

# COMMUNITY VITALITY CENTER

---

477 HEADY HALL

AMES, IA 50011-1070

WEB SITE: CVCIA.ORG

E-MAIL: CVC@IASTATE.EDU

PHONE: 515-294-3000

FAX: 515-294-3838

**Note to Editor:** The Community Vitality Center (CVC) is a new center created to generate innovative ideas for helping to improve the vitality of Iowa communities. This is the first of several reports that will be released on projects, topics, and demonstrations in the coming year.

## INCREASING ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN IOWA

JANUARY 31, 2003

CONTACT: Mark Edelman

515-294-6144

Organizing entrepreneur forums, clubs and mentoring programs; creating community foundations for channeling intergenerational wealth to assist new business startups; and developing programs to bring college student entrepreneurs to Iowa communities are just 3 of the 20 ideas for increasing entrepreneurship in Iowa which are contained in a report issued today by the Community Vitality Center (CVC).

“Iowa ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in small business startups nationally and approximately 80% of new jobs nationally are created by small businesses. If Iowa wishes to improve its performance in economic growth, then entrepreneurship development and small business startup strategies would appear to be a major component of public policy and program consideration.” said Mark Edelman, Executive Director of the Community Vitality Center. “Our report, *“Entrepreneurship and Community Vitality”* provides policymakers, community leaders and citizens with various ideas and strategies that were suggested at the forums for facilitating entrepreneurship and small business startups”, noted Edelman.

The list of ideas for increasing entrepreneurship in Iowa resulted from a series of 10 community forums the CVC conducted throughout the state late in 2002. Over 285 people, including economic development professionals, entrepreneurs, local government officials, and business people participated in the 10 community forums.

In addition to generating ideas for fostering entrepreneurship, the CVC surveyed forum participants and found that 64% of respondents agreed that the greatest barrier to successful entrepreneurship was lack of seed capital, 88% believe that local government and private sector leaders should develop community partners to foster entrepreneurship, and 67% agreed that entrepreneurial development should involve linking local entrepreneurs with regional expertise.

The Community Vitality Center (CVC) is an independent policy analysis center that serves as a catalyst for innovative projects and initiatives designed to improve the vitality of Iowa communities. The CVC is governed by a board of 20 leaders from across Iowa representing diverse public and private sector interests. The CVC facilitates networking among communities, commissions policy studies, provides seed funds for demonstration projects and fosters discussion among rural and urban interests.

The *“Entrepreneurship and Community Vitality”* report can be found at [www.cvcia.org](http://www.cvcia.org)