

Launching Entrepreneurial Advantage for Parents (LEAP) Co-op

We are rural mothers of young children striving for economic self-sufficiency and development of community. The successful establishment of the LEAP co-operative will serve as a model for bottom-up growth of the social economy, by demonstrating the value of nurturing capacity for small-scale, local, community-driven economic and social development projects. We, the LEAP Co-operative, are a newly incorporated group, largely composed of mothers of young children. We are seeking to create co-operative employment for ourselves and to extend the opportunity to others once the venture has become self-sustaining. We are working on product development and business planning. Our intention is to create and market appliquéd wall hangings.

The research question concerns the challenges and resources that affect the possibility of success for economic development conceived and managed by those at whom it is directed, especially when the target group is rural, female, with dependant children, and facing multiple barriers to profitable, sustainable and meaningful employment.