Focused Community Strategies is seeking a Research & Consulting Associate for Congregational Partners. This is a yearlong Graduate Internship with The Lupton Center.

BACKGROUND

The Lupton Center is the training and consulting division of FCS | Focused Community Strategies, an Atlanta-based nonprofit that has been partnering with neighbors in the city for over 40 years. In that time FCS has developed principles, processes, and tools to help organizations create real change in under-resourced communities. It is the work of The Lupton Center to carry these frameworks forward by equipping other leaders and organizations to practice holistic neighborhood development in their communities.

FCS’s Lupton Center has recently been selected as one of the grantees for Lilly Endowment Inc.’s Thriving Congregations Initiative. This grant is an investment into The Lupton Center of one million dollars over the next five years (2021-2025) to expand our City Shapers program to 12 new cities.

City Shapers is a 24-month, place-based cohort of churches and organizations who are trained to use our Assess-Align-Activate process and tools to discover how to partner with their community in ways that lead to mutual thriving. It is The Lupton Center’s plan to leverage this unique investment as strategically as possible to ensure sustainability for ongoing scaling well after this 5 year grant term is complete.

INTERNSHIP GOALS

To this end The Lupton Center is searching for a graduate student intern to serve as a research and consulting associate. This intern will support the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of an assessment process that correlates the relationship of congregational health and vitality with the nature of their relationships, engagement, and impact on people experiencing poverty-related vulnerabilities in that congregation’s local community.

The primary goals for our Graduate Internship is to (1) support the Director of The Lupton Center throughout all stages of the congregational assessment process as needed, (2) come alongside pastors and lay leaders to survey, interview, and do research on our indicators of health and mission, (3) meticulously record, analyze, and write reports on ongoing findings of the City Shapers initiative.
SCOPE OF WORK

The Lupton Center has a broad range of needs, some of which may be resolved within a few months to a year and others that will continue throughout the course of the 5-year grant period. The highest concentration of work is expected to be within the first 24 months. We are accepting proposals from partners willing to take on one, some, or all of the needed services. We are open to short-term and long-term partners.

Services that are needed:

(1) Meeting summaries and analysis :: The LC Graduate Intern will attend various meetings and group presentations that relate to City Shapers and the research topic ensuring that all relevant information and data is recorded and analyzed in the context of other research projects.

(2) Surveying and interviewing :: The LC Graduate Intern will support the LC Director in scheduling and facilitating surveys and interviews with congregational partners as it relates to the City Shapers work. At times the Graduate Intern will lead in implementing surveys and conducting interviews.

(3) Presentations :: The LC Graduate Intern will make presentations to FCS team, Lilly partners, Lupton Center stakeholder, and City Shapers clients as it relates to research findings.

(4) Data collection, analysis, and reporting :: The LC Graduate Intern will support the LC Director in ensuring all data is being closely collected and monitored. Graduate Intern will also support the data analysis process and the creation of reports based on the analysis.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Lupton Center at FCS will consider submissions from individuals and companies with the following qualifications:

1. Proven expertise - A portfolio of experience that proves the necessary technical expertise to fulfill the above needs
2. Knowledge of FCS - An understanding of and support of the philosophy and frameworks of Focused Community Strategies
3. Familiarity with subject matter - A working understanding of the fields of community development, poverty alleviation, and faith-based engagement
**COMPENSATION**

The Lupton Center’s Graduate Intern will be compensated at $15/hr and will work between 5 and 15 hours a week. These paid hours are separate from any unpaid Continuing Education program hours a graduate student may be working on through their academic institution.

**APPLICATIONS**

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume by April 1st with work beginning May 1st. Submissions should be made to the Director of The Lupton Center, Shawn Duncan at shawn@fcsministries.org.