



ULC MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Strengthening Libraries as Entrepreneurial Hubs

In 2018, ULC surveyed our members to assess how they have been impacted by ULC's work to strengthen public libraries as entrepreneurial hubs. Below are key discoveries from the survey results.

Among responding libraries:



61%

say ULC's work has reinforced the library's existing commitment to working with entrepreneurs.



55%

are exploring new ways to broaden the library's impact as an entrepreneurial hub.



46%

are more aware of the library's unique capacity to serve entrepreneurs.



38%

have created at least one new connection or partnership to increase capacity to support entrepreneurs.



46%

are exploring how to align services internally to better support entrepreneurs.



46%

are currently providing services designed specifically for immigrants, people of color, women and/or veterans.



40%

are focusing more intentionally on reaching and engaging entrepreneurs most in need of support including immigrants, people of color, women, veterans and justice-involved residents.

Survey respondents identified libraries' top three challenges for expanding entrepreneurial support:

56%

Insufficient staff time to carry out the work



46%

Too many competing priorities for library resources



42%

Lack of staff expertise to support entrepreneurs/small businesses



Survey respondents shared the following insights:

- “ Libraries are poised to make notable economic impacts by working strategically to provide support to businesses and entrepreneurs.
- “ ULC's work inspired us to explore targeting veterans and justice-involved residents to tailor entrepreneurial services to their specific needs to augment our current intentional engagement with women and immigrants.
- “ The entrepreneurial mindset is becoming necessary for creative minds in the field. It is the future of how work will get done.
- “ This work can't be done by waiting for people to discover that the library has services that will help them. We need to be out in the community – engaging these entrepreneurs (of all stripes) where they are.
- “ We have gained insight into the importance of supporting the workforce of the future and matching library services to support the needs of future entrepreneurs.