INITIATIVE: COWORKING 101

With a growing national trend towards remote employees, freelancers, and independent professionals, and increased mobility for both businesses and startups, Coworking spaces have become a progressively popular and increasingly vital alternative to the traditional workplace. These shared collaborative spaces have shown measurable successes in attracting, retaining, and engaging the ever-growing population of location neutral workers. For the Coworking Space 101 initiative, OEDIT will partner with Proximity Space, the owner and operator of multiple successful coworking spaces in Colorado and who's own initiatives have created a network of connected coworking spaces throughout the State. OEDIT and Proximity Space will host a first of its kind forum where community leaders and potential owners can interact with current coworking spaces and discuss benefits, costs, challenges, and lessons learned from operating a Coworking space, and how communities can apply these best practices.

NUMBER OF OFFERINGS: 3

WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY CAN EXPECT:

▶ Analysis of local characteristics by OEDIT staff members.

▶ Assisted creation of a local, online community for independent professionals.

▶ Facilitation of a teleconference with recently opened coworking spaces.

▶ A workshop where Proximity Space provides perspective and actionable guidance on identifying your audience, creating an online foundation for a connected community, identifying viable physical locations, opening and operating a coworking space in rural and urban communities.

▶ A final strategy document your community will build and utilize for the advancement of your goals.

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES:

For Coworking 101 Participants*

▶ Community successfully assesses the need for a co-working space
    -OR-

▶ Decides a different direction would be a better community fit

All applicants will be invited to create an online community with an actionable plan in place for the applicant to cultivate a connection to untethered members in their community.

REQUIREMENTS:

▶ Local engaged leaders committed for one year to the goal of potentially opening and/or continuing to support a coworking space.

▶ Appropriate (centralized/unique/effective) site selection started. Available real estate options must be identified though a final selection is not required.

▶ Reliable Internet. The speed of the connection is not specific however the capability of the Internet must meet or exceed that which is readily available in the community.

▶ Strong, demonstrable community drive/buy-in.

▶ Clear definition of success for a coworking space. Being able to answer the question "What are you hoping a coworking space will do for your community?"

APPLY HERE