On, November 2, 2016, the City of Livonia was recognized for its work to foster entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the annual eCities study conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Center for Innovation Research. Livonia was honored as a four-star community along with 44 other communities across the state.

Four-Star Communities (*denotes best practice community)

Four-star communities have seen over $342 million in commercial construction which account for close to 50% of the total construction value and 16% of the construction permits. Additionally, they have additions to their assets worth more than $30 million. 68% of their population is over 25 years of age and 47% have attended some college.

- Bath Charter Township
- City of Dearborn
- **City of Livonia**
- City of Norton Shores
- City of Swartz Creek
- City of Ypsilanti
- Northville Charter Township
- Village of Oxford
- Charter Township of West Bloomfield
- City of Farmington Hills*
- City of Mason
- City of Plymouth
- City of Tecumseh*
- Comstock Charter Township
- Saginaw Charter Township
- Village of Quincy
- City of Adrian
- City of Grand Blanc*
- City of Mount Clemens
- City of Portage
- City of Trenton
- Flint Charter Township
- Thomas Township

Five-Star Communities (*denotes best practice community)

Five-star communities have commercial constructions worth over $875 million, having issued over 2000 construction permits. They have more than $29 billion in combined real and personal properties. They have more than $21 million in additions to assets in the past year and with about 10% of the employed population being self-employed.

- Ann Arbor Charter Township
- City of Ann Arbor
- City of Farmington
- City of Marquette
- City of Novi
- City of Sault Ste. Marie*
- Delta Charter Township
- Plymouth Township
- Cascade Charter Township
- City of Coldwater
- City of Grandville
- City of Midland
- City of Oak Park
- City of Sturgis
- Kochville Township
- City of Meridian
- City of Dexter
- City of Madison Heights
- City of Mount Pleasant
- City of Romulus*
- City of Wixom
- Pittsfield Township

The eCities study surveyed 76 communities from 25 counties in Michigan that are home to more than 22 percent of Michigan residents and 28 percent with at least a bachelor’s degree. These communities count for nearly one-fifth of the state’s entrepreneurs who earned more than $1.9 billion self-employed income in total. About 60 percent of these communities have a local business database, more than a quarter provide business improvement grants and more than 40 percent have full-time economic development employees.

“The eCities project highlights how local governments from across the state of Michigan are cultivating and supporting economic development. These communities show how
local governments can work in distinct and strategic ways to energize public spaces, while investing in businesses and job development,” said Tim Davis, Director, iLabs.

Support for eCities is provided in part by the DTE Energy Foundation, Comcast, Plante Moran and UM-Dearborn’s College of Business.

The annual eCities research project, which began in 2007, uses data supplied by the participants, as well as other public records to assemble a six-factor, 32-item index of entrepreneurial activity, looking at such factors as clustering, incentives, growth, policies, community and education. The study focuses on entrepreneurship because of its importance to expansion and diversification of Michigan’s regional economies and the impact small businesses have on job creation. To date, more than 200 communities across Michigan have participated in the study.