



ICEA will accept nominations for the Annual Excellence Awards through May 10th.

This is a great opportunity for your chamber to garner statewide recognition for the hard work that staff accomplished on specific new projects throughout the past year.

Chambers are divided into the following categories for judging:

0—400 members

401—700 members

701+ members

Upon reviewing, all applicants scoring above 90% will receive an Excellence Award.

Chambers may enter multiple entries.

Deadline —May 10th.

E-mail entry link with this completed form to info@iceaonline.com.

Mail a non-refundable check payable to ICEA for \$25 per entry to:
ICEA, P.O. Box 377, Hanover IN 47243.

Questions? Please call the ICEA office at 812-871-3000.

Excellence in Innovation Awards

About the award: The Annual Excellence Awards will recognize innovative new projects from your chamber this past year. Chambers may submit multiple nominations for various projects, however each nomination must showcase something new offered by your chamber during this past year. This award recognizes excellence in innovative new ideas. Complete a separate form for each entry.

E-mail your entry with this completed form to info@iceaonline.com prior to May 10th. Each entry submitted for review will be charged a \$25 non-refundable fee. Please mail this review payment payable to ICEA to: P.O. Box 377 Hanover IN 47243. An invoice will also be sent for you to pay with debit/credit card.

Chamber of Commerce _____

What are you submitting for? _____

Contact: _____

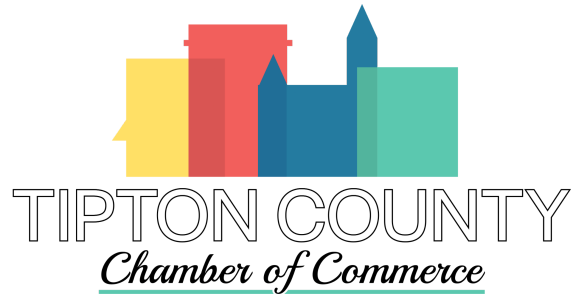
Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Complete a duplicate entry for more than one entry. Please circle below the size of your chamber:

- 0—400 members
- 401— 700 members
- 701 + members

Forward e-mail with your submission attached to info@iceaonline.com no later than May 10th.



Accelerate(765)

As a result of networking with other chamber executives, our organization learned about a grant opportunity through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to launch an entrepreneur support program.

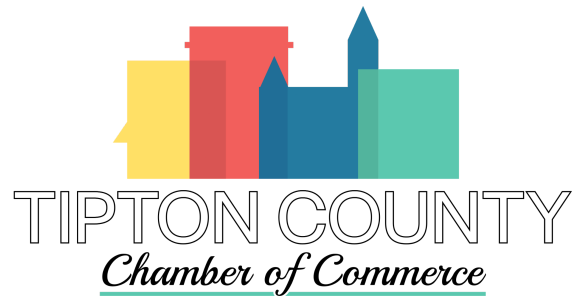
In early 2022, the Tipton County Chamber partnered with a grant writer to apply for a Rural Business Development Grant from USDA. It was mid-2022 when the announcement was made that the Tipton County Chamber was selected as an award recipient for a \$99,000 grant to launch an entrepreneur support program.

This grant enabled our organization and Tipton County Chamber Foundation to create the Accelerate(765) program with three primary functions.

1. Offer high-quality business education seminars and two 15-hour business planning workshops per year
2. \$12,000 available for technical assistance grants to local businesses
3. Launch Tipton County's first revolving loan fund with an initial capitalization of \$87,000

This program has hosted its first business planning workshop, leading local entrepreneurs through a rigorous course to create a formal business plan. It has distributed a technical assistance grant to allow local businesses to send their staff to a continuing education conference to improve their effectiveness and capabilities. Lastly, we have received applications requesting a loan to help spur economic development activity within Tipton County.

This program will help Tipton County to begin investing in the entrepreneurs throughout our community, spurring innovation and job creation. This program's long-term goal is to continue growing the revolving loan fund through successive years of application to the USDA, so the lack of funding for ideas is no longer a barrier to entry for those in Tipton County.



Official Press Release -

<https://www.insideindianabusiness.com/articles/new-program-targets-tipton-county-small-business-growth>

Official Webpage - <https://tiptonchamber.org/765>