

Tech-based Economic Development Community of Practice: Subcommunities around TBED strategies

SSTI is forming subcommunities that focus on strategies within the broader TBED field, as we believe these tighter networks will be better-suited to community conversations about effective practices.

To sign up for one of the subcommunities of practice, or to share your interest in future subcommunities, complete this <u>brief registration form</u>.

Read on for additional information about the TBED Community of Practice and the subcommunities.

What is the TBED Community of Practice?

This initiative, which is <u>funded</u> by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, builds the capacity of EDA grantees to achieve greater impacts for their regional innovation economies. SSTI's work with this community emphasizes:

- Identifying and distributing best practices in structuring, measuring and planning TBED initiatives;
- Fostering community among grantees around types of TBED activities and target audiences/technologies; and,
- Facilitating communication with external stakeholders, including funders, clients and partners.

Why is SSTI forming subcommunities?

Our goal in launching these groups is to provide an opportunity for you to:

- Find solutions from your peers that will advance your organization and region
- Build a stronger network of practitioners working on similar initiatives
- Contribute to the field's understanding of effective practices

Given the broad nature of the TBED field, we believe that fostering networks within more specific areas of practice will help achieve these goals



What will the subcommunities do?

As a starting point, SSTI will facilitate monthly meetings for each subcommunity. These will feature a mix of informal discussions, presentations on important topics and collecting the group's wisdom for inclusion in research/education materials.

Meeting format, frequency and topics will be driven by participants.

The initial meetings will emphasize identifying common challenges and interests, with a goal of building an agenda for future conversations.

What subcommunities are being formed?

The first sub-communities we are forming focus on core areas of TBED strategy:

Entrepreneurship

Intended for practitioners working to strengthen innovation-focused entrepreneurs. This occurs across many organization types (including incubators, universities, governments, VDOs, accelerators) and program models (including mentorship, education, EIR, funding, facility use). Topics will include identifying effective practices in these activity areas and other issues needed by the community.

Lab-to-Market

Intended for entities that support the transformation of innovations from the lab to the market, including technology transfer, translation and commercialization. Specific discussions will be driven by the community and could include related initiatives (e.g., SBIR), structures (e.g., commercialization centers) and legal models.

Risk Capital

Intended for organizations that provide capital to new and young innovation-focused companies to discuss effective practices or needs related to fund structures, engagement with private capital, pipeline development and more. Specific topics will be community-driven and could include managing angel networks, SSBCI, or partnering with corporate investors.

We intend to facilitate additional subcommunities over time. Let us know what topics – whether TBED strategies, regions or economic goals – you are most interested in discussing with your peers.



When will these meetings occur?

The initial meetings for each group will be held in March-April on Tuesday afternoons.

How do I participate?

To register, we are asking people to complete a brief registration form letting us know what sub-communities and topics most interest you, and we will follow up with meeting invitations.

We plan to launch additional sub-communities over the course of the project – complete the registration form to let us know your interests!

What is TBED?

Regions compete in a global economy and those that thrive have an economic base composed of firms that constantly innovate and maximize the use of technology in the workplace. Technology-based economic development, or TBED, is the approach used to help create a climate where this economic base can thrive. TBED is one of EDA's <u>investment priorities</u>.

Regions can work toward creating this climate with a variety of approaches including building research capacity, facilitating technology transformation into commercial goods and services, encouraging a culture of entrepreneurship, ensuring access to risk capital, and cultivating a skilled workforce.

Note that the "technology" in TBED is not limited to IT but includes all advanced industry sectors.

How do I learn more?

Contact the SSTI TBED Community of Practice team at tbedcop@ssti.org with any questions.

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