



Community Development Program Update



Extension Community Development Educator Barbara Alvarez **responds to requests for assistance from local municipalities, communities and organizations** who want to enhance local decision-making and respond to new challenges and opportunities. Programs are designed and delivered to meet these locally identified needs.

Needs Assessment

- Reached out to all 28 Municipalities. Conducted 11 one-on-one meetings with local governments.
- Met with 41 nonprofits, small businesses, and community organizations to determine needs in the community and outreach program topics

Outcomes:

- Responded to 14 zoning related questions from Towns and Villages.
- Responded to 4 Comprehensive Plan related questions from Towns and Villages.
- Working to develop a zoning informative program in Sheboygan
- Learning needs of Town Clerks on Comprehensive Planning.
- Invited to join several area coalitions, including Housing Coalition, Child Care Action Team, Sheboygan Outreach Collective, a recovery steering committee, Positive Mental Health Action Team, and Responsible Substance Use Action Team
- Delivered training to a local non-profit that requested a training on inclusive workplaces for their staff.
- Assisted a local business improvement district with their annual survey to organizational members
 - Provided education on how to develop an effective survey and co-designed a survey for distribution.
- Invited to help facilitate a strategic plan for a local non-profit
- In collaborations with Extension's Human Development and Relationship Educator designed Qualtrics survey for a local nonprofit regarding their community needs

- Secured 7 Sheboygan County nonprofit leaders to participate in the monthly Nonprofit Network Conversations in coordination with UW-Extension Brown County
- Provided support to 13 community organizations/nonprofits/small businesses about information, partnerships, and resources to aid their organizations and clients
- Started two e-newsletters, as part of a communications plan to stay connected with local government, nonprofits, small businesses, and community organizations.
- Participated in local and state-wide initiatives that impact Sheboygan County

Future Projects

- Continue to work with local community groups and municipalities to provide resources, outreach, and programming related to their needs
 - Continue strategic planning initiative
 - Continue nonprofit surveys
 - Develop and provide board training
 - Develop and provide information to communities about ordinances, zoning, and comprehensive planning.
- Meet with the remainder of municipalities through one-on-one appointments to find out about their unique needs and how they can be supported through the Extension.
- Continue develop and distribute the Community Conversations Newsletter and the Local Government Newsletter to community members, partners, and stakeholders that sign up to receive the newsletter. Interested in reading past newsletters or receiving either newsletter? Both can be accomplished on this webpage [Community Development Newsletters – Extension Sheboygan County](https://sheboygan.extension.wisc.edu/growth-management/)