

# Build a Better Grinnell

## Community Group Toolkit



A community survey to help Grinnell put the missing pieces together!

### Our vision

The **Build a Better Grinnell** project aims to gather **real feedback** from community members about Grinnell's strengths and areas for improvement. By gathering people together, asking questions, and thinking about our **community's needs** we can collectively work to make Grinnell an even better place to live, work and play.

### Mission Statement

Through this community survey, we aim to help residents and community members make informed decisions about community, economic, social service, educational and philanthropic development that will shape the future of Grinnell for the better.

### Steering Organizations



# We want to hear from you...



This Build a Better Grinnell Community Group Toolkit contains simple instructions for Grinnell community members (people just like you!) to gather with any group and provide real feedback on Grinnell's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Your input from these toolkits will be compiled and made available in spring 2012. Your feedback will be used to help Build a Better Grinnell create a community survey.

The community survey will help key Grinnell organizations determine priority areas for future growth and improvement to enable Grinnell to be an even better place to live, work and play.

**The process is simple; just answer the following 8 questions and submit your answers to the one of the places listed on the back of the toolkit.** This toolkit should take no longer than one hour to complete.

Thank you for getting involved!



## 3 Easy Steps

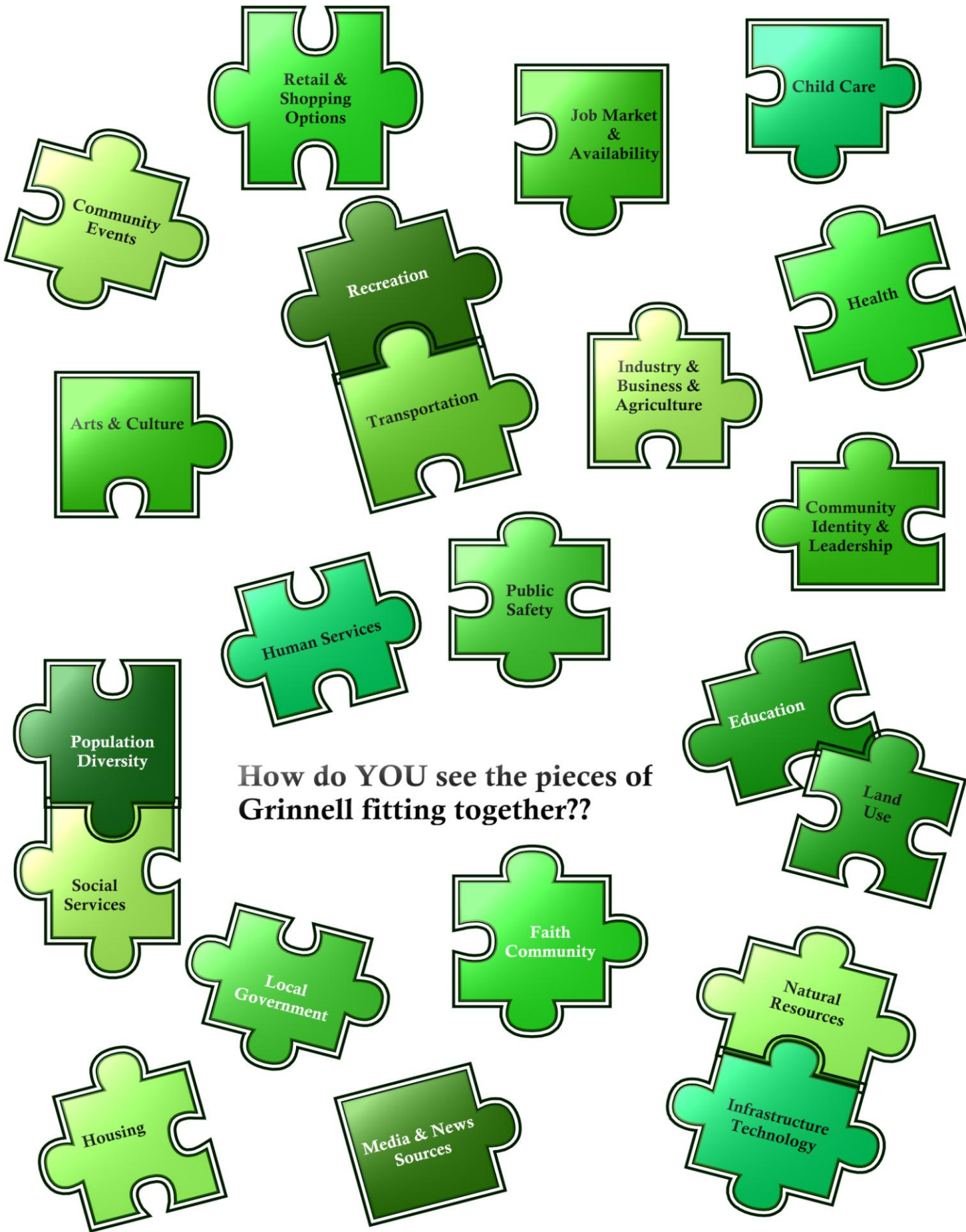
### Step 1: Gather Your Group

A group can be as few as two or as many as you can gather. Consider bringing this toolkit with you to the next gettogether of any group you are a part of.

Remember, if you are a part of multiple groups, you can participate as many times as you like!

You can create your group with whoever you want but to help you get started, here are some examples of groups we could think of:

- You & your friend or child
- Church Groups
- Service Clubs & Civic Groups
- School Classroom & School Groups & PTOs
- Businesses
- Employee Groups
- Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- Neighbors
- Golfing, Knitting, & Card Groups



**How do YOU see the pieces of Grinnell fitting together??**

**Optional:** Tell us about your group:

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_

# 3 Easy Steps

## Step 2: Answer 8 Easy Questions

Please write your responses below and attach additional paper if you need more space. Turn in one toolkit per group to one of the sites listed on the final page of the Toolkit.

1. Think about your favorite communities or where your friends and family live. What do you like most about these communities?

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2. Thinking about the last few months, what three things made you glad you live in Grinnell?

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3. Thinking about the last few months, what three things frustrated you about living in Grinnell?

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4. What things do you think are missing in Grinnell?

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# 3 Easy Steps

## Step 2: Answer 8 Easy Questions (Continued)

5. If you were “mayor for a day” and funds were unlimited, what would you do to improve Grinnell?

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6. What things have made the greatest positive impact in your life in Grinnell in the last five years?

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7. If you do not currently live here, what would make you move here permanently as a resident? If you do live here, what makes you stay?

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8. What aspects of the Grinnell community—positive and negative—do people NOT talk about?

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# 3 Easy Steps

## Step 3: Submit Your Group's Responses

Send us your responses!

Collect your responses submit one toolkit per group by mail, email fax or one of the drop boxes before:

**March 1, 2012!**

**Mailing Address:**

1510 Penrose Street, P.O. Box 344  
Grinnell, IA 50112

**Email:** [buildabettergrinnell@gmail.com](mailto:buildabettergrinnell@gmail.com)

**Fax:** (641) 236-5590

**Drop boxes at:** Saints Rest & Drake Community Library

**Phone:** (641) 236-5518

**Blog:** [www.buildabettergrinnell.blogspot.com](http://www.buildabettergrinnell.blogspot.com)

*Your efforts will help make Grinnell a better and brighter place for future generations of Grinnellians!*



### Steering Committee Representatives:

**Todd Abrahamson**, Grinnell-Newburg Community School District

**Anna-Lisa Bowans**, Grinnell College Apprentice, Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation

**Nicole Brua-Behrens**, Coordinator of Programs, Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation

**Monica Chavez-Silva**, Director, Grinnell College Office of Community Enhancement and Engagement

**Kay Cmelik**, City Clerk and Finance Director, City of Grinnell

**Maddie Gardner**, Grinnell College Apprentice, Office for Community Enhancement and Engagement

**Julie Gosselink**, President and CEO, Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation

**Angela Harrington**, President and CEO, Grinnell Area Chamber of Commerce

**Patty Hinrichs**, Poweshiek County Public Health Coordinator, Grinnell Regional Medical Center

**Cory Jackson**, Director of Health Improvement, Grinnell Regional Medical Center

**Jen Jacobsen**, Wellness Coordinator, Grinnell College

**Theresa Petersen**, Captain, Grinnell Police Department

**Rachel Porath**, MICA Poweshiek County Director, Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA)

**Liz Queathem**, Professor of Biology, Grinnell College and Board Member, Imagine Grinnell

**Sarah Smith**, Executive Director of Imagine Grinnell