



The Village of Hinckley began working on a strategic plan in 2018 to help examine ways to make the community a more exciting place to live, shop, and maintain a business.

This strategic plan project, called **Harvesting Our Future**, seeks to strengthen Hinckley's economy and improve the quality of life for residents.

The DeKalb County Community Foundation, DCCF, developed the Community Economic Development Grant Program in 2016 to provide funding support for 15 communities in the DeKalb County. The objective is to create a unique economic development plan and/or to implement priority projects consistent with the community's existing economic plan.

DCCF invested a total of \$20,000 in grant money, along with \$500 from Resource Bank for the planning and then the project phase. As a requirement of the grant, the planning phase included plans to work with a reputable economic planning organization, such as NIU's Center for Governmental Studies.

Staff from NIU's Center for Governmental Studies led a team of thirty (30) Hinckley community & business members through a series of meetings to discuss what is important to them, where they want to go, and how they can get there. Ideas and input from the entire community then came from a survey, focus groups, and a community meeting.

Harvesting Our Future, also known as HOF, developed the following vision for Hinckley.

Hinckley strives to be recognized for its quality of life with high performing schools, friendly neighborhoods, historic downtown and unique businesses that make it a welcoming place to live, work, and visit in a scenic rural environment.

Making this vision a reality is an ongoing process. This planning phase provides a framework for carrying out that process. Three major projects have been created from this plan and will be completed by a cross section of Hinckley residents and local organizations working together during the project phase. The plan is intended to provide guidance for the next several years. However, it is flexible, and changes in priorities, new projects, and changing circumstances can be woven into the plan.