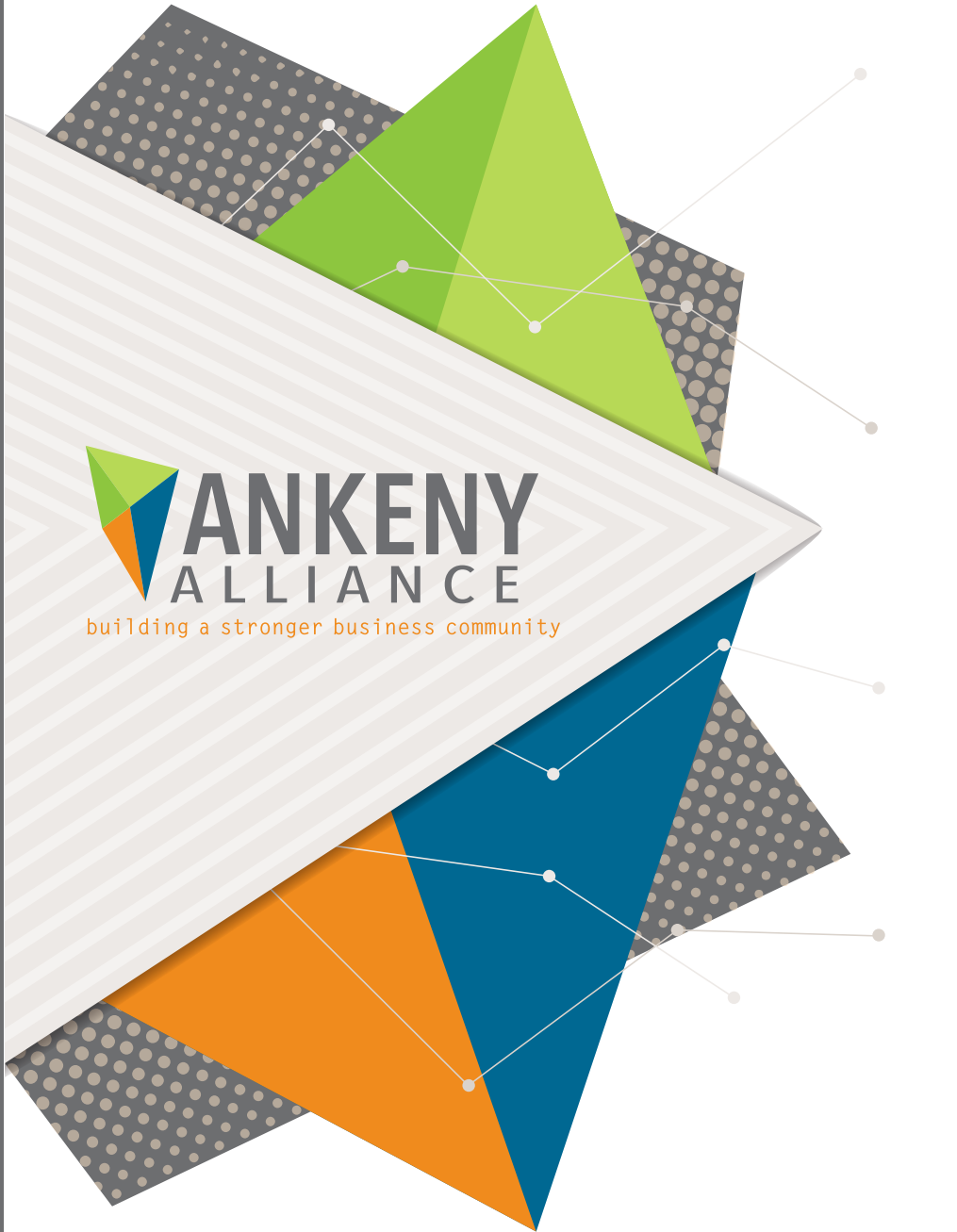
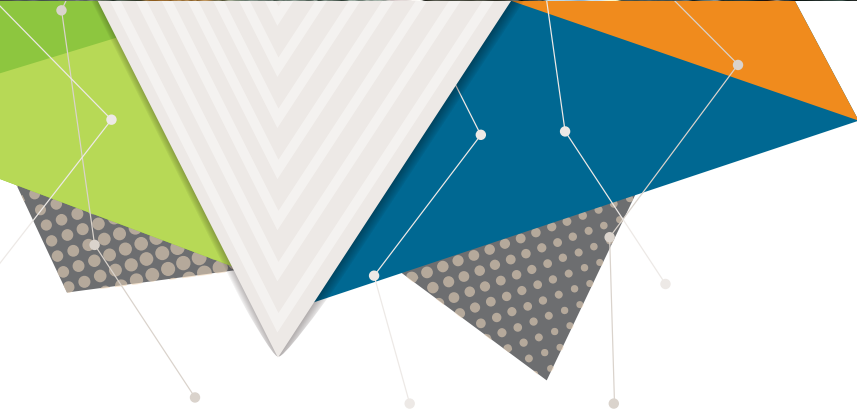




ANKENY ALLIANCE

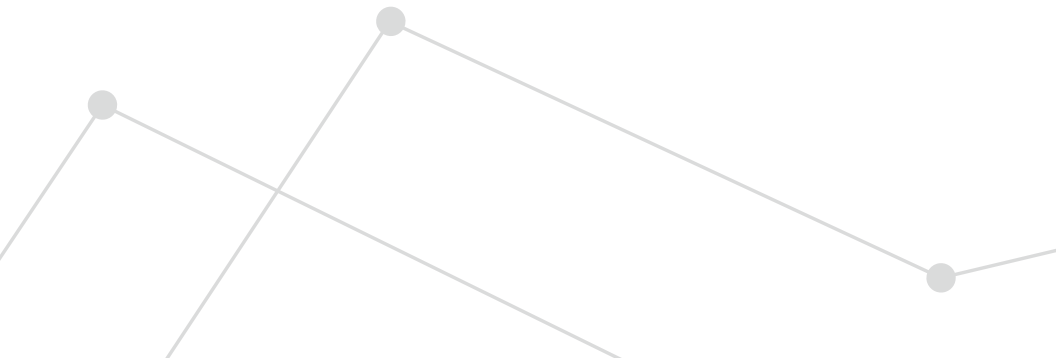
building a stronger business community





WHAT IS ANKENY ALLIANCE?

The Ankeny Alliance is a partnership between the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce, Ankeny Economic Development Corporation, and City of Ankeny. This alliance ensures all local economic development efforts are coordinated and aligned to best serve the needs of small businesses in Ankeny. In addition to coordinated daily economic development efforts, the Alliance offers the following initiatives to assist and grow local business.





ANKENY SEED CAPITAL

This group of qualified investors review business plans and listen to pitches from area entrepreneurs seeking equity investments in their business. They meet quarterly. Businesses seeking seed capital and interested accredited investors can get more information by contacting Ankeny Economic Development Corporation at 515-964-0747.

HOME BASE IOWA

Ankeny is a Home Base Iowa Community. We have employers and businesses who are ready and able to welcome military personnel who are transitioning from active duty to civilian life.



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OFFICE HOURS HOSTING SPEAKERS IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF EXPERTISE

The Chamber's Business Climate Committee hosts quarterly Office Hours, where small business owners in specialized fields such as accounting, marketing and law volunteer their time to either present to small business owners on pertinent topics related to running a small business or sit down one-on-one with small business owners to offer advice on how to overcome obstacles to growing their business. Quarterly meetings typically attract 15 or more small business owners.

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BUSINESS RETENTION

Business retention and expansion efforts are led by a team of individuals representing local and regional economic development partners, as well as industry professionals who can assist with many of the challenges Ankeny businesses are facing. This collaborative and coordinated effort conducted 50 formal business retention visits last year and identified 20 expansion opportunities.

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The mission of Ankeny Workforce Development is to strengthen the community by creating initiatives that bridge the gap between businesses and a talented workforce. To build the needed bridge leaders from area employers, community school districts and area colleges work together to increase awareness of college and career options for students at all levels.

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BUSINESS ADVISORY GROUP

This group convenes as needed to assist business owners who are seeking help with business plans or financing. The group consists of experienced local professionals who provide honest, objective and confidential advice on the range of financing options available to business owners and different ways to structure businesses and financing. Interested business owners or managers can contact Ankeny Economic Development Corporation.

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SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF IOWA

The local office of the Small Business Development Center currently holds office hours once each month at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce office. Bringing the services the SBDC provides to entrepreneurs to the community makes it easier for busy entrepreneurs to get the assistance they may need to help make their business a success.





ON SITE MENTOR TO ASSIST BUSINESSES

Existing Ankeny businesses, entrepreneurs and start-ups (clients) seeking mentor assistance with their business operations and growth are invited to contact the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce. An experienced business leader will connect the client with an appropriate mentor. Business-experienced individuals will be available as mentors on a scheduled basis, at no cost for an initial consultation. The mentors' business areas represented, but not limited to, include: marketing, legal, finance, accounting/bookkeeping, insurance, real estate/facilities, business plans and regulatory. Clients may contact the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce by phone at 515-964-0685.



CULTIVATION COORIDOR

Representatives of the Ankeny Alliance engage in the work of the Cultivation Corridor and help best position Ankeny and local businesses to benefit from Cultivation Corridor related initiatives and projects.



RETAIL/DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

In 2015, the City contracted with a retail consultant to provide comprehensive demographic, economic, and drive time data covering both the City and the retail trade area. This data was shared with the business community and is available on the City's website. Small business owners have access to all the data on the City's website and have been encouraged to use the information to help develop business plans, market their businesses, and assist with making locational decisions.



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY CIRAS & IPRT & PAPPAJOHN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Several ISU organizations provide advanced assistance in manufacturing, research and technology transfer. The services include, but are not limited to: engineering, government contracting, industrial research, supply chain management, materials, new product development and patents. ISU contact information: Dr. Michael R. Crum, Vice President for Economic Development and Business Engagement, call 515-294-8105.



VENTURE SCHOOL PROGRAM THROUGH UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Each of the three organizations in the Ankeny Alliance funded a scholarship to support one local team to participate in the University of Iowa's Venture School Program. This program is designed to help entrepreneurs vet their idea in a team setting and identify customers to determine if they should move their idea forward. This was a beneficial venture for local businesses. If an Ankeny entrepreneur would like to apply to be part of the Venture School Program, Ankeny Alliance will be happy to support you. For further details or information, contact the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce.



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