

Organization: Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC)
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CALL FOR APPLICATION (deadline Feb 25)

CREDC recently received a business growth accelerator grant to lead and execute a pilot hands-on catalyst program for new entrepreneurs with accelerated scalability potential, and who are focused in adding to their knowledge base and growing their business network connections to grow and catapult their business to the next level.

We are calling for entrepreneurs in Clark County who are operating businesses up to \$999,999 and who are interested in driving rapid change and growth in their business.

Cost: The highly subsidized cost for this comprehensive business accelerator program is \$500 per participant, with possible scholarships available.

Availabilities: There are 16-20 available spaces available, depending on the business profiles of applicants. If needed, we may approach the class as 2 sub-cohorts – new entrepreneurs and fast-growth prospects. Preference will be given to participant profiles that best align with the focus of this specific grant.

Preference will be given to participant profiles with the following attributes in traded sector businesses, where possible:

- Accelerators, incubators and related entrepreneurs
- STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math)/R&D entrepreneurs including, but not exclusive, to the areas of advanced manufacturing, high-tech, clean-tech, life sciences entrepreneurs
- New entrepreneurs; women & minority entrepreneurs
- Entrepreneurs building technologies to address key policy issues such as clean energy and supply chain resilience, or an underserved target group identified by the applicant (i.e., rural, veterans, individuals with disabilities, etc.)

Program Details: This program is focused on developing hands-on learning sessions for new entrepreneurs/innovators that focus on core areas of first-stage businesses that might include:

- Financial literacy
- Sales strategies/pitch readiness
- Business operations/execution
- HR and managing people
- Strategy and vision

Commitment: Applicants must be fully committed to the following:

- Full active and authentic participation
- Four in-person learning days in Vancouver, Washington
- Pre and post session assignments may include reading and worksheet preparation
- Other assignments may include goal setting, accountability tasks, one-on-one mentoring, group discussions, etc.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please provide the following application package in the pdf format (not to exceed 5 pages) and submit it **no later than Feb. 25, 2022 (extended deadline)** via email to mfarness@credc.org.

- BIOGRAPHY, RESUME or CV
- LETTER OF INTEREST – please tell us of your business and include the following:
 - Describe the profile of your business and customer base including type, size, revenue/net income, FTEs
 - Why did you start your business?
 - Where do you see your business in 3 to 5 years?
 - Where do you see are your strengths and weaknesses?
 - What do you desire to gain from participating in this program?

OVERVIEW

Our Mission: Develop a strong, innovative SW Washington business environment in collaboration with our private and public sector partners. We connect businesses with resources to accelerate business expansion, relocation, growth, and innovation.

We work with over 100 local traded sector businesses each year, taking a consultative approach to help companies reduce costs, save time, optimize talent, and grow sales. By leveraging our public and private sector partners at the local, state, and federal levels we connect businesses with resources to help them succeed.

Our Value Proposition: CREDC seeks to bolster the entrepreneurial ecosystem with grant funding awarded for these purposes to help entrepreneurs or business innovators in the following three dynamic areas:

- **Tools:** Access to hands-on training on leading business practices and tools to apply to a business immediately. Learning days are led by an experienced business coach who can lead the group to understanding as well as application.
- **Accountability:** Regular accountability with an experienced business coach to focus on goal setting and action. Participants share their personal and professional issues they face in a confidential, non-competitive environment. They learn and grow by sharing their experiences with peers, not simply by listening to advice.
- **Community:** Participants can be connected to the wider SW Washington business community, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and mentors relevant to the local community.

PAYMENTS, CANCELLATIONS, AND PENALTIES

If you are selected to participate in this program, you will need to submit the payment of \$500 with your official registration. You must be fully registered and paid no later than April 1, 2022.

There will be \$100 penalty for cancellation, and there will be no refund after April 4, 2022.

If you need financial assistance, please reach out in writing via email to: mfarness@credc.org.

PROCESS SCHEDULE & TIMELINE (approx.)

Application Process:	January 4 February 25	Call for Application All applications due to CREDC by 5 pm COB (extended deadline)
Review & Selection:	Feb 28 – Mar 11	Review of submitted applications
Register & Pay:	March 14 April 10	Notify applicants of acceptance / Registrations and payments by April 1 st No refund after this date
Pre-Session Prep:	Mid-April	Pre-Session prep may include surveys and reading assignments
*Sessions:	May June July August	Session 1 – 1 day (tbd) Session 2 – 1 day (tbd) Session 3 – 1 day (tbd) Session 4 – 1 day (tbd) <i>*Depending on the location, mask and vaccination requirements may be mandated</i>
Post Program:	September	Completion & graduation

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please plan to submit your application no later than Friday, February 25 2022 (extended deadline)
Submit all application questions in writing via email to: mfarness@credc.org.