

PITCH YOUR PLAN

Business Challenge 2020

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

1. 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 these Official Contest Rules and timeline. By entering in the Business Challenge contest, all participants agree to these Official Contest Rules and to all decisions of the Pitch Your Plan Steering Committee (“Steering Committee”) and Judges (“The Judges”), which are final and binding in all respects.
2. The Business Challenge will award two Grand Prizes as follows:
 - Grand Prize 1: Business start-up
 - Grand Prize 2: An 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 (except as noted above), nonprofit concepts, or purely aesthetic upgrades of existing businesses.

3. 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.
4. The Judges selected by the Steering Committee will judge the business plans and business pitch. All decisions are final.
5. The Steering Committee reserves the right to modify and/or extend the deadline dates of the program.
6. The Steering Committee reserves the right not to award prizes if the Judges determine, in consultation with the Steering Committee, that no contest entries present viable business concepts within the required parameters.
7. Prizes are non-transferable and may not be redeemed for cash; substitutions by Grand Prize winners may not be requested. The prizes may be modified at any time, at the discretion of the Steering Committee.
8. By participating in the Business Challenge, participants agree to attend all Business Challenge events and follow the Business Challenge timeline.
9. The Business Challenge will include three phases of competition. Phase one consists of an online questionnaire, after which the Steering Committee will advance up to 10 total semifinalists. Phase two consists of business planning and consulting, after which The Judges will advance up to six finalists. Phase 3 consists of additional consulting and an in-person presentation. The Judges will select the Business Challenge winners from the finalists, who will be revealed during the final event on April 30, 2020.
10. The Grand Prize winners 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 Steering Committee and/or awarding entity to the Grand Prize winners. Please consult your tax advisor for additional information.

11. The Grand Prize winners are 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.
12. 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.
13. Information regarding the contest finalists and Grand Prize winners will be posted on the Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission website and will be released to the public.
14. If Grand Prize winners do 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.
15. The Grand Prize winners must implement their business plan within 12 months of the announcement of the Business Challenge winners, 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. Any portion of the Grand Prize not used within 12 months of the date of award is forfeited, unless extended with the consent of the Steering Committee.
16. 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.