



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The ezone, a division of Northern Kentucky Tri-ED, serves entrepreneurs in the following industries: Biosciences; Environmental & Energy Technologies; Human Health & Development; Information Technology & Communications; and Materials Science & Advanced Manufacturing. Utilizing the following programs, the ezone offers assistance in three areas: Assessment, Business Planning and Capital.

NKY ICC Program

The NKY Innovation and Commercialization Center (ICC) provides assistance to entrepreneurs, scientists, and engineers in perfecting their business strategies and building successful high-tech businesses. The focus of the program is a set of detailed steps and guidelines that help entrepreneurs refine their business strategy, financials, investor presentation, concept, and valuation.

Kentucky Enterprise Fund

The Kentucky Enterprise Fund (KEF) provides seed and early-stage capital to innovative Kentucky companies with high growth potential. By encouraging the commercialization of ideas, the KEF fosters competitive, profitable companies that create high paying jobs and wealth in Kentucky. The awards are in the form of grants, loans and equity that range from \$30,000 to \$750,000.

Kentucky Enterprise Fund – <http://www.startupkentucky.com/?272>

Rural Innovation Fund - <http://www.startupkentucky.com/?273>

SBIR / STTR Matching Funds Program

In order to encourage the growth of high quality, advanced technology companies, Phase I or Phase II SBIR or STTR awardees can apply for matching grants. The 100% match ranges from \$100,000 (Phase I) to \$500,000 (Phase II).

<http://www.thinkkentucky.com/DCI/SBIR/>

DCI Forgivable Loan Program

The Department of Commercialization & Innovation supports the growth of technology companies through this technology job creation program. Companies may receive \$17,500 to \$25,000 per technology job created over a five year period.

http://www.thinkkentucky.com/dci/pdfs/DCI%20High-tech%20Pools_FACT%20SHEET%20FINAL.pdf

Commonwealth Seed Capital LLC

The Commonwealth Seed Capital (CSC) is an investment fund that provides early stage seed equity investments to facilitate the commercialization of innovative ideas and technologies.

Access to Capital

Since 2001, the ezone has been a part of the region's efforts to develop and support seed and early stage funding sources for high growth entrepreneurial companies. A critical part of the ezone's role is to connect companies with funding sources. To date, ezone assisted companies have received over \$50 million in funding.

Contact: For more details regarding the programs and additional support for entrepreneurs contact Casey Barach at (859) 292-7781 or rcb@northernkentuckyusa.com.

The programs listed above are supported and funded by the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, the Department of Commercialization & Innovation and the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education.