



# Resources to & **START** & **GROW** *your business*

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. An E-Community has a locally controlled *loan fund* to assist entrepreneurs with *capital* and connectivity to *resources* to assist *entrepreneurs* and *small businesses*.

Find out more about the E-Community program, accessing resources to *start* or *grow* your business, or *funding* for your business by contacting:

Bird City Century II Development Foundation  
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**E** Entrepreneurship  
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**NetWork  
Kansas** Resources for Starting &  
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# E Entrepreneurship Community Partnership

## Bird City

A NETWORK KANSAS ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM

## STARTUP & GROW

An E-Community cultivates an entrepreneurial environment by connecting STARTUPS & SMALL BUSINESSES to a network of resources who offer business-building expertise, education, and economic resources at low or no cost to the business owner.

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*Connectivity to resources is crucial to generating entrepreneurial activity in a community. Access to capital is only one piece of the puzzle.” -Erik Pedersen, Director of E-Communities*

## What Can the E-Community Program Do for Me?

Have you ever thought about starting a business? Do you own one already? Being an entrepreneur comes with many challenges; and many rewards. We're here to help you tackle some of the challenges so that you can reap more rewards.

Many businesses struggle with funding but this is one of the most important contributors to a business's success. That's why Bird City joined the E-Community Partnership. Through this program, we were able to develop a locally-controlled loan fund as part of our commitment to fostering economic growth through entrepreneurship. You can apply for funding through the local E-Community Program, which matches some of the capital you may already have located for your business with a low-interest loan.

Businesses are the backbone of a strong community. Keeping businesses local means more wealth stays in the community and supports community development. Building strong businesses is not possible without a resource infrastructure that allows startups, expansions, and high-growth businesses to access the economic, educational, and expert resources they need to be successful.

## Finding Funding for My Business

You can apply for a low-interest loan through the Bird City E-Community Program to start or grow your business.

These loans are intended to be paired with loans from financial institutions, personal investment, and financing from NetWork Kansas E-Community partners (ex. Certified Development Companies, Local Revolving Loan Funds, Main Street programs, etc.) to complete a funding package for your business.

### Use of Funds

- Inventory
- Building or land acquisition
- Business expansion
- Working capital
- Site or infrastructure improvements

### Guidelines

- E-Community loan maximum of \$45,000
- Available to startup, existing business purchase, or existing business expansion
- Recipients must live in Bird City
- Businesses must be based in Bird City

## How to Apply for an E-Community Loan

Obtain an application by contacting Catherine Domsch. If you need help coordinating the other elements of your funding package (bank loans, etc.), we can help. Schedule an appointment to discuss the right next steps to take. Whether you need help finishing your business plan or filling out your loan application, we can connect you to the right resources to help.

### Application Steps

- Complete an application and required documentation (online at [www.birdcity.com](http://www.birdcity.com))
- Submit application to E-Community review team at the Bird City Century II Development Foundation office

### Scoring Criteria

- Business plan and financial strength
- Projected growth and economic impact
- Community benefits of the project

## Get Started Today

Contact us today to request an E-Community loan application, learn about other business resources, or get involved with the E-Community.