

# Economic Development in the Knowledge Economy

## Key concepts

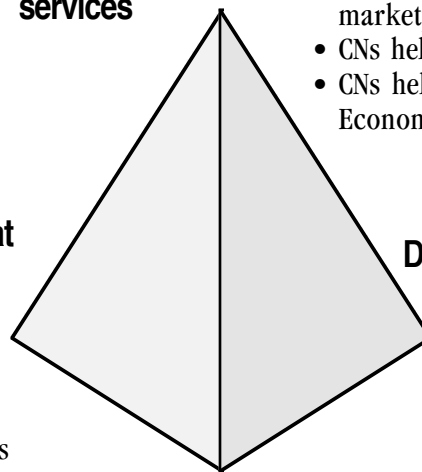
- *How businesses use technology will be a key success factor*
- *Community network projects help attract private sector investment*
- *Quality of life and affordable broadband are both required*

### Develop community network projects to stimulate demand for services

- Community networks expand existing markets for services
- Community networks help create new marketplaces
- CNs help market the community as tech-savvy
- CNs help create a pool of skilled Knowledge Economy workers

### Develop a diversified strategy that emphasizes entrepreneurship

- Most jobs created by existing small businesses
- Provide support for entrepreneurial startups
- Include residential neighborhoods as business districts to support work at home businesses



### Develop Internet-ready office space

- Pre-wire buildings for the Internet
- Pay close attention to amenities
- Focus on world class quality to be competitive

### Create a robust telecommunications infrastructure

- Develop a communitywide strategy to provide a base level of essential telecom infrastructure
- Modest investments create a level playing field in the marketplace
- Ensure affordable broadband access from at least two suppliers

## Questions for communities

- *Do your region's economic development efforts support savvy local entrepreneurs?*
- *Do your local leaders use technology effectively?*
- *Do your local leaders view telecommunications as essential public infrastructure?*
- *Does your community collaborate regionally on telecommunications projects?*
- *Do you use a consensus-based decision-making process to build support for technology projects?*

