

Acknowledgments

This book would not have been possible without the support and participation of a number of entities. The Office of Advocacy of the US Small Business Administration funded the conference itself. The SBC Foundation provided much of the financial support for the Center for Regional Economic Issues at Case Western Reserve University that helped host the conference. This conference and many of the activities of the Center would not be possible were it not for the generous support of the SBC Foundation. The Dean's office of the Weatherhead School at Case Western Reserve University provided access to the wonderful facility in which the conference took place, the Peter B. Lewis Building.

Several individuals helped greatly to organize the conference. Ed Morrison, the Executive Director of the Center for Regional Economic Issues, helped to line up participants for the conference and helped to shape the agenda, making sure it reflected the dual goals of providing scholarly insight and being useful to practitioners. Betsey Merkel and Susan Altshuler, staff members of the Center, did much of the hard work to make the conference happen, ensuring that participants were fed and housed, their transportation arranged, and their materials distributed. The conference and the resulting book would not have been possible without the contribution of these people.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the participants in the conference for their contribution to the discussion that ensued after the presentation of the initial drafts of the papers contained in this volume. The feedback provided by many helped to shape the final drafts of the contributions to this volume in a variety of important ways. While many people contributed to this discussion, two stand out in their importance. David Morgenthaler of Morgenthaler Ventures and Chad Moutray of the US Small Business Administration both provided significant valuable feedback to the authors of virtually all of the chapters contained in this book. Without their participation, the output of this conference would have been much less.