



County of Ottawa

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2012

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Ottawa County Seeking Entrepreneurs, Farmers, and Others with Business Ideas To Complete a Survey

The Ottawa County Planning Commission is currently studying the feasibility of developing a Business Incubator. An Incubator would provide entrepreneurs and business start-ups with facilities (e.g. copiers/fax machines, meeting and office space, loading docks, and manufacturing space), mentoring, training, and other forms of assistance. This type of assistance helps improve the long-term survival rates of new businesses when compared to other business start-ups that do not receive incubator assistance.

Ottawa County's incubator would specifically target entrepreneurs who have a technology related business idea that is focused on one of our County's greatest strengths – Agriculture. Entrepreneurs with technology based business ideas not associated with agriculture may also be able to receive assistance.

Currently, a Feasibility Study is being conducted to determine the number of entrepreneurs who would take advantage of incubator services, the types of services that are needed, and whether the incubator can be self-sustaining. In order to obtain answers to these questions, Ottawa County is asking farmers, small business owners, agri-business representatives, entrepreneurs, researchers, and other individuals who may have an agri-business or non-agri-business technology related business idea to complete a short survey. Anyone who is interested in partnering with Ottawa County to provide mentoring or professional business assistance to start-ups is also encouraged to complete the survey.

The survey can be accessed online at <http://bit.ly/OttawaCountyIncubator>. A hard-copy of the survey can be obtained by contacting the Ottawa County Planning Department at 616-738-4852 or by email at plan@miottawa.org. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and responses are confidential.

Progress reports and news about the Business Incubator and other Ottawa County economic development projects can be obtained on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OttawaPlanning.

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