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.
Communities are the places where we live, work, and play. 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—to focus on the following five critical issues:

- Housing
- Demographics
- Civic Engagement and Leadership Capacity
- Built Environment
- Local Economies

Why?

Why is a CED program important to ISU Extension and Outreach and to the people of Iowa?
In CED, we are organized into six knowledge teams based on the expertise we have in our unit:

- **Team for Promoting Equity, Inclusion, and Respect in Communities**
- **Art and Design Applications Team**
- **Local Economies Team**
- **Local Governments and Nonprofits Team**
- **Civic Engagement and Leadership Team**
- **Data and Technology Team**
In CED, we work toward a strong Iowa through our programs, processes, and projects.

**Programs**
We offer capacity-building, curriculum-based learning opportunities. Examples include:
- Leading Communities
- Municipal Professionals Institute and Academy
- Road Scholar®
- Navigating Difference©
- Planning and Zoning Workshops

**Processes**
We offer critical community development tools to foster more creative and robust local decision making. Some examples:
- Strategic Planning
- Facilitation
- Community design thinking
- Mapping and data collection

**Projects**
We partner to address client-identified needs and opportunities. Recent examples include:
- Perry and Waukee housing needs assessment studies
- Dubuque Central Avenue Corridor study
- Community food systems studies
- Retail business assistance
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) or go directly to the appropriate knowledge team (http://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/what-we-do).
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
- Federal agencies such as EPA, HUD, USDA, and others

Where?

For more specific information about CED, find the “Educational Areas” tab 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, our quarterly newsletter. You can find it online at https://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/newsletter. If you want to subscribe to our newsletter, contact Sandy Oberbroeckling at soberbr@iastate.edu.

You can also connect with us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/ISU.Extension.CED and Twitter at @ISUExtensionCED.

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