

Funding Provided by rural futures

Creating Resilient Communities through the Entrepreneurial Communities Activation Process (ECAP)



Entrepreneurial Communities Activation Process





What is ECAP? Entrepreneurial Communities Activation Process



ECAP is a holistic approach

- ECAP helps communities understand
 - -unique characteristics,
 - -community assets
 - potential opportunities for growth









Why ECAP?



Communities

- Visionary thinking
- Entrepreneurial leadership
- Build synergistic relationships
- Increased ability to leverage resources
- Attract and retain a working age population
- Empower community economic growth









Background



- Eight pilot communities
- Funded by the Rural Futures Institute
- Four facilitated conversations focused on eight characteristics
- The Discovery Tool gathers input from the entire community on these characteristics





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Discovery Tool





New ECAP Discovery Tool 2015

Community Characteristics

If there are some questions you aren't familiar with or if you can't answer them, you can leave them blank and move on to the next question.

1. To what extent do the following items describe your community? My community...

	Not at all	A little	Moderately	Mostly	Completely
Has a strong identity	\bigcirc	\circ		\bigcirc	
Is open to new ideas	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Has leaders who engage and empower citizens	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Includes a majority of residents who strongly identify with the community	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Provides and maintains adequate infrastructure for agriculture, business, manufacturing and industry	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	\circ
Has leaders who use technology for governing and managing	\circ	0	\circ	\circ	\circ







Community Conversations Conversations

- Focus on the Eight Characteristics
 - -Evidence, Build Vitality and Strengthen
- Discovery Tool Results
 - -Conversation on results and their implications
- Priorities
 - -Discuss initial priorities
- Action Plan
 - -Community members create an action plan





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ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

LEADERSHIP



- The community environment is open and creative
- Leaders are motivated to improve the economic
- The community trusts its leaders





Know how. Know now.







Conversation Example

Entrepreneurial Communities Activation Process

Evidence

– Where do you see evidence that the characteristic is in your community?

Build Vitality

- How can the characteristic build vitality?

Strengthen Your Community

– How can characteristic be strengthened in community?











What Participants Said

"I was new to the community when the ECAP process began, and I frankly can't imagine a better way to get to know a community in a hurry. I feel a sense of connection to and investment that it might have taken me months or years to achieve without this process." Community Participant







Benefits



Entrepreneurial Communities Activation Process

- Engagement
- Increased Communication
- Shared Vision
- Empowerment of Community Members
- Motivation to Take Action









Outcomes



Entrepreneurial Communities Activation Process

- Economic Development Corporation
 Formed
- Young Professional Group Organized
- Community Vision Statement
 Developed
- Community Calendar Created













- Forming a Steering Team
- Using an Outside Facilitator
- Getting People to the Conversations
- Creating and Sharing a Vision
- Keeping People Engaged
- Documenting the Process
- Maintaining the Momentum
- Celebrating Success



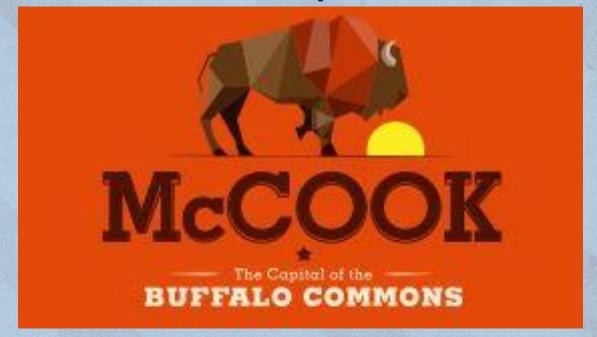




Nebraska CEC Conference

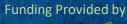


McCook, Nebraska – April 19 and 20, 2017











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More Information

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Entrepreneurial Communities Activation Process

 Go online to: http://communityvitality.unl.edu/ecap

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