

Creating a Rural Entrepreneurial System in Tennessee (CREST)

A program of

*UT Extension, UT Institute for Public Service, Tennessee Department of Economic
and Community Development and the Tennessee Valley Authority*

Intent to Participate Outline

Applicants to the CREST program are required to provide a Letter of Intent to Participate via email to Dr. Michael D. Wilcox, Jr. (mwilcox2@utk.edu) by October 30, 2009 . Please follow the outline below. An electronic copy, in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) of this outline can be downloaded at: <http://sustainable.tennessee.edu> .

1. Contact Information of Applicant

Name:

Position:

Agency/Institution/Organization:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

2. Community Information

The CREST program seeks to pilot initial efforts in communities in each of the Grand Divisions in Tennessee. As a community-level entrepreneurship program, the definition of community can be as narrow as a particular municipality or county or as broad as a multi-county region, provided members of the community, as defined here, have demonstrated the ability to work together on community initiatives or there is a compelling reason for this community to collaborate. Please define the community that comprises your CREST project area.

Community:

Explanation (if necessary):

3. Demonstrated Ability to Work Collaboratively on Economic and Community Development Initiatives

Please provide an example of how this community has worked together on an economic/community development project or program. Please briefly describe the situation, approach, outcomes and indicate the participating partners.

4. Current Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development Strategy and Activity

Creating and sustaining a supportive environment for entrepreneurs is an essential part of a comprehensive strategy for economic growth. Please briefly describe how entrepreneurship fits into your community's economic development strategy and work program. If the community has goals for implementing entrepreneurship and small business development initiatives, please identify the proposed activities and associated goals.

5. Institutional Components

Please identify the following organizations that serve your community:

- a. Local Economic Development Organizations (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Agency, non-profits, etc.):

- b. Downtown Development / Mainstreet Organization:

- c. Leadership Program:

- d. Career Center:

- e. Small Business Development Center:

- f. Tennessee Technology Center:

- g. Community College:

- h. Other public or private organizations that are currently engaged in entrepreneurship and small business development in your community:

6. Community Socioeconomic Information

- a. What is the 2000 Census population of the community (city/county/and/or project region)? If more recent population estimates are available, please provide, also.

- b. What is the current unemployment rate in the county? What is the annual unemployment rate for the county over the past three years?

- c. Is the community (county) certified under the Governor's Three Star Program? If so, what level of certification and how many years?

- d. Has the community been designated a federal disaster area within the past three years? If so, what disaster occurred and when?

- e. Has the community experienced the closing or major downsizing of a military facility of other major employer within the past three years? If so, name the facility/company and number of jobs lost.