



ENERGIZING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES

A Pathway to Prosperity



Source: *Rural Action: Rural Rambler*, April 2018, provided by [Rural Action](#)

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Entrepreneurial Support Teams Meet From Across the Region to Share Updates and Best Practices



Members of the Logan, Nelsonville, McArthur, and New Straitsville entrepreneur support teams gathered at the Khure Center on March 27th to share progress updates and hear from local and state level business resource providers. The teams have been meeting regularly with Rural Action staff, but this was the first of a series of quarterly regional gatherings organized by [Rural Action](#). Representatives from [ACENet](#), the [Ohio SBDC](#), and the [Ohio Secretary of State](#) each shared how their organizations are able to support local businesses. The entrepreneur support teams will use this information as they go out to business owners to complete needs assessment surveys, and direct these businesses to the best resources.

The support teams provide a missing link for business resource providers by being the 'boots on the ground.' Their role is to find out what entrepreneurs need to be successful and grow. Small business training workshops, assistance with planning, marketing, and many of the legal needs of a small business are some of the services that were discussed. Brian Vadakin from [Rural Action](#) described how the [KIVA](#) zero-interest loan platform can assist small businesses and startups in raising necessary funds when other options are not available or are too costly.



The entrepreneur support teams left the meeting with better idea of how to make use of the business support resources that are available; these six support teams combined have targeted nearly 50 local businesses to interview over the spring months. The next regional team training will be held May 23rd, when the teams will compare what they learned from their community entrepreneurs. Additionally, the teams will work on designing a follow-up support system with coaching from the [Center for Rural Entrepreneurship](#) (now e2 Entrepreneurial Ecosystems) during the May gathering.

If you are interested in being involved with the entrepreneur outreach and support work, please contact [Dan Vorisek](#).

