

## What is an E-Community?

NetWork Kansas was established as a component of the Kansas Economic Growth Act of 2004 to further entrepreneurship and small business growth as a priority for economic and community development in the State of Kansas. Backed by more than 500 partners statewide, the NetWork Kansas service promotes an entrepreneurial environment by connecting entrepreneurs and small business owners with the expertise, education and economic resources they need in order to succeed.

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. Selected communities partner with NetWork Kansas to establish a locally-administered loan fund to assist entrepreneurs with capital, to increase connectivity to resources available to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses, to initiate activities to generate entrepreneurial development, and to participate in a statewide partnership with other E-Communities.

The E-Community Partnership has grown from six communities in 2007 to **fifty-five** in 2016. During the first eight years of the E-Community partnership, more than \$7.7 million has been loaned to over 285 businesses, leveraging an additional **\$35.5 million** of additional capital (bank loans, owner down payment, resource partner loans, etc.).

## Goals of the E-Community Partnership

- Grow a flourishing, sustainable entrepreneurial environment supportive of business startups and expansions.
- Engage and/or develop entrepreneurial resources to meet identified community and business needs.
- Create a revolving loan fund to provide matching loans to entrepreneurs and small businesses with local control of decisions and terms.

## About City of Lawrence Metropolitan E-Community

In November of 2015, NetWork Kansas selected the City of Lawrence Metro E-Community as a 2015 Metropolitan Entrepreneurship (E-) Community Pilot and was awarded \$125,000 in tax credits, enabling the Lawrence E-Community to raise \$166,666 that has been completed to date and will be available in 2016 to be loaned to local businesses.

# The City of Lawrence Metro E-Community Revolving Loan Fund Review



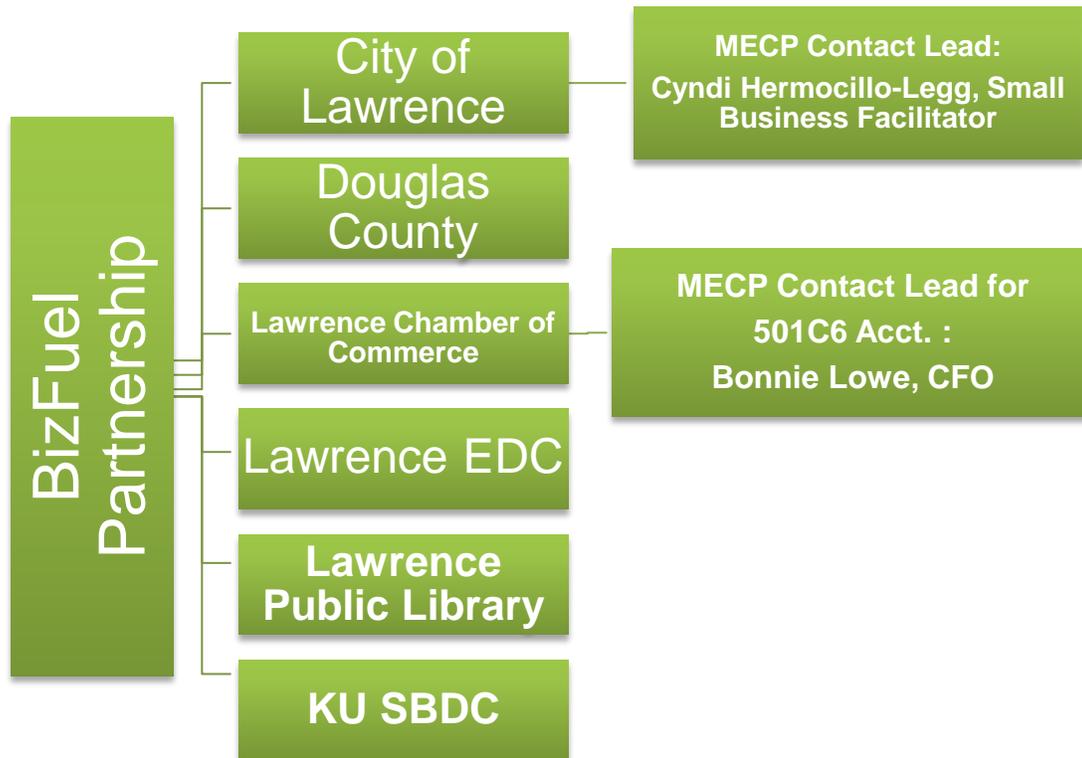
This program will establish Lawrence's first revolving loan fund, where the initial focus will be to serve the Urban/Distressed Area Entrepreneur(s) that is broad in scope and includes having one of the following to apply to funding:

- Businesses located in a distressed area (20% + live below poverty level),
- 51% of business owned by a Woman, Minority, or Disadvantaged Entity,
- Businesses that currently employ or will employ low-income employees,
- Businesses whose products/service supports disadvantaged/underserved populations,
- Businesses whose mission is to serve disadvantaged/underserved populations.

## City of Lawrence Metro E- Community Reporting Structure:

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce will be the 501 C 6 in charge of any funding that is allocated to the Lawrence Metro E- Community Partnership by Network Kansas.

The City of Lawrence Small Business Facilitator will act as the lead point person on behalf of BizFuel for the Metro E-Community. Please refer to the organizational chart below.



**Technical Assistance Activity via BizFuel:**

**2015 SME WORKSHOPS** - (BizFuel started in May 2015)

**2nd Qtr.:**

- Sales Tax/Compensating Use Tax Workshop (Partners: Kansas Department of Revenue)

**3rd Qtr.:**

- Tales of a Manufacturer (Partners: Peaslee Tech, MAMTC/NIST), Art as A Business

**4th Qtr.:**

- Affordable Care Act & Your Small Business

**2015 SME Metrics:**

**4** - Workshops/Seminars Delivered from May-December

**216** - Entrepreneurs/Small Businesses Served

**4.7** - Overall Average BizFuel Workshop Rating By Attendees (Out of 5)