

## meeting needs

Both good governance and good management make for good government and a good business climate. A well-governed, clearly organized, effectively managed, receptive, responsive, and cooperative municipal government is a vital component for economic development.

### Businesses want...

stability, certainty, decisiveness, fairness, and quick action from local governments...

### Residents want...

safe, attractive, and economically viable communities with good schools and recreational activities...

Based on these concepts, staff members at the Center for Governmental Studies have developed an assessment instrument that gauges the relative effectiveness of a community in meeting these goals.

## mission statement

The Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University is part of the University's Division of Outreach. We are a public service, technical assistance, and public policy development organization. Our mission is to be a leader in providing services that contribute to the economic well-being of the State of Illinois and that enhance government capacity at all levels. We assist in developing policies and managing and evaluating programs and services for governments and non-profit organizations.

**NIU** Center for  
Governmental Studies  
NIU Outreach

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**“Fitting the  
pieces together  
for effective  
governance,  
management  
and economic  
development.”**

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## Illinois Municipal Assistance Program



"...only a short time has passed since the completion of our assessment, we have already implemented several changes that are direct results of changes suggested by the IMAP team. The IMAP experience was tremendously beneficial for our community."

Mayor Keith Cain,  
City of Princeton

"I would encourage every community to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the IMAP project. One of the main benefits is IMAP forces the municipality to take a good look at what they are doing and how well they are doing. And, a price cannot be put on the value of the totally objective look and assessment that comes from NIU professionals."

Mayor Ila Bauer,  
Round Lake Park

The Illinois Municipal Assistance Program (IMAP) is a program designed and developed by the Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University to help Illinois municipalities assess and strengthen their governance and management practices so that they can compete more effectively for economic development.

### What

Each community receives a Governance and Municipal Practices Assessment (GMPA) that examines issues relating to governance through a comprehensive assessment tool.

### Why

A well-governed, clearly organized, effectively managed, receptive, responsive, and cooperative municipal government is a vital component for economic development.

### How

The GMPA measures:

- how a municipality is organized
- the governance and management environment of the municipality
- the manner in which services and products are provided
- the policies, plans, and procedures directing municipal activities
- how prepared the community is to be effective in attracting and retaining economic investment by the private sector

The GMPA helps elected and appointed officials focus on what needs to be done to improve planning skills, services, procedures, and practices so that the best possible environment exists in the community for creation and expansion of economic development opportunities.

### Where

Communities in Illinois that are either facing an influx of growth or a decline in population and development.

### When

The Center for Governmental Studies professional staff can complete an assessment in approximately three to four months after initiating engagement. The timeline is dependent on receipt of material from the municipality. Before engagement, a resolution to participate in the project needs to be adopted by the municipal government.

### Who

The IMAP Assessment Team includes Center for Governmental Studies staff who have applied experience in municipal administration, economic development, planning, and governance.

### End Product

Based on the results of the GMPA, each client receives a comprehensive IMAP report. The typical IMAP report consists of the following:

- a documentation of issues and themes identified during the assessment
- community assets and liabilities
- the key document review findings
- recommendations for improvements and opportunities for success

The IMAP report gives municipal leaders targets for improvements in governance and management areas to better position the community for success in economic growth and development.

### Cost

Based on pre-determined criteria, your municipality may qualify for financial assistance from our program partners. The cost of performing a GMPA depends on the size and complexity of the municipal government.

### Contact

Please contact Dawn S. Peters at 815-753-0923 or [dpeters@niu.edu](mailto:dpeters@niu.edu) for more information on how a GMPA can help your municipality.