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Community-Based Education Program



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Promotional Copy

Transportation Needs in Haliburton County

Organization Information

Rural Transportation Options is a volunteer-based working group of Environment Haliburton! A member of the EH! Board sits on RTO and acts as liaison to the board.

Project Information

The purpose of this project is to analyze survey data in order to learn more about the transportation needs and attitudes of residents. The information learned through the survey will inform a feasibility study on transportation options.

Benefit to the Community

The research findings will help RTO to understand the transportation needs and attitudes of residents. Lack of access to transportation is a serious problem for people with low and fixed incomes, youth and the elderly in the community. Access to transportation can help to address social isolation, which contributes to mental health issues as well as risk factors for other chronic diseases.

Through the consultation process lead by the Healthy Communities Partnership, transportation was identified as one of the key challenges to a healthier Haliburton County and a "very important" priority for action. While there are some transportation options available from social service agencies, these are not designed to meet all of the transportation needs throughout the County.

Reducing green house gas emissions and improving air quality is also a concern. Use of individual private vehicles for transportation is a large contributor to Haliburton County's carbon foot print.

Potential Learning for the Student

Employability/career development

This project will develop general employment skills such as; making sense of data, report writing. It will also be a hands-on experience that students can use on their resume for future employment.

Academic experience and pursuits

The project will provide an opportunity to assist in the development of a survey tool and sampling methods, as well as analyze data using SPSS or another appropriate software package.

The research project will involve providing RTO with feedback regarding survey design and sampling methods, and analyzing survey data using descriptive statistics and bivariate analysis to explain the results. The survey will be offered on-line and in hard copy and will be promoted widely by RTO throughout the County. Data will need to be entered from the hard copies into the on-line survey program. The raw data from the on-line survey can be downloaded into Excel.

Resources Required for Project Provided by Host

- Host:** - Designated members of RTO will be available to support student(s) via email and phone
- Long distance phone calls to check in periodically throughout the project
 - RTO will promote the survey widely through local media, and will disseminate and collect the hard copies

U-Links:

The cost of a rental vehicle **OR** reimbursement for fuel (student owned vehicle) to travel to and from Haliburton County for up to **four (4)** visits.

All costs for transportation beyond the four visits, including rental and fuel costs, as well as fuel costs for project related travel within the county are the responsibility of the host organization.

Skills that Would Be an Asset to the Student(s)

Survey design, statistical analysis, experience using SPSS or similar software