

PITCH YOUR PLAN

Business Challenge

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

- The Pitch Your Plan Business Challenge (“the Business Challenge”) is open to current or prospective entrepreneurs who present a for-profit business idea according to the Official Contest Rules and Timeline. By entering in the Business Challenge Contest, all participants agree to these Official Rules and to all decisions of the Pitch Your Plan Judging Committee (“Judging Committee”) and Pitch Your Plan Steering Committee (“Steering Committee”), which are final and binding in all respects.
- Eligible business concepts are strictly limited to a business start-up, a second or third location of an existing business elsewhere, a significant expansion of a current business with a new concept, product or service line, or a relocation of an existing business that is currently outside Douglas County. Eligible business concepts must locate to within Douglas County. Ineligible entries include business relocations from within Douglas County, nonprofit concepts, or purely aesthetic upgrades of existing businesses.
- Applicants must ensure that proposed business concepts meet current zoning ordinances for their area. Contact Douglas County Land and Resource Management 320-762-3863, Alexandria Township 320-759-5300 or City of Alexandria 320-763-6678.
- The Judging Committee will judge the business plans and business Pitch. All decisions are final.
- The Steering Committee reserves the right to modify and/or extend the deadline dates of the program.
- The Steering Committee reserves the right not to award prizes if the Judging Committee determines, in consultation with the Steering Committee, that no contest entries present viable business concepts that are likely to be successful.
- Prizes are non-transferable and may not be redeemed for cash; substitutions by Prize Winners may not be requested. The prizes may be modified at any time, at the discretion of the Steering Committee.
- By participating in the Business Challenge, participants agree to attend all Business Challenge events and follow the Business Challenge Timeline.
- The Business Challenge will include three Phases of competition. Phase 1 consists of an online questionnaire, after which the Steering Committee will advance up to ten semifinalists. Phase 2 consists of business planning, consulting and a credit check, after which the Judging Committee will advance up to three finalists. Phase 3 consists of additional consulting and an in-person presentation. Judges will select the Business Challenge winner from the finalists, who will be revealed during National Small Business Week, at an event on May 7, 2019.
- Participants who advance Phase 2 of the Business Challenge agree to submit to a credit check and to release their credit report to the Judging Committee. All credit reports shall be kept confidential by the Judging Committee.
- The Grand Prize winner shall assume responsibility for the payment of any other business expenses that are not a part of the prize package. In accordance with the IRS Code regarding prizes and

awards, a Form 1099-MISC may be issued by the Committee to the Grand Prize winners. Please consult your tax advisor for additional information.

- The Grand Prize winner is required to provide updates to the Steering Committee or its representative (or upon his or her request) monthly or as requested, in order to keep the Steering Committee apprised of progress before the business opens.
- Printed copies of business proposals submitted into the contest may not be returned, but will be kept confidential by the Steering Committee and Judging Committee.
- Participants consent to the Steering Committee and its agents' use of participants' names, likeness, picture, portrait, voice, biographical information, and written submissions and written or oral statements, for advertising and promotional purposes without additional compensation unless required by law.
- Information regarding the contest finalists and Grand Prize Winner will be posted on the Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission website and will be released to the public.
- If a Grand Prize winner does not accept the Grand Prize within 15 business days after the announcement of the Business Challenge winner, an alternate Grand Prize winner may be selected.
- The Grand Prize Winner must open their business within 12 months of the announcement of the Business Challenge winner, unless an extension is requested in writing and granted by the Steering Committee. If not completed thereafter, the Grand Prize is forfeited and may go to another participant. The Grand Prize expires after 12 months from the date of being awarded.
- By participating in the Business Challenge, participants release and discharge the Judging Committee, Steering Committee, their affiliated companies, participating sponsors, information providers, content providers, subsidiaries, advertisers, advertising agencies, promotional and marketing agencies, and any other companies involved with or otherwise providing services related to this promotion, and all their respective employees, officers, directors, volunteers, representatives and agencies from any liability or damage due in whole or in part to the use or misuse of the materials or business proposals provided by any participant, the award, acceptance, possession, use or misuse of the Grand Prize, or otherwise from the participant's participation in the Business Challenge. In no event shall the Judging Committee, Steering Committee, their affiliated companies, participating sponsors, information providers, content providers, subsidiaries, advertisers, advertising agencies, promotional and marketing agencies, or any other companies, by reason of any provision of the Business Challenge, be or be deemed to be a joint venture with, or partner with, or agent of the participant. All entity participants in the Business Challenge shall be active and in good standing with the MN Secretary of State.