

Civic Engagement Focus Group Questions
(Select your area of interest and use the applicable questions)

Civic Knowledge (*Intersection between academic enhancement and civic learning*)

- What academic concepts become apparent during this experience?
- Were any academic concepts utilized to reach the goal you were trying to accomplish? Please describe.
- Please describe how you changed your approach after new information and experiences were presented to you?
- What do the differences between your textbook and your experience in the community suggest about changes that may be needed in the policies that affect the individuals your partner organization serves?
- How can you or others in the community use what you learned about the course material and are there any challenges associated with doing so?
- Did this experience differ from your initial expectations? Why or why not?
- How does your civic engagement experience and academic knowledge inform your understanding of systemic causes of the social, political, or civic issue on which you are focused?

Civic Skills (*Intersection between civic learning and personal growth*)

- What was the goal you were trying to accomplish?
- Were you able to effectively achieve your goal? Why or why not?
- Which skills did you bring to the experience that helped you meet your goal?
- Describe any new assumptions that required you to change your approach? Please describe.
- Discuss any new skills you acquired by having to work to achieve this goal?
- Was this an easy or a difficult task to undertake? Why?
- Did you recruit others to help accomplish your goals or raise awareness of the problem you are actively trying to address? Why and how? Or Why not?

Civic Values (*Intersection between personal growth and civic learning*)

- How did your strengths and weaknesses contribute to working towards the goal you were trying to accomplish? What were the positive and negative effects of these personal characteristics?
- What assumptions did you bring? And what new assumptions did you need to form as you undertook this process?
- Discuss how your assumptions about members of the community make your experience more or less successful when accomplishing your objectives?
- How do your personal values regarding civic engagement play a role in helping you to accomplish your goal? How and why? Or why not?
- What effect did you and this experience have on others?
- In evaluating the plan in light of its benefits and challenges, did you recognize any need for you to change personally? Please describe.

Civic Action

- How has this experience increase your sense of responsibility for acting on behalf of others?
- How has this experience have any influence on your future educational or career path?
- What personal knowledge and skills did you discover or acquire during this experience that will assist you in your future endeavors in this area?
- How has this experience inspire you to continue a commitment to serving others?
- What steps have you taken - or do you plan to take - to implement this plan of continued commitment?