

OUR MISSION

To facilitate effective public policy decision-making among governmental and nonprofit entities.

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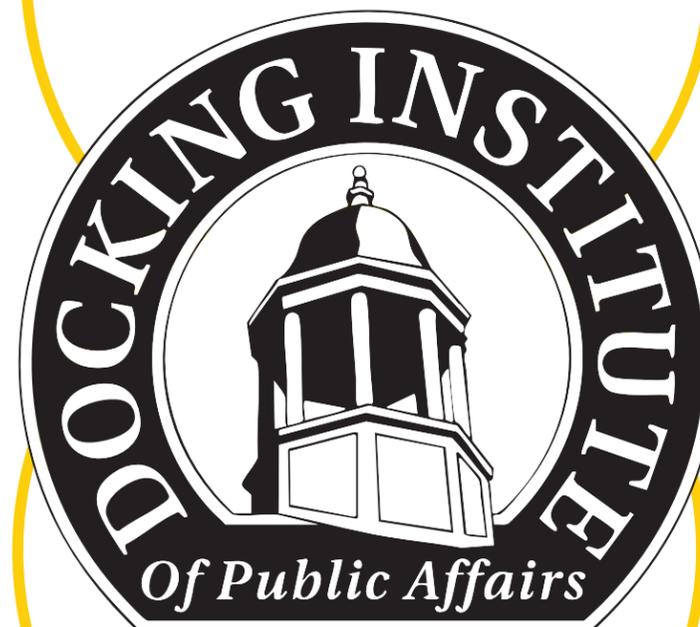
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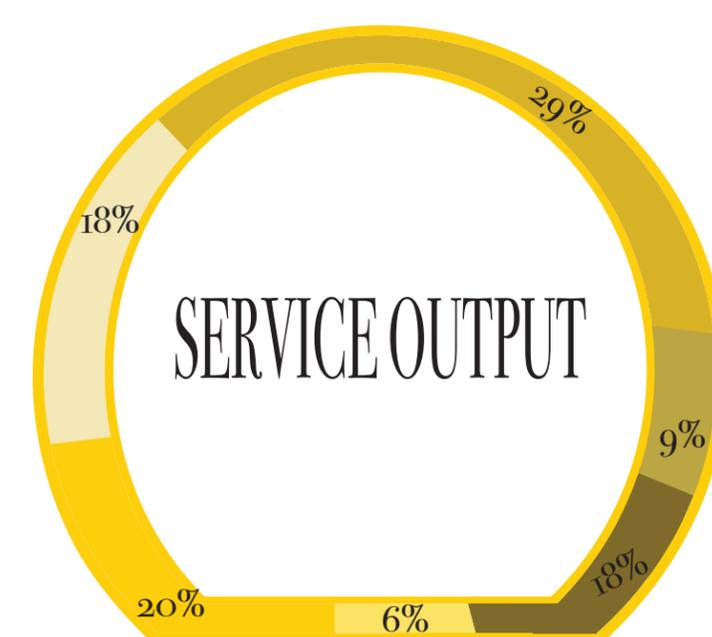


ANNUAL

2024

REPORT

Fort Hays State University



Program Evaluation	Strategic Planning
Survey Research	Public Affairs
Economic Impact	Housing Studies

DOCKING INSTITUTE STAFF



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Docking Institute of Public Affairs

We do this work because it is fun and meaningful to organizations and communities! We thrive on working with energetic, creative, and solution-oriented clients and bringing together the right team of enthusiastic, inventive, and results-oriented staff and fellows to make each project a success. While some projects share similarities, no two are exactly alike, which keeps things interesting. The Docking Institute team is here because we love the challenges and accomplishments that come with the job. Our goal is to equip clients with the information they need to make better decisions. We value collaboration and the process of getting it right for the client. We invite you to explore our 2024 Annual Report to review our projects and client partnerships. Visit our website to learn more about the activities that interest you, follow us on LinkedIn to see highlights from successful organization and community initiatives, and never hesitate to reach out for a conversation about how the Docking Institute can support your work.

MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF

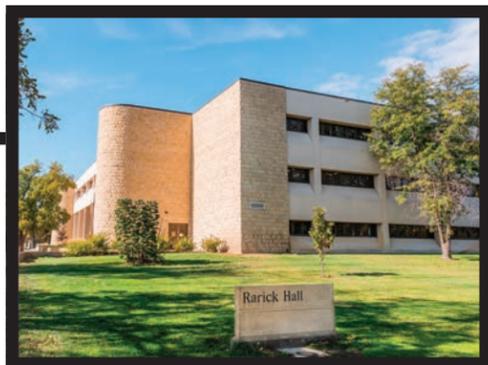
Survey Research

Survey & Focus Group Research

The Docking Institute provides professional survey design, data gathering, and data analysis services. Docking Institute researchers confer with clients to select the most appropriate survey methodology based on the client's needs, goals, and budget.

Available survey methods include telephone surveys (using a 10-station CATI system), online surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups.

- **Criminal Justice Program** - Fort Hays State University - Online survey consultation and focus group design, and observation
- **Center for Applied Research and Evaluation** - Wichita State University - Wichita, Kansas - Phone survey of Managed Care Organizations (MCO) in Kansas
- **Office of Civic Learning & Engagement** - Fort Hays State University - Survey and analysis in 2024, useful for preparing FHSU's application for the Carnegie elective classification in Community Engagement
- **Office of the President** - Fort Hays State University - Online survey of Hays area FHSU students
- **Office of the President** - Fort Hays State University - Strategic planning horizon priorities survey
- **Unified School District 294** - Oberlin, Kansas - Mail survey to measure voters' opinions about and levels of support for a prospective bond initiative
- **Robbins College of Business and Entrepreneurship** - Fort Hays State University - Online survey of BBA alumni who graduated five or more years ago
- **Cybersecurity Surveying** - Fort Hays State University - Mail survey of Kansas businesses and organizations with fewer than 300 employees on cybersecurity awareness, attitudes/perceptions, and behaviors
- **Kansas Small Business Development Center** - Topeka, Kansas - Online survey assessing client satisfaction with Kansas SBDC
- **Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health** - Topeka, Kansas - Telephone, mail, and online surveys to collect workforce data from primary care, mental health, and dental practice sites



Program Evaluation

Process & Outcome

Conducting an assessment of program implementation and program outcomes is indispensable for agencies to make informed decisions about the effectiveness of their programs.

Government and nonprofit organizations often need tangible documentation of a program's effectiveness to receive or maintain funding.

- **Northwest Kansas Technical College** - Goodland, Kansas - Evaluation of the "SEATSS - System for Early Alert, Tutoring, and Student Support" program
- **Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS)** - Fort Hays State University - Formative evaluation, including online surveys of KAMS students and parents and a focus group with students
- **Arizona Supreme Court** - Phoenix, Arizona - Multi-survey data processing and analysis for the Arizona Judicial Performance Review Program including survey protocol redesign and process improvement
- **College of Education** - Fort Hays State University - Third-party formative evaluations of three National Science Foundation grants, including online surveys, focus groups, interviews, collecting artifacts, and assessing program progress. Projects include:
 - Science Teachers for Rural America: A Post-Baccalaureate STEM Teacher Licensure Program to Prepare Teachers for Rural Places (NSF #DUE-2151122)
 - Recruiting, Preparing, and Retaining STEM Teachers (NSF #DUE-1758501)
 - Certified Rural Enhanced STEM Teachers (CREST) (NSF #DUE-2345151)

Strategic Planning

Environmental Scan, Goals, Objectives, & Strategies

Visionary leadership begins with a plan that strategically prioritizes scarce community or organizational resources. The Docking Institute has worked with more than 60 entities, including state agencies, school districts, educational institutions, libraries, museums, communities, economic development organizations, and chambers of commerce to conduct strategic planning. The Docking Institute customizes the strategic planning process to meet each organization's requirements.

- **Office of the President** - Fort Hays State University - University Town Hall Meeting
- **Office of the President** - Fort Hays State University - Economic Development Think Tank
- **College of Education** - Fort Hays State University - Strategic Planning

Public Affairs

Public Affairs & Grant Writing

Through public affairs programming, the Docking Institute provides critical resources for today's public leaders to plan for a successful future.

- **Kansas Speaks Survey** - The Docking Institute of Public Affairs - Fort Hays State University - Online survey of Kansans to assess opinions and attitudes about public policy, public affairs issues, and elected representatives
- **Arts & Memories Museum** - Riley, Kansas - Grants research and facilitation services for a proposal submission
- **Kansas County Treasurers Association** - Vetting and verification services for KCTA's training program
- **Kansas County Treasurers Association** - Annual maintenance of online course instruction related to the duties, responsibilities, and operations of a treasurer's office
- **Smoky Hills PBS Television Station** - Bunker Hill, Kansas - Moderating live call-in program "The Kansas Legislature" featuring Kansas Senators and Representatives discussing state issues during the legislative session
- **Local Election Forum** - Hays, Kansas - Collaborated with FHSU Student Government Association, American Democracy Project, and The Chamber in Hays to coordinate a local candidate debate for the Ellis County Clerk race

Housing Studies

Needs & Trends

Effective decision-making and planning are dependent upon valid and reliable information. Federal and state granting agencies require accurate survey/assessment data to authorize funding for projects vital to communities, cities, and counties of all sizes.

Businesses are increasingly looking at features such as housing quality, availability, and affordability for their workers when selecting new site locations. With up-to-date housing information, site selectors can accurately evaluate your community, city, and/or county as being acceptable for their labor force and, consequently, locate their operations in your area. With correct and accurate housing information, public officials can correctly determine housing needs and trends and can apply scarce public funds in an efficient and effective manner.

- **City of Little River** - Little River, Kansas - Housing needs analysis to document key characteristics of the housing stock in Little River, providing appropriate statistics of housing trends and comparative analyses to facilitate decisions/actions for promoting adequate housing in Little River
- **Edwards County Economic Development Corporation** - Kinsley, Kansas - Housing needs analysis to document key characteristics of the housing stock in Kinsley, providing appropriate statistics of housing trends and comparative analyses to facilitate decisions/actions for promoting adequate housing in Kinsley



Economic Impact

Economic Impact, Cost-Benefit, & Feasibility Analysis

Policy assessment often requires an economic impact analysis of existing and proposed activities or programs. Government agencies and nonprofit organizations can use economic impact assessments to determine the total monetary benefit of their activities in a local or regional economy.

Our researchers have analyzed the economic impact of manufacturers, service organizations, hospitals, correctional facilities, institutions of higher learning, business incubators, infrastructure upgrades, and other existing and potential programs and projects. Decision-makers often turn to a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) as a tool for understanding whether benefits exceed the costs of a program or project and determine if income streams will achieve sufficient thresholds.

- **K-State Salina** - Salina, Kansas - Economic impact study
- **High Plains Mental Health Center** - Hays, Kansas - Crisis Intervention Center operational feasibility study
- **Kansas Bankers Association and Community Bankers Association** - Topeka, Kansas - Replicate and update analyses entitled "How Public Funds Investment Policy Impacts the Kansas Economy: An Analysis and Adaptation of Previous Research"
- **Office of the President** - Fort Hays State University - FY24 FHSU economic impact study centered on the local 5-county area
- **Office of the President** - Fort Hays State University - Research brief on the absolute and relative affordability of Fort Hays State University tuition and fees
- **Salina Airport Authority/Salina Regional Airport** - Salina, Kansas - Economic impact analysis of the construction and operational phases of an airport hangar purposed for maintenance, repair, overhaul (MRO), and painting
- **City of Hays** - Hays, Kansas - Economic impact study of the Hays Regional Airport on the local and regional economy