



Civic Action

A monthly update from the National Civic League

October 2015

NCL Releases New Tool to Engage Residents and Identify Civic Strengths

Download our newest tool - the Civic Index Quick Quiz - and identify your civic strengths and challenges.

For more than 25 years, the National Civic League's Civic Index has helped communities assess their civic infrastructure. Now we have created a shortened version - [the Civic Index Quick Quiz](#) - that enables residents to easily identify key civic assets and areas in need of additional focus. The tool is incredibly versatile - use it at staff meetings, with partners, and with any group in the community. And best of all you can **gain meaningful insights in 30 minutes**.

Civic Index Quick Quiz

Based on more than 25 years of testing and refinement, the National Civic League's Civic Index is an effective tool to measure the infrastructure and resources that make for strong, healthy, innovative communities. This quick quiz - based on the more detailed Civic Index - is a powerful and fun way to identify civic strengths and areas in need of improvement. Use this tool with individuals, groups and diverse members of the community to assess your own and your community. What you learn is likely to be used for focused, strategic action to address strengths and address key challenges.

Has been well-developed each of the 10 infrastructure categories. Respond to the questions in the table below.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
Community Leadership					
1. A group of responsible citizens actively identifies needs, sets and the community plan.					
2. Community leaders have a plan of the community.					
3. Citizens are organized to plan and execute community improvement projects.					
Public Participation and Civic Engagement					
4. A culture of engagement where diverse residents and organizations actively participate in decision-making and problem-solving efforts.					
5. Community organizations that represent the interests of all residents are engaged to shape and execute the plan.					
6. Residents are organized to take to the streets, conduct door-to-door canvassing, and mobilize resources to address community needs and challenges.					
7. A leadership coalition (representative members and leaders from diverse organizations) is formed to coordinate and execute the plan.					
Measuring and Evaluating					
8. A system of evaluation that identifies and analyzes progress in all areas of the plan: goals, metrics, timeline, and progress (short-term & long-term).					
9. Citizens and organizations are engaged to monitor progress and evaluate the impact of the plan.					
10. A system of evaluation that identifies and analyzes progress in all areas of the plan: goals, metrics, timeline, and progress (short-term & long-term).					

Civic Index Quick Quiz
www.ncl.org/civindex

[Download the NCL Civic Index Quick Quiz](#)

Save 50% on Your Application for the All-America City Award

Simply submit a [letter of intent](#), indicating your community's interest in applying for the 2016 All-America City Award, (by November 4, 2015) and receive 50% off the application fee. [Click here to download a letter of intent](#). Email the completed letter to aac@ncl.org by Nov. 4th to get 50% off the application fee.

Letter of intent is not required to submit an application.

NCL Partnering with ICMA to Recognize Community Innovation Around Solar Energy

In This Issue

[Get NCL's newest tool for free](#)

[Save 50% off AAC Application Fee](#)

[New Partnership Around Solar Energy](#)

[Become a member today!](#)

Monthly AAC Support & Learning Calls

Talk to 2015 All-America City winners about their innovative projects, why they applied, and get useful, practical advice about applying for AAC.

Oct. 13, 10a-11am MT

[*Register for the October call*](#)

[Visit the AAC Conf. Call Archive to listen to the Sept. call and others](#)

Quick Links

[National Civic League](#)

[All-America City Award](#)

[Apply for AAC 2016](#)

The National Civic League is proud to announce a new partnership with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) to help establish a national recognition program to energize local solar marketplaces. The SPARC program - [Solar Powering America by Recognizing Communities](#) - will award local governments with a "stamp of approval" for their efforts in building stronger solar environments around the country, encouraging others to follow suit and ultimately helping to make it faster, cheaper, and easier for communities across the country to go solar.

[Read more...](#)

Become a Member of NCLToday!

Your membership in the National Civic League helps ensure that the All-America City Award continues to inspire, support and recognize civic innovation and excellence - [become a member today.](#)

Members of the National Civic League support AAC, and **get access to an online database of more than 450+ innovative projects from All-America City finalists.** Members also receive four issues of the *National Civic Review* full of the latest research, case studies and insights into emerging practices within communities. [Become a member today!](#)

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