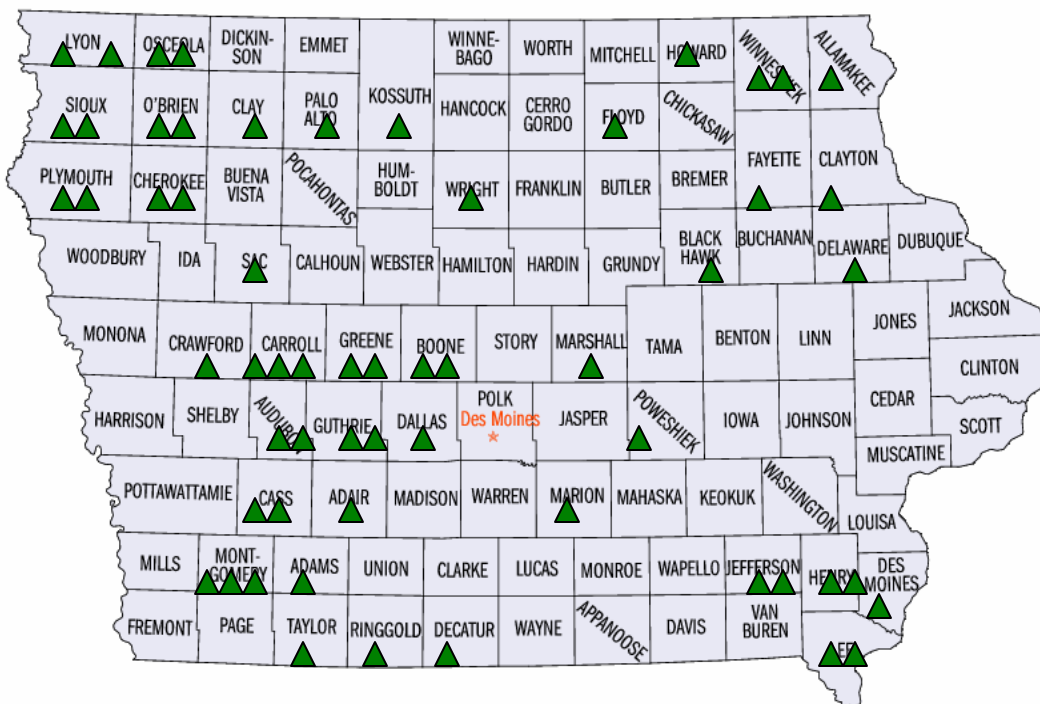


Community Vitality Center - Community Entrepreneurship Challenge Grant Program - \$5000 to \$10,000 matching grants awarded to local communities and multi-county projects for innovative entrepreneurial development activities involving over 60 county leadership groups.

CVC projects have demonstrated entrepreneur coaching and mentoring networks, business plan competitions, entrepreneur resource centers, entrepreneurial study tours, and entrepreneurial training workshops such as MyEntreNet, Sirolli, SBDC FastTrac, and microenterprise programs.



2007 Projects

Access e-Commerce Workshops sponsored by Clay County Extension in collaboration with community development corporations to conduct workshops in seven communities to enhance business skills and knowledge regarding the use of internet marketing and e-commerce to augment business profitability.

Crawford County Entrepreneur Development Network sponsored by Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County to identify local entrepreneurs, identify local entrepreneurial needs and to organize local training and networking meetings to assist entrepreneurs.

Charles City/Floyd County Hometown Competitiveness Entrepreneurial Network sponsored by the City of Charles City Community Development Director to organize local entrepreneurial growth

leadership, identify community needs and implement initiatives related to entrepreneurship, philanthropy, leadership development, and youth involvement.

Northwest Iowa Civic Entrepreneurship Leadership Development Program sponsored by Plymouth County Extension in collaboration with Lyon, Okeola, O'Brien, Cherokee, and Sioux County Extension to organize a regional civic entrepreneurship leadership institute to identify regional strategies for enhance entrepreneurial and economic growth for the region.

National Entrepreneurial Communities Case Studies Project sponsored by Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association/Fairfield Chamber of Commerce to host a series of workshops for the purposes of developing case study presentations on alternative models for creating rural communities that have developed a national reputation for supporting development of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial ventures.

Community Support Grants for MyEntreNet in Carroll, Decatur, Marion, and Poweshiek Counties in collaboration with University of Northern Iowa and Iowa SBDCs to (1) organize a local community empowerment partnership, (2) conduct a series of entrepreneur Fast Trac training workshops, (3) form an entrepreneur networking group, and (4) provide capital access and firm level technical assistance via in person and online consultations. CVC provides a community incentive of \$2,500 per community to sponsor MyEntreNet program in each of four communities.

Corning Young Artist Residency Program for Entrepreneurial Artists sponsored by Adams Community Economic Development to establish an Young Artists in Residence Program in collaboration with Omaha's Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts.

2006 Projects

Taylor County Home Town Competitiveness Program sponsored by the Bedford Area Economic Development Corporation to organize a local partnership team for the purposes of Implementing Nebraska's Hometown Competitiveness Program.

Carroll County Entrepreneur Coaching and Mentoring Network sponsored by Carroll County Extension to work with local community leaders and entrepreneurs in the county to organize a local coaching and mentoring network to provide an opportunity for training and sharing ideas for solving problems related to entrepreneurship.

Micro Enterprise Entrepreneur Workshops sponsored by Grow Iowa Foundation and Southwest Iowa Coalition to conduct a series of training workshop for micro-enterprise entrepreneurs in Red Oak, Villisca, and Mount Ayr, and one additional community at \$2,500 per community.

MyEntreNet Multi-county Project in Greene, Guthrie, and Adair Counties in collaboration with University of Northern Iowa and Iowa SBDCs to (1) organize a local community empowerment partnership, (2) conduct a series of entrepreneur Fast Trac training workshops, (3) form an entrepreneur networking group, and (4) provide capital access and firm level technical assistance via in person and online consultations.

Local Community Kitchen Incubator and Food System Network Study Tour sponsored by Iowa Value Community College, Marshalltown to organize a tour of the ACEnet/CDFI programs in eastern Ohio for the purposes of implementing similar concepts and building similar entrepreneurial networks in Iowa.

Lee County Entrepreneur Development Training and Networking Project sponsored by Lee County Development Corporation in collaboration with local economic development groups and Lee County Extension.

Van Buren School Entrepreneurship Intern Program sponsored by Van Buren School District.

2005 Projects

Mount Pleasant Area Business Plan Competition sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance. This is the third annual locally sponsored business plan competition. Winners have included an injection molding company, a bed and breakfast venture involving a historical venue, and an upscale kennel and pet care business.

Boone County Business Plan Competition sponsored by Boone's Future Development Corporation with implementation technical assistance collaboration from the ISU Small Business Development Center and ISU Extension Boone County. The competition program received 30 inquiries and the winning entry assisted a new startup entrepreneur in moving the proposed livestock artificial insemination services venture from his garage to a business location.

Lee County Business Plan Competition sponsored by Lee County Economic Development Group in collaboration with Lee County Extension to conduct a county wide business plan competition.

Red Oak/Montgomery County Business Plan Competition sponsored by save our Depot in collaboration with the Red Oak Entrepreneurial Fair Committee.

Winneshiek County College Intern Youth Retention Program sponsored by Winneshiek County Agricultural Extension District in collaboration with Luther College and Winneshiek County Economic Development Corporation to organize a Community-Based College Intern Program.

Sac County Entrepreneur Coaching and Mentoring Program sponsored by Sac County Extension in collaboration with local Economic and Tourism Development Corporation to identify potential entrepreneurs, needs of entrepreneurs and to organize initial training workshops for entrepreneurial.

2004 Projects

Southwest Iowa Coalition Community Showrooms and Iowa Sales Network sponsored by the Southwest Iowa Coalition and Wallace Foundation for Rural Research and Development to organize and develop an electronic network of artisans and crafters who display Iowa made products window displays in participating communities.

Mount Pleasant Entrepreneur Resource Center sponsored by the Mount Pleasant Area Chamber Alliance, to organize a broad-based partnership team including representatives from Iowa Wesleyan, Southeast Iowa Community College-SBDC, ISU Extension and local business leaders to create a business incubator / entrepreneurial center to assist startup businesses.

Networking and Support for Community Food Entrepreneurs sponsored by National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Iowa Network for Community Agriculture, and ISU Extension, and local development corporations to identify local assets, participants and opportunities for creating local community food system networks in west central Counties including Adair, Guthrie, Cass, Audubon, Carroll, Greene, Boone and Dallas.

MyEntreNet Multi-County Project in Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek. Counties sponsored by the Allamakee County Economic Development Corporation and upper Exploreland Council of Governments for entrepreneurship program in the local six counties.

Wright County Entrepreneurial Planning Consortium sponsored by Wright County Economic Development Corporation to conduct workshops in the major communities of Wright County for purposes of identifying and implementing the most effective strategies for developing entrepreneurs in the county.

2003 Projects

Burlington/Des Moines County Entrepreneurial Resource Center sponsored by Des Moines County Extension to support Chamber and Economic Development Corporation initiative to establish Entrepreneurial Resource Center/Incubator.

Fairfield/Jefferson County Entrepreneur Mentoring Network sponsored by Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association and Chamber of Commerce to establish monthly entrepreneur coaching, mentoring, and networking program.

Kossuth County Career Intern Program sponsored by Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation to expand a successful college student intern program in a rural community without a post secondary institution.

NW Region Entrepreneur Seeds for Success Workshop sponsored by O'Brien County Extension in collaboration with County Extension in Lyon, Osceola, Cherokee, Plymouth, and Sioux Counties and Chamber/Economic Development Corporations to identify entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs in the region, to identify training needs and provide initial training and follow-up.

Emmetsburg/Palo Alto County Entrepreneurial Resource Center sponsored by Emmetsburg Community Development Commission in collaboration with Palo Alto County Extension.

Sirolli Workshop and Study Tour Multi-County Cluster sponsored by Audubon Economic Development Corporation and adjacent counties in collaboration with local Extension to conduct Sirolli workshop and sponsor study tour to Lincoln County Minnesota to visit with community leaders with 10 years of Sirolli project experience.