This resource presents a general overview and introduction to the Community and Economic Development program of Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.
Community and Economic Development (CED) is one of four program areas within ISU Extension and Outreach. It is connected to the ISU College of Design. The other programs are Agriculture and Natural Resources, Human Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development. Each program aligns with a different college at Iowa State University.
“Why is the CED program important to ISU Extension and Outreach and to the people of Iowa?”

Communities are the places where we live, work, and play. They are complex systems influenced by demographics, housing characteristics, leadership, drivers of the local economy, and the built environment. ISU Extension CED plays an important role in providing research-based information and resources to sustain those communities into the future. ISU Extension CED people and programs work with communities—aligning all efforts with the goals of maximizing diversity and inclusivity.
In CED, we are organized into knowledge teams based on the expertise we have in our unit and the expertise that comes from collaborating with other Iowa State University partners.
In CED, we work toward a strong Iowa through our programs, processes, and projects.
CED specialists work with local governments, regional and state agencies, community organizations, and others to deliver programming in our areas of expertise. These individually tailored programs may include research, education, and/or community engagement.

Programs
We offer capacity-building, curriculum-based learning opportunities. Examples include:
- Municipal Professionals Institute and Academy
- Rural Housing Readiness Assessment
- Leading Communities
- Planning and Zoning Workshops
- Grant Writing 101
- GIS short courses

Processes
We offer critical community development tools to foster more creative and robust local decision making. Some examples are:
- Strategic planning
- Facilitation
- Data collection and analysis
- Data mapping

Projects
We partner to address client-identified needs and opportunities. Recent examples include:
- Northeast Iowa Business Network
- Early Childhood Iowa Needs Assessment
- Cedar Rapids Gateways for Growth
- Data Science for the Public Good
CED knowledge teams have both campus- and field-based specialists across the state. All team members are responsible for state wide programming (they are not assigned to work exclusively in specific regions); however, each serves as a point of contact for regional and county directors who are interested in linking to CED people and programs.

Want to know how to contact CED? Go to our website to find our CED staff members (http://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/people).
We work with a broad array of constituents and partners. These are a few examples.

- Nonprofit organizations with interests in community and economic development
- City and county chamber of commerce organizations
- City and county economic development agencies
- City and county governments
- Public utility companies
- Local and state foundations
- State and regional agencies, such as IEDA, IFA, DNR, DPH, DHR, and others
- Federal agencies such as EPA, HUD, USDA, and others

Where?

“Where can you find information about CED on the ISU Extension and Outreach website?”

For more specific information about CED, find the “Educational Areas” tab on the Extension and Outreach homepage (www.extension.iastate.edu) and navigate to Community and Economic Development. This page gives a brief overview of the resources available from CED.
Want to learn more?

Take a look at Community Matters Now, our bimonthly newsletter. You can find it online at https://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/newsletter. If you want to subscribe to our newsletter, contact Sandra Oberbroeckling at soberbr@iastate.edu.

You can also connect with us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/ISUExtensionCED and Twitter at @ISUExtensionCED. Find us on Linked In at https://www.linkedin.com/company/isu-extension-ced/

Contact Us
2321 North Loop Drive, Suite 121
Ames, IA 50010-8664
Phone: 515-294-8397

Gary Taylor, Program Director
gtaylor@iastate.edu
515-290-0214

Himar Hernández, Assistant Program Director
himarh@iastate.edu
641-799-6681

Jon Wolseth, Assistant Program Director
jwolseth@iastate.edu
515-509-0558

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.