



*Media Literacy  
in Action:  
The Community  
Planning  
Project*

Episode 2  
Public Services

# What is a community?

People living in the same geographic place.



# What makes a livable community?

People have many needs and wants in the community in which they live. They want to feel safe and enjoy the place where they live.

People want to live in neighborhoods where they know their neighbors. They want to shop where they can buy the things they need and want.

People want public services that meet their everyday needs, like water and electricity, and fire and police departments that can send responders when there is an emergency.

Transportation is important in communities, whether it means sidewalks or forms of transportation that make it easy to get from place to place.



Schools and other learning centers are important too. Libraries, museums, and historical sites also provide places for learning.

Parks and recreation areas encourage people to enjoy the outdoors and exercise.

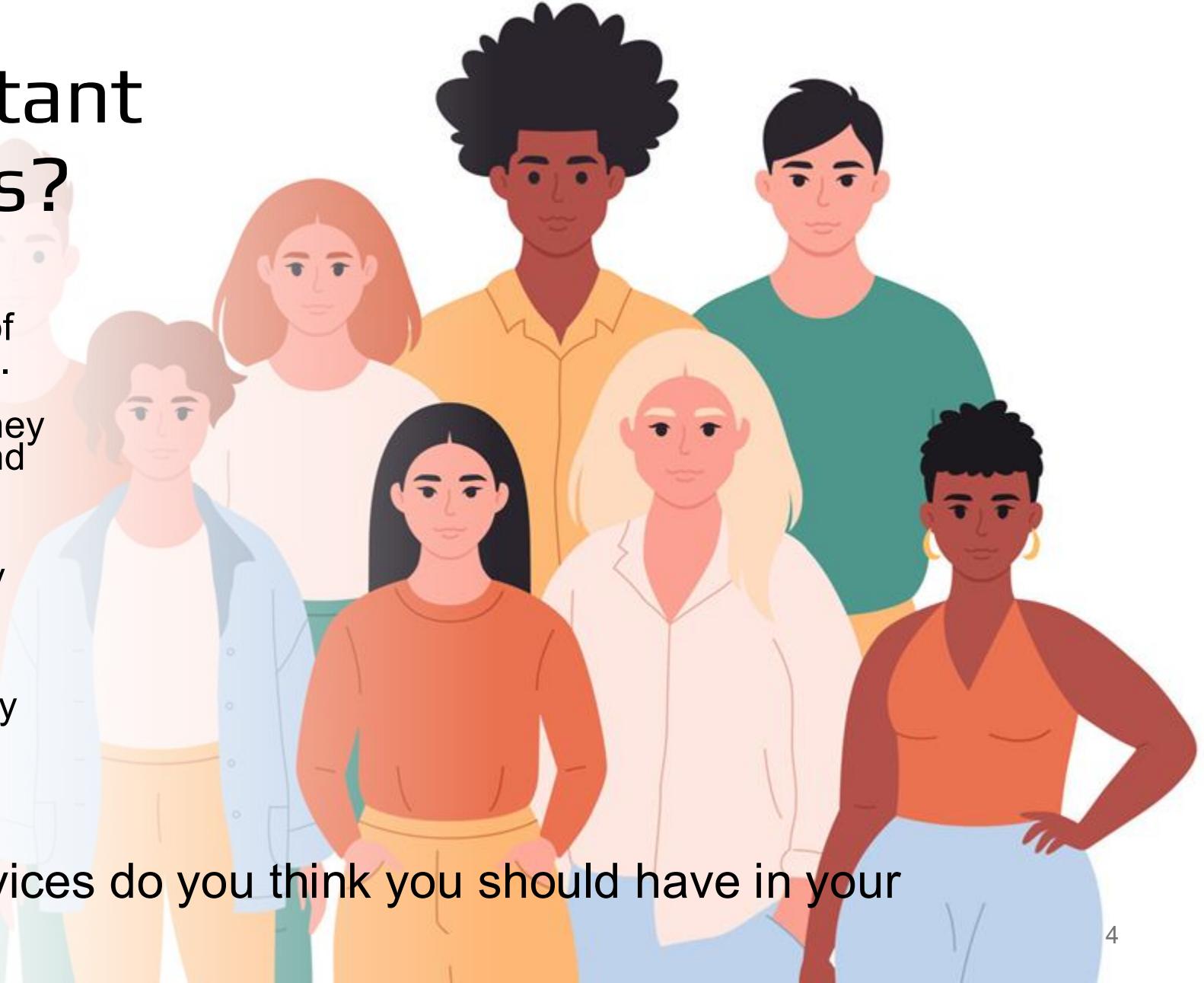
Art is important too, as are public spaces where people can gather for special events, which creates a sense of belonging and pride in the community.

# Why are public services important in communities?

In a livable community, people want and have different kinds of businesses and public services. Some businesses are stores where people buy things that they need and want. Restaurants and banks are businesses.

There are public services too. These services are provided by the government and include hospitals, schools, post offices, and police and fire stations. When we pay taxes, that money goes to support our community services.

What kinds of public services do you think you should have in your community?



# Public Services

People need public services to keep them healthy and safe. We pay taxes to provide these services.

Look at these pictures. What services do they provide?

Why are they important?



Public Library



# How do people make decisions about their community?

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Communities elect people to make decisions for their community. Mayors are elected by the people and are responsible for making wise decisions to meet the needs and wants of the people of the community. Their office is located in a city hall.

Some communities also have city councils that are elected by the people of the community. They work with the mayor to make decisions for the community.



Source:  
Freepik.com

## Do you have a mayor and city council in your community?

# What kinds of public services should we have in our community?

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Schools and parks provide public services.

Where  
should the  
public  
services be  
located?



# Choices & Decisions

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How will we organize our community to provide  
public services?

