
>   Director, Social Research and Planning Council
>   tbirtch@socialresearchandplanning.ca
>   519-271-7730

Thank you for your interest. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.