

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING, PROPOSED APPROACH, AND METHODOLOGY

* For a full description of project activities please see the enclosed draft contract. Individual employees will be apprised of project activities through a series of project orientation sessions as well as personally during the time that they are interviewed for classification purposes.

* Condrey and Associates will conduct a salary survey specifically for this project. Approximately 25 organizations will be invited to participate in the survey. The salary data will be collected using a university-based online system. This system makes it easy for the target organizations to quickly and accurately input their salary and, if needed, benefit information. Each organization will be sent an email that explains the online salary system as well as access information. The team implementing the online salary survey is available to answer questions and provide support as needed. A sample of the web-based salary data collection system can be viewed at : <http://www.flsurveyresearch.org/demo/> using the access code: NJFRHP

* We will provide Lowndes County with three implementation plans showing the relative impact of differing funding levels on the compensation plan. This will provide the County with a degree of flexibility in implementing the project. Back-up data will provide individual employee salary calculations for placement in the new plan. Additionally, Condrey and Associates will discern the need for and, if necessary, detail the cost of any equity adjustment to ease employee pay compression.

* Three months following project implementation, Condrey and Associates will conduct an employee appeals process. The appeals process will provide employees an opportunity to provide written justification for appealing their classification. Condrey and Associates will reply to all appeals in writing and will conduct telephone or onsite reviews to ascertain the nature of the appeals. We normally have few (if any) classification appeals.

* Condrey and Associates utilizes a modified version of the Factor Evaluation System (FES). FES is the most widely utilized point-factor evaluation system and is the basis for most all other point-factor job evaluation systems. We have utilized FES in over 500 organizations of differing functions and degrees of administrative sophistication. We find that FES, when applied skillfully and properly, produces an internally equitable classification plan that is highly acceptable to management as well as the organization's employees. Training in FES application will be provided to Lowndes County human resources staff. Also, we provide a full year of follow-up technical assistance to include additional training to insure that the system is properly maintained. Please note that all FES data calculations are available in electronic format. Also, since FES is in the public domain, there are no copyright or royalty fees associated with its use.

* We will conduct extensive interviews or desk audits with full-time position incumbents (approximately 50% of Lowndes County's 565 employees). This will help assure an accurate and internally equitable classification plan that is accepted by management as well as the County's employees.