

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Social Science
School of Social Work
Flint Community Development Initiative

September 2018

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Background

The College of Social Science and individual units within the College, particularly the School of Social Work, have had longstanding commitments to community work with partners across the State of Michigan through Study Away, internships, outreach and extension, and community-university partnerships.

Since late Spring 2018, the School of Social Work has had a work group explore the usefulness to the Flint community of offering an experiential learning opportunity for upper undergraduate students as well as graduate students within the College of Social Science (13 departments and schools) and potentially to other students throughout the University. Our work group, which includes faculty and staff who are from the Flint community, completed background research during the Summer of 2018 and identified a potential opportunity of providing students with a course and internship focused on asset based community development (broadly defined). At this point, we have been contacting community organizations in Flint with whom we have worked in the past to explore this opportunity. If there is community interest in moving forward, this program could begin as early as Summer 2019.

Draft Program Description (for discussion)

10 week summer program (~May 14-July 20)

3 hour seminar/1 x week in Flint. Potential topics: History of Flint, community capital, assets and asset mapping, capable communities, role of connectors, systematic social observations, resident capability/gifts inventories, engagement strategies, neighborhood transformation, resident power and empowerment, community building, abundant communities.

30-32 hour workweek (9-5 internship placement, 4 days/week). Students would work with faculty and agency supervisors to develop and produce a deliverable that supports the work of community partners on community-identified issues, needs and/or projects. Agencies interested in having interns would develop a brief proposal outlining a prospective project.

Each Friday afternoon, students attend cultural, professional, recreational, or social event in Flint

Students will stay in U-M Flint student housing at no charge to the student

Program Coordinator would be a Flint-based position

Students receive a small stipend to help defray living, work, and transportation expenses