## **CBP Graduates "Lean for the Military Community" Class**



CBP continued its popular "Lean for Main Street" program with an intensive 6 week workshop to help members of the military community apply lean methodologies to their businesses. This hands-on course, launched in Spring 2018 with a cohort of 12 entrepreneurs, introduced participants to the lean methodology and challenged them to start conducting customer interviews and determine the appropriate model in order to launch their businesses. The class concluded with an opportunity for all participants to "pitch" their business idea followed by a graduation ceremony.

This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> cohort of "Lean for Main Street" graduates in as many years; and our first to focus exclusively on the military community (including all era Veterans, active duty military, National Guard, Reservists and military spouses and family members).

In 2016, Community Business Partnership – through a competitive proposal process - was selected as one of five nationwide winners of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) "Lean for Main Street Training" Challenge!

Lean methodology has long been popular in technology start-ups, driving companies to move away from a traditional business plan to a more simplified, step-by-step approach. It involves a cycle of consumer feedback and adaption to quickly take products to market. Through a partnership with the National Science Foundation's I-





Corps program, CBP staff attended the I-Corps' training program in Washington, D.C., and adapted the current "Lean Startup" curriculum for use in our center to meet the needs of local businesses.

If you are interested in learning more about the "Lean for Main Street" Program, contact us at: juli@cbponline.org or charles@cbponline.org.

The Lean for the Military Community Program is exclusively sponsored by:

