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Fairfield County is excited to announce the first recipient of its Entrepreneurial Support Grant. Cultivate, an entrepreneur center based in Grove City, has received a grant to help expand into a Pickerington location. It's the first entrepreneur center in Fairfield County.

Cultivate Pickerington will be located at 19 N. Center St. It will provide entrepreneurs with business decision tools, digital marketing tools, business training and events, business planning and funding support, networking and referrals, and office, meeting, kitchen and studio spaces.

"This will be a great addition to our county and to Pickerington," said Jeff Fix, Fairfield County Commissioner. "We're glad that the county could support this venture. Small business is the backbone to our economy. Helping entrepreneurs become successful will be critical to the growth of our county."

Fairfield County's Entrepreneurial Support Grant is available to not-for-profit organizations and public entities that help drive entrepreneurship in Fairfield County. The goal of the grant is to provide a framework for more residents to pursue starting their own business. Cultivate was awarded \$15,000 per year for the next three years. The City of Pickerington and the Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce are also contributing to Cultivate; they partnered with the county to bring the entrepreneurship center here.

Cultivate is a nonprofit that helps entrepreneurs change the trajectory of their life through business ownership. They deploy funding and resources to help entrepreneurs be successful.

"We're excited to join the Pickerington community," said Matt Yerkes, Executive Director of Cultivate. "Our non-profit has served hundreds of aspiring entrepreneurs and small businesses since 2016, and we believe that we will be positioned to serve small and emerging businesses throughout Fairfield County."

Yerkes plans to have the center opened by early April. He said there will be space for a dozen businesses as well as membership options for entrepreneurs still in the launch phase and small business owners that do not need a space but still would like growth support.

"We have already built a wonderful partnership between the Chamber and Cultivate, and we look forward to offering new programs to assist entrepreneurs and help them grow their business, or even just get started," said Theresa Byers, President and CEO of the Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce. "I look forward to partnering on events with Cultivate and getting Matt and his team connected to Pickerington, Violet Township and Fairfield County businesses."

Cultivate will provide a presentation to the Fairfield County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 17th, at 9:30 a.m., at the Administrative Courthouse, 210 East Main Street, Floor 3, in Lancaster. For more information about Fairfield County's Entrepreneurial Support Grant, visit www.co.fairfield.oh.us/dev/. For more information about Cultivate, visit www.cultivateoh.io.

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