

## Why is Leading Communities a fundamental tool for your community?

Community leadership is a social process that relies on local interaction and collaboration. Leading Communities is unique in that it emphasizes the development of social relationships, social capital, shared understandings, and collaborative efforts. Iowa State University research has shown how these community characteristics are critical for economic development and quality of life in Iowa communities.

For More Information, Contact:

Deborah Tootle, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and  
Extension Specialist  
Community and Regional  
Planning  
Iowa State University  
[dmtootle@iastate.edu](mailto:dmtootle@iastate.edu)

# Leading Communities

A PLACE-BASED  
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach  
Community and Economic Development

## Why community leadership?

Iowa communities are facing increasing challenges. At the same time, community engagement and local involvement in community matters have been declining throughout Iowa. After participating in Leading Communities, community members will become more involved in the community and can effectively plan, develop, and implement local community action.

## Leading Communities is:

- A unique, research and place-based community development program created by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and University of Wisconsin-Extension partners.
- Highly interactive. Participants learn by doing.
- Inclusive. There are no prerequisites for participating. In fact, the more diverse the participants, the more effective the program.

## Leading Communities covers six key competencies for promoting community leadership and engagement:

- Understanding your community
- Identifying local issues and opportunities
- Making community decisions
- Building social capital for community development
- Working together effectively
- Making it happen—mobilizing resources for community action

## How does Leading Communities work?

- Contact us.
- We work with you to start the process of organizing a Leading Communities program in your area.
- Leading Communities will be delivered in your community by ISU Extension and Outreach community and economic development specialists.
- Training will be based on a combination of interactive discussion and group learning activities.
- Training typically takes place over a six-month period, with one two-to-three-hour training session a month.
- We encourage communities to include class projects in the training.

... and justice for all

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