LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
Organizations and communities need qualified board and commission members who know their community and understand external forces that affect the community. Research indicates that building leadership capacity among community leaders and elected officials is critical to community viability and sustainability. Programs include:

- Leadership Development
  Includes multi-session leadership academies, community-based programs, and workshops targeted to community and organizational leaders.
- eLearning Modules
  Self-directed online learning modules designed for Extension staff and nonprofit managers who want to improve their skills in project management.
- Age Matters
  Helps managers and directors develop effective communication and management strategies which reflect generational preferences and values.
- Connecting Generations
  Pairs middle school and high school students with adults who wish to learn computer and internet basics, and enables students to serve their communities.
- Real Colors
  Introduces different communications styles and ways of processing information. For individuals and groups such as school staffs, businesses, government offices, and community organizations.
- Poverty Simulation
  Addresses the challenges of living with limited resources and an abundance of stress. The role play is a powerful way to convey real world obstacles to securing food and shelter.
- Programs for Local Government
  Includes a candidate academy to help prospective candidates learn about serving in office, and webinars and workshops designed to strengthen the skills and leadership capacity of elected and appointed officials.

BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES
Business owners, entrepreneurs, and managers learn how to adapt to the rapidly changing business climate, respond to customer needs, and target emerging opportunities. These programs also help local officials, educators, economic development directors, chambers of commerce, and financial institutions understand economic development strategies and policies that support entrepreneurs and business development. See the blog, Building Entrepreneurial Communities. Programs include:

- Developing Resilient Downtowns
  Provides a variety of learning experiences which inform successful downtown business development initiatives, and creates learning partnerships with public and private organizations.
- Small Business Education
  Helps business owners and managers identify and use new tools, technologies and strategies to improve business performance.
- Downtown Business and Market Analysis
  Designed to help local business leaders, entrepreneurs, developers, and economic development professionals understand the changing marketplace and identify realistic business opportunities.
- International Trade for Business Development
  Gathers experts from state and federal agencies to teach business owners and managers about the international trade process. Business owners prepare to compete worldwide to benefit the local economy.

COMMUNITY PLANNING
Extension programs help community members take charge by analyzing and addressing quality of life and infrastructure issues. Research indicates that planning is more effective when all sectors of the community are included, and decision making is inclusive and broad-based. Programs include:

- Community Matters
  Community members work with University of Illinois faculty and students to address local and regional issues and design a plan that fits locally defined objectives.
- Customized Planning Processes
  From planning for non-profits to multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation, Extension helps organizations, municipalities, and groups engage in participatory planning using best practices of community engagement and planning.
- Community Survey
  Guides community members as they design and implement a survey to assess the community and/or organization.
- Community SWAP
  Creates a structure for reciprocal visits between matched communities to identify high priority development initiatives and increase community involvement.
- Local Food Systems
  Planning includes linking to campus research, conducting surveys, assessing economic opportunities, and defining approaches to local food initiatives.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Small business and entrepreneurship are increasingly important drivers of the state’s economy. But graduates of high school, technical programs, and college are often not prepared for employment. Extension programs in workforce development help bridge the gap between how potential employees are prepared and what employers expect. Workforce development programs include: Consumer Savvy, Be the “E” Entrepreneurship, Grab and Go Lessons, Welcome to the Real World, Skills to Pay the Bills, and Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Development.

For more information, visit: go.illinois.edu/CEDProgramAreas