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Somerville Commission for Women: 2012 Women’s Needs Survey

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### Somerville Commission for Women

- Created in March 1988 by City ordinance
- Focuses on programming aimed at anti-violence, financial literacy, empowerment, coalition building, and legislation relating to women
- Recognized by Massachusetts House of Representatives on its 10th anniversary for outstanding service in advocacy for women, opposition to domestic violence, and working for social justice.

### Somerville By the Numbers

- Total population: 75,754
- Females: 50.9%
- Women-owned businesses: 36.5%
- Foreign-born: 26.8%
- Language other than English spoken at home: 32.6%

### 2012 Women’s Needs Survey

- Follow-up to the Women’s Needs Survey conducted in 2005
- Seeks women’s input on various programs, services, education and policy issues
- Distribution strategy:
  - to parents through the public schools
  - via local public libraries
  - through local community organizations
  - through government agencies
- Electronic version on the City’s website
- Kick off event at the Women’s History Month Celebration held on March 21

### Next Steps

- Final report will be available in May 2012 and will compare the 2005 and 2012 survey results
- Report will be distributed to local government officials and other organizational stakeholders in Somerville
- Survey results will be shared with local policymakers to help set priorities
- Information from the survey will be used to help craft the SCW action agenda for the next several years

### Partnership with Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs

- Heather MacIndoe, PhD
  Assistant Professor and thesis supervisor
- Valerie Berger
  Public Affairs master’s degree candidate:
  Berger’s master’s thesis examines the use of needs assessments in local government policy decision-making

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