



Resources to & **START** & **GROW** *your business*

A NetWork Kansas E-Community has made a commitment to cultivating an entrepreneurial environment by identifying and developing resources to help local *entrepreneurs* start or grow businesses. An E-Community has a locally controlled *loan fund* to assist *entrepreneurs* and *small businesses* with *capital* and connectivity to *resources*.

Find out more about the E-Community program, accessing resources to *start* or *grow* your business, or *funding* for your business by contacting:

Erik Pedersen, Director of E-Communities

phone: 316-978-7310

epedersen@networkkansas.com

www.networkkansas.com



E Entrepreneurship
Community
Partnership

NetWork Kansas
P.O. Box 877
Andover, KS 67002
www.networkkansas.com



E Entrepreneurship Community Partnership

ECONOMICS EXPERTISE EDUCATION

A NetWork Kansas Entrepreneurial Program

STARTUP & GROW

An E-Community cultivates an entrepreneurial environment by connecting STARTUPS & SMALL BUSINESSES to a network of resources who offer business-building expertise, education, and economic resources at low or no cost to the business owner.



Connectivity to resources is crucial to generating entrepreneurial activity in a community. Access to capital is only one piece of the puzzle.” -Erik Pedersen, Director of E-Communities

What Can the E-Community Program Do for Me?

Being an entrepreneur comes with many challenges; and many rewards. A NetWork Kansas E-Community can help you tackle some of the challenges so that you can reap more rewards.

Many businesses struggle with funding but this is one of the most important contributors to business success. That’s why NetWork Kansas enables E-Communities to develop a locally-controlled loan fund as part of a greater commitment to fostering economic growth through entrepreneurship. Local entrepreneurs can apply for funding through the E-Community Program, which matches other business investment with a low or 0% interest loan.

Businesses are the backbone of a strong community. Keeping businesses local means more wealth stays in the community and supports community development. Building strong businesses is not possible without a resource infrastructure that allows startups, expansions, and high-growth businesses to access the economic, educational, and expert resources they need to be successful.

E-Community Funding for Local Businesses

Local business owners and startups can apply for a loan through the E-Community Program.

These loans are intended to be paired with loans from financial institutions, personal investment, and financing from NetWork Kansas resource partners (ex. Certified Development Companies, city/county Local Revolving Loan Funds, Main Street programs, etc.) to complete a funding package for your business.

Use of Funds

Each community creates their own policies for use of funds, but often E-Community loans are used for startup costs, expansion of an existing business, working capital, inventory, and more.

Guidelines

Communities set their own guidelines, but all E-Community loans must follow these rules*:

- E-Community loan maximum of \$45,000
- Must be used by a for-profit business
- Must obtain required matching funds
- E-Community funding cannot exceed 60% of the total funding package

**For a full list of guidelines, see our website*

Developing Strong Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs interested in applying for funds will work with a local E-Community Leadership Team to connect with startup and developmental business resources, complete an application for funding, and coordinate the other elements of the funding package (bank loans, etc.).

Whether an entrepreneur needs help finishing a business plan or filling out a loan application, the E-Community can connect them to the right resources to help.

NetWork Kansas works closely with E-Communities to identify and foster deeper strategic relationships with resources that help entrepreneurs and small businesses start, expand, and obtain funding. The result is a network of communities poised for self-sustaining, locally-generated economic growth.

Becoming an E-Community

To learn more about the E-Community Partnership, call Erik Pedersen, Director of E-Communities, at 316-978-7310 to schedule a community visit to learn more about preparing for the next application round.