

Community Profiles

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What is a Community Profile?

- A collection of information that provides a composite picture of a community.
- Sample Components:
 - Geography
 - Government
 - Demography
 - Economy
 - Socio-economic advantages (disadvantages)
 - Social/community services

Illinois Community Profiles

- Available on the web at:
http://www.commerce.state.il.us/dceo/Bureaus/Community_Development/CommProfiles/ and
<https://secure.locationone.com/lois/community/search.do>.
- Not available for all Illinois communities.
- Web version and PDF (do not contain the same information).

Community Profile Contents

- Most community profiles developed or hosted by state economic development agencies.
- Contents of profiles differ from state to state.
- Ideally, the profile should be a snapshot, not a book.
- Well-organized, easy to find information.

Rural Community Profiles

- Lorna Aldrich & Lorin Kusmin, 1997. *Rural Economic Development: What makes rural communities grow?* USDA Agriculture Information Bulletin no. 737.
- Factors cited:
 - Demographic
 - Labor market
 - Education
 - Local taxes & expenditures
 - Transportation
 - Business & Banking Structure
 - Amenities
 - Nearby metropolitan areas
 - Economic base

Contents

- General Information.
- Community Facilities.
- Government & Government Services.
- Statistics (Demographics).
- Business Information.
- Transportation & Infrastructure.

General Information

- History (when incorporated).
- Location (describe major highways & distance to nearby major metropolitan areas).
- Map (a picture is worth a thousand words).
- Climate (frozen chosen or broiling toiling).
- Principal economic activities.
- Local economic development organization.

Community Facilities

- Education (elementary, secondary, school test scores, cost per student).
- Post-secondary education (community college, technical school, university, other training schools).
- Banking & Finance (number of banks, savings & loans, credit unions).
- Child care.
- Communication & telecommunications.
- Health & medical (hospitals & doctors).
- Hotels/restaurants/meeting space.
- Quality of Life (recreation, sports, parks, attractions, events).

Government & Government Services

- Type of local government.
- Local officials (name of mayor or similar official).
- City manager (name).
- County officials (name and offices).
- Planning & zoning (incorporated & county areas).
- Public Safety & Community services (crime rates).
- State government (local legislators & districts)
- Federal government (legislators & districts).

Statistics

- Labor Force / City & County Demographics (population [historical, current, projected], age distribution).
- City & County Incomes (median, per capita).
- Employment & wages (sectors, number of workers, salaries).
- Housing (types, age, number).
- Housing costs (rent, home values).
- Unemployment rate.

Business Information

- Business costs.
- Growth indicators (building permits, taxable sales, assessed value).
- Local industries & businesses (recent locations & expansion, employment by industry type).
- Business Regulations & Permits.
- Taxes (including business taxes).
- Regulations & permits.
- Sites available.
- Incentives.

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Roads, highway & rail access.
- Public transportation.
- Utilities (including costs) – electricity, natural gas, water supply, wastewater treatment.
- Airports.
- Commute times.



Sources of Information

- American FactFinder (U.S. Census Bureau).
- Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Illinois School Report Cards.
- Local Government Agencies.
- State Agencies.
- Phone Book.