

Entrepreneur Ready Community Assessment



This assessment tool is a critical component in the process of certifying communities as ready to support entrepreneurs in their efforts to start or grow business ventures. It consists of characteristics suggested by numerous people involved in economic development in Texas. Simply check your opinion of how you think your community fairs relative to each characteristic listed. Your community is unlikely to exhibit all the criteria, but an Entrepreneur Ready Community is expected to have at least a majority of “meets” or “exceeds” in each category.

Community Attributes

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Below Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>
Location and accessibility			
Pleasant welcoming appearance			
Strong local networks and coordination			
Broad based leadership			
Supportive community organizations			

Community Mindset/Attitude

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Below Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>
Accepting and supportive of new business			
Embraces regionalism			
Willingness to celebrate others successes			
Willingness to forgive failures			
Welcome change and growth			
Willingness to take a risk for betterment of the business community			
Community pride			
Perseverance and long-term plan			
Accepting of competition			
Values diversity			
Committed to education			
Willing to share resources and knowledge			
Leverages local assets			
Local residents support local businesses			

Technical Support in the Community

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Below Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>
Business planning assistance available locally			
Necessary supportive infrastructure available			
Individualized support available locally			
Capitalization assistance available locally			

Incentives in the Community

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Below Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>
Waiving of permit fees and other fees possible			
CDC/EDC often provides incentives, recognition, & marketing			
Favorable tax structure			
General willingness to modify procedures, policies, and regulations when favorable to business			

Resources in the Community

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Below Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>
Access to and assistance with capitalization			
Education programs			
Outlets for marketing (newspapers, magazine, radio, etc.)			
Necessary infrastructure items			
Access to supply chain for inputs			
Facilities to locate and/or incubate			
Contract business management services available			
Centralized entrepreneur support center			

Resource Providers in the Community

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Below Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>
Local business network with open membership			
Organization(s) with knowledgeable staff			
Local cooperative financial resources			
Clear links to local, state, & national resource providers			
Community marketing effort on behalf of businesses			
Committed active leadership			
Entrepreneurship network or mentors			

Youth Programs in the Community

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Below Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>
Entrepreneurship education in local schools			
Involvement of youth in civic projects & governance			
In school programs such as Junior Achievement, NxLevel, YES, etc that develop entrepreneurship knowledge & skills			

Additional observations (use back of sheet if necessary):

