

What's next, Iowa City?



As part of the early stages of planning, we are currently putting together a steering committee for a series of community conversations about what we can do to continue building a vibrant and diverse economy for Iowa City. These nonpartisan conversations are designed to encourage thinking, talking and actions based on Iowans' own ideas for helping their communities—and the state—move forward. Our goal for this topic is to bring together members of our community in a thoughtful conversation about what can be done.

Next Steps.

We are currently seeking students, funding, and community partners for these and other projects:

Expanding local capacity

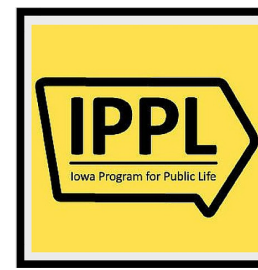
Offering community workshops

Launching a certificate program

A new website, including engagement portal

For more information, contact:

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Iowa Program of Public Life Annual Report 2015 - 2016

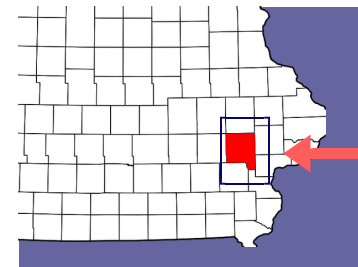
<http://www.uiowa.edu/cpl/>
<https://www.facebook.com/IowaCPL>

The Iowa Program of Public Life is an impartial resource for community-based problem solving. Housed in the Department of Communication Studies, the University of Iowa Program for Public Life supports healthy communication practices that enable citizens to shape their collective futures. The work of the IPPL would not be possible without the stellar contributions of students who are part of the Student Associate Program (SAP).



Iowa residents discuss how to keep Johnson County "livable" during the April event

All events this year followed a central theme:



Participants in our discussions covered cities across Johnson County

"How do we make our community more livable?"

Throughout this year we built both local and national partners, such as the Johnson County Affordable Homes Coalition

This following chart compares the difference between the burden of housing costs (where more than 30% of income goes towards housing costs) in Johnson County, the state of Iowa, and the US. This shows the need for discussions about a more "livable" Johnson County

	JC	IA	US
Cost burdened (All)	35%	25%	36%
Cost burdened (renters)	56%	40%	48%

Events held this year:

Affording Coralville:

Sep 16, 2015

What needs to be done to make Coralville more affordable and livable for its residents?

3 ideal communities were imagined:

- One that grows and includes everyone
- One that grants minority populations a community of their own
- One that allows for more housing options

How do we get there?



Conversations ranged from water prices to general housing and transportation concerns

By considering the requirements and possible problems each 'ideal' community would bring, participants remained grounded in their thinking and were able to propose feasible ideas to improve the community.

North Liberty for All:

Nov 16, 2015

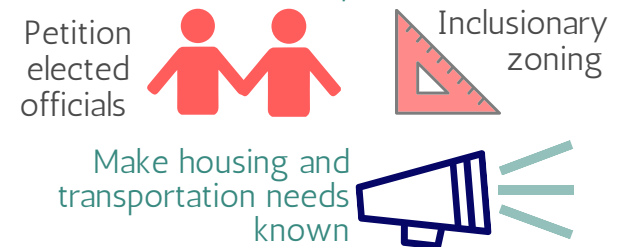
How can we meet everyone's housing and transportation needs to make an inclusive community?

\$833 Median Rent	\$81,742 Median Income	52.3% Renters who are cost burdened by rent
14.7% Renters with no vehicle	5.6% Renters below poverty level	

Some possible solutions:



Adjust zoning to encourage smaller homes and lower prices



How will these help?

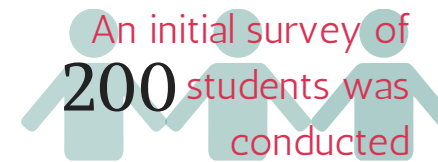


North Liberty's voice will help frame future discussions about affordable housing and transportation

Student-led Discussion: Off-Campus Housing

Mar 23, 2016

The students of COMM 1830: Solving Public Problems (SPP), a Theme Semester coursework component of the IPPL, hosted a public dialogue regarding student off-campus housing concerns.



Top concerns from students were issues relating to: Transportation, Quality, and Cost

The top three solutions to off-campus housing concerns:

- ✓ Create a Yelp-like local apartment rating website for students
- ✓ Create a standing committee that brings together stakeholders (SLS, students, Univ., City, nonprofits)
- ✓ Open forum with landlords and stakeholders

The purpose of this event was to assist students in thinking together about their concerns and generate fresh ideas and priorities for action.

Johnson County for All

April 16, 2016

The students of COMM: 1830 assisted again in the facilitation of this event.

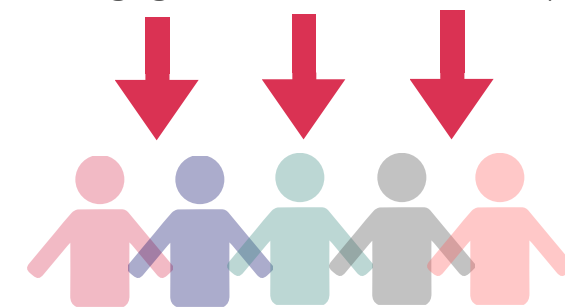
This event focused on aspects to be changed in order to improve the livability of Johnson County.



The University was discussed as one of the largest players in the livability of Johnson County

There was also a strong desire for a more integrated public transportation system throughout the entire county

Citizens called for more affordable housing options as well, which has become an issue with the majority of affordable properties belonging to students at the University



While we aimed for residents from all across Johnson County to participate in this discussion, we aim to include a larger, and more diverse group of citizens for future events.