

New ways of doing business and changing lifestyle preferences have created many opportunities and challenges for Illinois communities. The Growing Communities Initiative simplifies the route to community growth by providing the tools you need - all in one place. With no annual fees to participate and select services at fixed costs or free of charge, all communities can benefit.



**GIVING COMMUNITIES**  
**EASIER**  
**ACCESS**

## HOW CAN GCI HELP?

GCI offers communities access to data, innovative practices, continuing education, and expertise at an affordable cost, enabling them to evaluate and act on economic opportunities. A selection of fixed price and free services are listed below.



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Webinars, workshops, and presentations at events across the state.



### COMMUNITY DATA PACKAGES

Data sets answer questions developers, business owners, municipal officials, and grant making agencies often ask.



### SURVEYS

Select from survey templates on various topics. CGS staff will manage the survey and tabulate results.



### RESEARCH ON DEMAND

Request research by CGS staff on specific issues including internet searches, professional contacts, or other avenues.



### GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

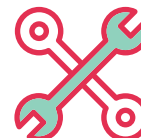
Coordinate grant applications addressing issues and potential projects of interest to one or more communities.



### NEWSLETTER

Information on innovative approaches to growing communities, grants and funding opportunities, best practices, tools, and articles

*NO COST SERVICE*



### ONLINE TOOLBOX

An expanded version of the current online toolbox located on our website.

*NO COST SERVICE*

# SPECIALIZED SERVICES

GCI also offers services designed specifically for your community. Request a quote for these services and get help tailored to meet your community's unique needs and goals.



## SITE VISITS

On-site advisory visits to discuss current conditions, proposed projects and general strategies for growth.



## SPECIAL SURVEYS

Surveys on specialized topics beyond the set cost templates.



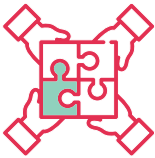
## INTERNS

Identifying NIU students interested in internships in or near their home communities.



## ON-SITE EXPERTISE

Attendance at business, municipal, and public meetings to explain data, surveys, and other research in support of local initiatives.



## PLANNING & COMMUNITY INPUT

Guidance in visioning, strategic planning, implementation approaches, focus groups, and meeting facilitation.



## HOUSING DATABASES & MARKET ANALYSES

Construct a detailed local housing data set, market analyses and strategy development.



## RETAIL MARKET ANALYSES

Evaluate supply, demand, and competitive position for specific projects, broad development types, or targeted buildings/sites.



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Identify target businesses and prepare information addressing questions posed by potential business owners and investors.



## BROADBAND & SMART CITIES

Evaluate options for developing technology assets that often go hand in hand with economic growth.



## RECREATION, ARTS & HERITAGE PLANNING

Evaluate potential economic growth from outdoor recreation resources and arts/heritage assets.

LET'S DO THIS.

# WHAT'S NEXT?

### TELL US WHAT YOU NEED

What services would you like to see for your community?  
Are you working on a project and need additional support?  
Let us know! We're here to help.

### STAY IN THE LOOP

Would you like to keep up to date with what's coming next?  
Send us an email to subscribe to our newsletter.

Email us at [mevans@niu.edu](mailto:mevans@niu.edu) or [nwalzer@niu.edu](mailto:nwalzer@niu.edu).

