



Village HUB - shared spaces

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Village HUBs



A network of spaces dedicated to entrepreneurs, work-at-home folks, cultural creatives, solopreneurs, small Ag enterprises, and indie-makers.

Spaces to foster social connections, new business ventures, and creativity - providing personal and professional support to achieve goals.

Our mission is to bring people together in a collaborative, supportive, easily accessible and affordable fusion of coworking, remote work HUB, and community third space.

Remote work has the potential to transform our small communities, bringing new career opportunities to places that need them most and sowing the seeds of new Vermont businesses.

Remote Work & Coworking

A style of work that involves a shared working environment accessed with a monthly or annual membership.

Members are work-at-home professionals, independent contractors, frequent travelers and knowledge workers with flexible schedules.

Coworking includes social and professional gathering of the group to share ideas and help each other achieve their business and personal goals.



Current Bill feedback

1. Consider the hardware and software tax incentive for employees - could inadvertently benefit out of state companies that supply the equipment
2. Remove the State as a determinant of where spaces should be. Capital markets will be better at designing entrepreneurial and engaging workspaces
3. Fund a role to promote VT as Remote Working destination

Don't forget (tech) Vermonters already here

- “Hidden talent” of VT - estimated at 5000 in the tech economy. They're making an impact
- Coworking & similar space tax credit should apply - feed the entrepreneurial landscape, if the numbers make sense

Don't forget Vermonters already here - new careers

- Support HUBs as local resource center for career training - collaborate with DOL
- Thousands in savings for people that need it the most
- Higher wage jobs = more \$\$ circulating in local economy
- Working from home may be untenable for people based upon technology limitations or domestic safety.

VT DOL Growing Jobs - 2016

15-0000 Computer and Mathematical Occupations

15-1121	Computer Systems Analysts	394	485	2.1%
15-1122	Information Security Analysts	104	117	1.2%
15-1132	Software Developers, Applications	863	1,008	1.6%
15-1133	Software Developers, Systems Software	560	705	2.3%
15-1134	Web Developers	691	862	2.2%
15-1141	Database Administrators	296	318	0.7%
15-1142	Network and Computer Systems Administrators	1,570	1,673	0.6%
15-1151	Computer User Support Specialists	1,287	1,446	1.2%
15-1152	Computer Network Support Specialists	322	344	0.7%
15-1199	Computer Occupations, All Other	192	207	0.8%
15-2011	Actuaries	63	73	1.5%
15-2031	Operations Research Analysts	61	81	2.9%

<http://www.vtlmi.info/decliningandhighdemandocc.pdf>

Shared spaces - tough model in small areas

- If shared spaces are to be a resource for remote workers (entrepreneurial activity, connections, infrastructure), they need support to create a sustainable model for their community
- Colorado's Blueprint Coworking 101

Other States: Maine

In 2015, the Maine Coworking Development Fund, administered by the Maine Economic & Community Development Department, issued grants to Fork Food Lab in Portland, Our Katahdin Properties in Millinocket and Think Tank, each of which received \$25,000. Open Bench Project in Portland and The Gem in Bethel each received \$12,500.

Roche has supported other such efforts by the state.

"Smart cities and states are figuring out how to fund this," Roche says.

"[We should be saying] 'Here's legit startup capital. Go open a coworking space in Waterville, in Augusta, in Sanford.' That's what we should be doing."

"It's a real opportunity, make Maine a place to remote work," he adds.

"We can tell people, 'Why not take that six-figure corporate job in Boston or Washington, D.C., and come to Portland, Maine, where we have the coworking space to support you?'"

Other States: Utah

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Other States: Kentucky

TELEWORKSUSA

-FIND A HUB NEAR YOU-



Teleworks USA is an innovative program that is bringing cutting-edge telework (work-from-home) employment opportunities to jobseekers, especially those in rural areas and small towns, allowing them to participate in the global economy without relocating.

Considerations: Loneliness

But as any **remote worker** will tell you, there are also considerable challenges...isolation and loneliness are among the biggest complaints. Working remotely means missing out on the human interaction and social aspects that being in an office provides

Combat Loneliness



- 87% of respondents report that they meet other members for social reasons, with 54% saying they socialize with other members after work and/or on weekends
- 79% said coworking has expanded their social networks
- 83% report that they are less lonely since joining a coworking space
- 89% report that they are happier since joining a coworking space

Considerations: Health Care

Freelance Work in the United States

Many people are choosing to work independently, in fact, in 2015, 1 in 3 workers were choosing to earn income from non-traditional work, **that works out to 53 million Americans. The estimates are that by 2020, that's just 3 years away, 50 percent of the workforce in the United States will have some form of freelance work.** A major challenge facing independent, self-employed or freelance workers is in finding affordable and reliable health insurance coverage.

VT's moving...remote work

- New efforts for Hinesburg, Charlotte, Bradford, Lyndonville, Randolph, Bristol, Middlebury, Bethel, Colchester with GMP
- New spaces in WRJ & Brattleboro launched and folded w/in a year - **need support**

