Mission - Ohio State University Extension Community Development helps communities enhance their well-being.

Vision - Ohio State University Extension Community Development is a leader in community development education and conducting business retention and expansion surveys for Ohio communities. His research also addresses economic development tools that can be utilized by cities, villages, and townships that can strengthen the financial impact of economic development projects. Prior to his work with Extension, Civittolo was employed as a village manager for numerous communities in Ohio.

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Community Development areas of focus:
1. Economic Development
2. Leadership Development
3. Organizational Capacity Building
4. Community Planning

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Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership.

For Deaf and Hard of Hearing, please contact Ohio State University Extension using your preferred communication (e-mail, relay services, or video relay services). Phone 1-800-750-0750 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST Monday through Friday. Inform the operator to dial 614-292-6181.
What is an Extension Field Specialist?

Extension Field Specialists work collaboratively with a team of OSU Extension professionals as well as with cross-disciplinary departments and colleges. The faculty member functions as a consultant with clientele to address statewide issues as expertise is needed; provides unbiased research-based alternatives; evaluates and responds to large scale statewide needs vs. individual requests; and secures resources (grants, contracts, user fees) to focus on these issues.

Community Development Field Specialist Areas of Specialization

1. Economic Development
2. Sustainable Communities/Regions
3. Land Use
4. Energy Development

Programmatic Focus within Areas of Specialization

Economic Development
- Business Retention & Expansion – Traditional business applications, but also expanded applications for downtowns, disaster affected businesses, targeted industries, youth development, or as an economic gardening tool.
- Entrepreneurship – Support services, including incubation and financing tools for small business; development of a local/regional system that encourages entrepreneurship.
- Strategic Planning for Economic Development Organizations with the goal of having an economic impact analysis – Measuring the impact of specific projects, industries or programs for communities.
- Conduct Workforce Development surveys for all business sectors.

Sustainable Communities/Regions
- Role of Extension and higher education in economic development - Extension-led economic development organizations, workforce and small business development, and business attraction.
- Regionalism – Workforce development and site development for rural areas -strategies that can be employed to increase investment opportunities.

Land Use
- Conduct workshops on land use tools such as zoning regulations, comprehensive land use planning, and subdivision regulations.
- Conduct workshops on Intergovernmental relations and assist local communities with application guidelines for the new Local Government Innovation Fund.
- Conduct Comprehensive Land Use Plans for townships.

Energy Development
- Renewable Energy - Conduct workshops focusing on utility scale renewable energy (solar, wind, and bioenergy) as a rural economic development strategy.
- Renewable Energy Policy – Deliver workshop on renewable energy policy drivers, analyze potential impact from specific projects, and conduct local surveys to measure the level of community support for renewable energy technologies.
- Energy Efficiency – Facilitate educational workshops teaching participants on specific strategies that can be employed to increase energy reduction and saving opportunities.