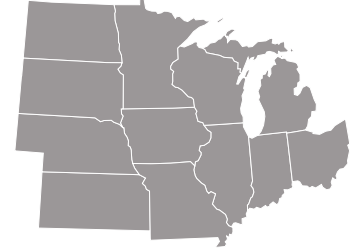


Community Development Extension 2022 Executive Summary

University Extension leaders from the twelve North Central 1862 Land-Grant universities developed common indicators for reporting the impacts of community and economic development educational programs. Each state reported on their program's outcomes to contribute to this report.

North Central Region

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin



Number of Community Development Extension **PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

549,488*

TOTAL

** 12 of 12 states reporting*

71,950*

BIPOC

** 10 of 12 states reporting*



\$57.1 MILLION*

Dollar value of **GRANTS & RESOURCES** generated by communities

** 10 of 12 states reporting*

Number of **VOLUNTEER HOURS** for community generated work



145,664*

** 12 of 12 states reporting*

DOLLAR VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS leveraged to deliver programs

\$948,941*

** 8 of 12 states reporting*



Dollar value of **RESOURCES LEVERAGED BY BUSINESSES**

\$34.3 MILLION*

** 7 of 12 states reporting*

1,257*

Number of participants reporting **NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES and OPPORTUNITIES UNDERTAKEN**



** 11 of 12 states reporting*

Number of community or organizational **PLANS / POLICIES DEVELOPED**

1,727*



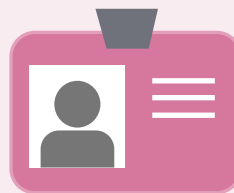
** 12 of 12 states reporting*

Number of **JOBS RETAINED**

Existing jobs that were **at risk**, protected by programs

3,125*

** 7 of 12 states reporting*



Number of **BUSINESS PLANS DEVELOPED**

275*

** 10 of 12 states reporting*

Number of **BUSINESSES CREATED**

410*

** 6 of 12 states reporting*

2022 Impact Briefs

Environmentally Sustainable and Just Communities ■**Illinois Extension**
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois Extension's Community and Economic Development (CED) Team led projects that help communities design and implement environmentally sustainable and just strategies. To achieve clean water and energy goals, communities and regions must include diverse views, and consider the equity of impacts and solutions. CED partnered with the North Central Regional Water Network to host the *Climate Intersections Conference*, which focused on climate justice. The team also facilitated the *Green Infrastructure Community of Practice*, focusing on climate adaptation and equity, and led the creation of a biodiversity plan to connect the University of Illinois to the community to maximize ecosystem services. [Learn more](#)

Work Ready Program ■**PURDUE UNIVERSITY** | Extension

Purdue Extension implemented the *Work Ready* program to prepare teens and adults for work. The curriculum provides instruction on goal setting, responsibility, accountability, interviewing skills, money management, time management, dressing for success, developing cover letters and resumes, marketable skills, potential career opportunities, and responsible social media usage. *Work Ready* is provided for high school students in schools and for adults via community programs/organizations (learning centers, Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), and shelters for the homeless, for victims of violence and abuse, etc.) Across Indiana, there were 91 *Work Ready* sessions delivered to 927 youth and 70 adults. [Learn more](#)

Iowa Municipal Professionals Institute and Iowa Municipal Professionals Academy ■**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Extension and Outreach

The *Iowa Municipal Professionals Institute* (the *Institute*) and the *Iowa Municipal Professionals Academy* (the *Academy*) are an adult educational offering provided by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach in cooperation with the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association (IMFOA) to offer instructional sessions in a variety of educational topics to assist municipal professionals in their day-to-day duties. The *Institute* and *Academy* are the educational component to receive certification by IMFOA for municipal clerks and finance officers. Forty-three percent (43%) of attendees received a salary increase after being awarded a Clerk or Finance Officer Certification. [Learn more](#)

Kansas Community Empowerment (formerly Kansas PRIDE) ■**K-STATE**
Research and Extension

K-State Research and Extension's Kansas PRIDE program was rebranded as *Kansas Community Empowerment* in January 2023 to more accurately reflect the work that Extension does for the program partnership. In participation numbers not seen since the 1990s, 82 communities enrolled, completing 1,157 projects (401 youth-related), sustained 647 partnerships, contributed 83,875 volunteer hours (worth \$2,253,722 based on the Independent Sector calculations for the value of volunteer time in Kansas), and raised nearly \$923,000 to reinvest back into their communities for local community projects. Kansas Community Empowerment staff provides grant searches for communities related to projects of interest and coaching for program grants. [Learn more](#) (video)

New Commissioner School Equips Community Leaders to Successfully Lead Their County Governments ■**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | Extension

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension *New Commissioner School* provides a strong foundation of knowledge on important issues like budgets, county structure, and meetings, to help both new and experienced county commissioners and their staff understand their roles and responsibilities as leaders in their county. In 2022, the *New Commissioner School* was offered as a hybrid program, with both asynchronous online learning and an in-person workshop. A total of 257 people participated in *New Commissioner School*: 70% were newly elected commissioners, 12% were experienced commissioners, and 9% county administrators or other administrative officers. [Learn more](#)

Five-city Cohort Promotes Inclusive Participation in Sustainability Work ■

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Despite a growing awareness of the disproportionate impact of climate change and other environmental harms felt by Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), equity issues are frequently deprioritized within environmental sustainability work. In southeast Minnesota, staff from five municipalities partnered with University of Minnesota Extension to foster and promote inclusive community engagement in their sustainability work. As a result of this program, Faribault has taken steps to promote energy efficiency in manufactured home communities, Rochester has engaged the Somali community to learn more about their preferences for park use and planning, and Northfield has addressed equity concerns in public transportation. [Learn more](#)

For more impact stories see the full 2022 Impact Report at <https://ncrcrd.ag.purdue.edu/>

North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
403 West State Street, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907

Color Coding: Recognizing the thematic areas of NCRCD's mission.

- Creating Resilient Communities & Economies
- Developing Leadership & Civic Engagement
- Promoting Community Health & Wellness

2022 Impact Briefs

**Missouri Community L.A.B.
(Learn, Act, Build)** ■

Missouri Community L.A.B. (*Learn, Act, Build*) pulls together community development trainings around the state to a single, organized platform that aims to increase participation in the community-building process by educating and supporting all in the quest to build strong, whole communities. This platform serves as a hub for residents and professionals to easily access and participate in high quality courses to build their community. A total of 175 courses were featured on *L.A.B.* from 48 local and national organizations. In 2022, MU Extension's Creating Whole Communities developed an independent website (www.mocommunitylab.com) to reflect branding of all partners involved and include features and functions to optimize user experience. [Learn more](#)

**Cooperative Business Model
Re-Emerging as Opportunity for Rural
Nebraska Business Development** ■

A grocery store keeps small rural communities alive by supporting the economy, preserving community character, and providing food access. It is about quality of life. Restoring this quality-of-life was a driver behind the establishment of Valley Foods Cooperative in Lynch, Nebraska. Two years after the grocery store closed, residents began to explore reopening the store as a cooperative. With technical assistance from Extension's Nebraska Cooperative Development Center and Rural Prosperity Nebraska, the cooperative opened in early 2022. "It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a community to raise a grocery store," shared Janie Fisher, Valley Foods Cooperative board member. [Learn more](#)

**Building Local Leadership through Lead Local** ■

By attending *Lead Local*, participants report a 23 percent increase in understanding the responsibilities of a board, council, or committee member. Over 20 percent of participants report an increase in their ability to develop a meeting agenda and make a motion during a meeting, and 28 percent are more prepared to use parliamentary procedure to run a meeting. Participants report a 24 percent change in their ability to model effective ways to deal with group conflict, and 34 percent have a greater understanding of how to work well with others. Participants are 15 percent more likely to recognize their strengths and weakness and 17 percent more likely to feel prepared to serve in a leadership role after completing *Lead Local*. [Learn more](#)

**CED Programs Grow Urban Agriculture** ■

Central State University Extension's (CSUE) 3-person Community & Economic Development (CED) team actively advanced urban agriculture initiatives in 2022 through its innovative programs like *CED Office Hour Live!*, *CED Office Half-Hour*, and *Ready, Set, Grow! Agribusiness*. These programs provided critical training, resources, and support to urban farmers and gardeners across Ohio's cities. For example, *CED Office Hour Live!* featured a BIPOC urban agriculture series in its weekly online sessions that reached 3,411 people, while *Ready, Set, Grow! Agribusiness* offered entrepreneurship readiness training to over 50 beginning urban farmers (90% of which were BIPOC).

**Lake Erie Awareness Day** ■

Lake Erie is Ohio's greatest freshwater resource providing drinking water to over 13 million people. With anthropogenic impacts increasing in magnitude, Lake Erie is currently facing a water quality crisis. Aquatic invasive species, nutrient runoff, plastic pollution, and loss of coastal wetlands are some of the problems plaguing our great lake. Visitors to and residents of Ohio need to be informed of these issues and provided with simple solutions to encourage pro-environmental behaviors. A *Lake Erie Awareness Day* was held on South Bass Island and educated over 1,000 people about the importance of Lake Erie. Many participants stated that the event was highly informative. The event has received funding from the Center for Great Lakes Literacy to be held annually. [Learn more](#)

**Building Highly Effective Boards** ■

SDSU Extension Community Vitality staff completed their basic board development series during the Pandemic, called *Building Highly Effective Boards*. The series includes six modules on topics from Fundamentals of Board Membership to Fundraising, Group Dynamics, and Recruiting & Retaining Board Members. The two-hour sessions are designed to give boards the ability to choose among the topics and combine with other boards in the region to access training. Since 2021 staff have facilitated over twelve diverse boards teaching one or more of the modules. Group comments have been excellent, and an evaluator is now developing surveys to go with each module. One participant said, "In a small town we all serve on several boards. This opportunity to invite two local boards to one high quality training saved time and money." [Learn more](#)

**Addressing the Challenges of Broadband Access** ■

Wisconsin Extension has made a concerted effort across the state to address the challenges and limitations associated with broadband access, aiming to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable opportunities for all residents. Efforts over 2022 have led to strengthening partnerships with local, regional, and state partners that will help increase broadband deployment across the state by supporting broadband education, helping identify barriers and challenges to broadband access, providing technical assistance for planning and implementation, and increasing digital equity. A prime example is Extension's work with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and WEDC's Office of Rural Prosperity which involved a thorough assessment of broadband infrastructure, planning, and digital equity across all 72 counties and 11 Federally recognized tribes. [Learn more](#)

