

Level Up Pitch Competition Overview

The Level Up Pitch Contest is a competition where participants present a concise, compelling introduction of their new product, service or expansion plan to reach a new market in no more than ten (10) minutes:

The competition is open to Tillamook County small business owners who have been in operation for at least one year. A well-planned elevator pitch can open doors to future entrepreneurial success and give you the chance to win up to \$10,000 in funds to kick-start your business.

The Pitch contest will award prizes in first place \$10,000, second place \$5,000 and third place \$2,500. The Level Up Pitch contest will be held on:

- **April 23, 2026:** Tillamook

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be residents of Tillamook County, Oregon.
- The business must be headquartered in Tillamook County, Oregon.
- The pitch must be for an existing business (operating at least one year) who is launching a new product, service or expanding your business. .
- Businesses must be for-profit and able to demonstrate a sustainable future.
- Applicants must be ready and available to pitch their business in person; no video submissions will be accepted.
- Applicants must be able to explain how they will use the prize funds and be willing to attend an EDC Board meeting six months later to provide an update on how they spent the funds and outline their progress.
- Applicants must sign a release allowing Level Up and its affiliates to use pictures and videos for marketing purposes. Additionally, applicants are expected to share information about the event on their social media platforms.
- Previous contest winners are ineligible to enter the pitch contest.

Format

- Level Up Pitch Contest involves an open submission process. Applications are available at www.edctc.com.
- The submission process is online and limited to the **first eight eligible** contestants who submit complete applications and meet the eligibility requirements.

Application Guidelines

- The applicant must be the owner of the business/business idea and should be the same person who will be pitching live during the Mini-Pitch Night and Grand Pitch Finale.
- The application will include the following questions:

- What is your primary business focus?
- Tell us more about your service, product or expansion plans.
- Who is your target market and what is your plan to expand that market?
- What does the future look like for your company?
- What would you use the prize money for?

Pitch Guidelines

- The purpose of the pitch is to quickly capture the judges' attention, clearly explain what your product, service or expansion plans are. and state your funding needs.
- Distributing materials, samples, and/or prototypes to the judges before or during your pitch is permitted and encouraged.
- At the pitch contest pitches can be up to 10 minutes long, with up to 10 minutes for questions/discussion. A time clock and time warnings will be provided.
- Pitch coaching is available through Tillamook Bay SBDC. Contact Rudel Larriba at rudellarriba@tillamookbaycc.edu for more information.

Judges & Scoring

- Submissions will be pre-screened, and applicants will be notified if they are selected to present at the Pitch competition.
- A panel of two or more judges will be present at the Pitch competition.
- Judges will use a scoring sheet, and criteria provided by the Level Up Team to determine the highest-ranking pitch. Individual scores will not be shared with participants.

Schedule & Awards

- Participants will be organized in a randomly selected order and will be required to present at their designated time (no swapping).
- Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the Pitch contest.
- No cash will be handed directly to winners; the Economic Development Council of Tillamook County will collaborate with the winners to distribute the award funds.
- Winners must be willing to provide a W-8 or W-9 form to receive their prize.

Other Notes

- This document serves as a set of guidelines for participants preparing to apply and participate in the Pitch contest. The information provided here is subject to change as needed. If you have any questions or need help developing your pitch, please contact us at edctc@mail.tillamookbaycc.edu or 971-837-5998..
- The Pitch presentations may be recorded (photography and videography) for future promotional use by the organization. By applying, you agree to allow your image,

likeness, and name to be used in any publications or purposes by Level Up Tillamook or the Economic Development Council of Tillamook County.

- You are encouraged to capture videos/photos on your phone throughout the event for social media posts. Use the event hashtags #LevelUp and #MiniPitch in your posts to ensure they are easily found. Encourage your friends and followers to like, comment, and share your posts—the more engagement, the better! Ensure your posts comply with the social media platform's guidelines and community standards and respect the privacy and consent of others when capturing and sharing content.