**LINC 4.2 Activity 2**

**Assessing Needs to Devise Family Engagement Strategies**

**Overview**

In order to establish effective family and school relationships, it is important to develop a sound understanding of the families and communities you, as school leaders, serve. Assessment plays a key role in providing data to help feed that understanding. A needs assessment is a tool to collect data about the needs in a school and community. This exercise is designed to provide you with practice in learning more about the needs of your families so that you may begin to better understand and serve them. By reviewing and adapting a sample needs assessment, you will be empowered to truly know your families and devise effective and meaningful engagement strategies.

**Review**

To begin this activity, review the Federation for Community School’s Community Needs Assessment publication provided under Activity 2 in LINC 4.2. This document will provide you with guidance and examples of how to develop a needs assessment, as well as ways to tailor it to your student population.

**Adapt**

Using this document as a guide, adapt the needs assessment tool to your school community by identifying the most pressing areas in which data would support your leadership work and tailoring the assessment accordingly.

**Collect Data**

Once you have adapted and tailored the needs assessment to your school, distribute it to key stakeholders (e.g. families, students, teachers, etc) and collect data. For the purposes of this activity, this does not need to be an exhaustive survey of the school; but rather a pilot to provide you with some initial feedback and guidance to build effective family relationships.

**Review and Devise**

Review your findings. Based on the data you collected, devise concrete family engagement strategies and practices that will help to nurture meaningful school-family relationships that reflect the true needs and interests of your school community.