3 South Shore suburbs seek entrepreneur incubator

By Tom Kertscher of the Journal Sentinel

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Three South Shore communities and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee are venturing to create a business incubator that would aim to retain, train and recruit entrepreneurs.

Cudahy, St. Francis and South Milwaukee, along with UWM's Small Business Development Center and its School of Continuing Education, would collaborate on the South Shore Economic Advancement Center.

The center would house new businesses and offer training and other resources to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Lara Fritts, Cudahy's director of economic development, said Wednesday that entrepreneurs are important because communities like those in the South Shore aren't likely to land national retailers in their older downtowns.

Cudahy and its partners applied this month for a $250,000 federal grant that would be used to launch the facility. A decision on the grant is expected in September. No site has been chosen.

Fritts said she began informal discussions with UWM about a month ago. The partners plan to meet again Thursday to make further plans, she said.

Fritts, a Wisconsin native, said she joined Cudahy in January after working in economic development for two suburbs of Washington, D.C.