

Fremont County Startup Challenge- 2025

Competition Rules:

General Eligibility

1. **Team Composition:**
 - Teams can consist of **1 to 3 members**
 - Each team must designate a **Team Leader** to act as the main point of contact.
2. **Business Stage:**
 - Open to startups in the **idea, prototype, or early-revenue stages**.
 - Applicants must not have generated more than **\$200,000 in total revenue** in the past 12 months.
3. **Ownership:**
 - Participants must own at least **50% of the business idea** to qualify.
 - Teams cannot submit ideas that are wholly owned by an established corporation or another entity.
4. **Originality:**
 - Submissions must be **original ideas** developed by the team.
 - Ideas that infringe on existing intellectual property or patents are ineligible.
5. **Previous Winners:**
 - Teams or individuals who have won **first-place prizes in this or similar competitions** within the past 24 months are not eligible to compete

Geographic and Demographic Rules

6. **Residency:**
 - Participants must at least one member of their team reside in or have significant ties Fremont County
 - International participants may be allowed if they meet other criteria (optional).
7. **Student Eligibility:**
 - Open to current **undergraduate or graduate students**, as well as recent alumni (graduated within the last 12 months).
 - Written parental or guardian consent is required for applicants less than 18 years of age

Funding and Financial Rules

8. **Funding Cap:**
 - Teams or businesses must not have received more than **\$100,000 in outside investment or grants**.

- Personal savings and bootstrapping contributions are excluded from this limit.
- 9. **Affiliation Restrictions:**
 - Participants cannot submit projects funded by or affiliated with large organizations or corporations unless they retain significant creative control.

Idea and Market Rules

- 10. **Type of Business:**
 - Submissions must fall within the scope of **legal, ethical, and socially responsible businesses**.
 - Prohibited business types include those involving:
 - Gambling
 - Controlled substances (except legal cannabis markets, if allowed by local laws)
 - Adult content
 - Preference may be given to ideas with a focus on **community impact, sustainability, or innovation**.
- 11. **Feasibility:**
 - Submissions must demonstrate realistic potential for execution within [6-12 months] after the competition.

Other Rules

- 13. **Commitment:**
 - All team members must agree to participate in the full competition, including mentorship, workshops, and the final pitch event.
 - Teams must confirm their availability for all scheduled activities.
- 14. **Code of Conduct:**
 - Participants must adhere to the professionalism and respect for other teams, judges, and organizers during event.
- 15. **Conflict of Interest:**
 - Judges, mentors, and organizers cannot participate as competitors.
 - Immediate family members of judges or organizers are ineligible to compete.
- 16. **Multiple Entries:**
 - Participants can submit only **one idea per team**.
 - Team members cannot participate on multiple teams.
- 17. **Agreement to Rules:**
 - Participants must sign an **agreement** confirming they understand and accept all competition rules.