



GWHCC Business Expo

Pitch Your Biz Competition Guidelines and Rules

Employees of the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and all associated sponsors of the Business Expo are ineligible to participate. All determinations as to participant eligibility shall be made at the sole discretion of the Business Expo Organizers reviewing the initial pool of applicants.

The competition is open to businesses in any industry.

To qualify, entrants must meet the following criteria:

Startup or Existing Business Eligibility

1. Must have operated for more than six months (proof of licensing required).
2. Must represent a business project or concept in the early stages of development or launch.

Application Process and Timeline

1. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, April 7, 2023**.
2. Application must include the following items:
 - a. Completed application form (Complete the form online)
 - b. Copy of current DC, MD, or VA business license(s)
3. All documents submitted in digital format must be submitted via the online form.
4. Failure to submit any of the required documents will result in the disqualification of your application.
5. Applications will be accepted up to Friday, April 7, 2023 at 11:59 P.M. Eastern Standard Time.
6. Finalists will be selected, and all applicants will be sent a notification email by Tuesday, April 11, 2023.
7. Finalists must apply to the notification email to participate in the Live Pitch Event at the GWHCC Business Expo Pitch Your Biz Competition by Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 4:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time. Failure to confirm will result in disqualification.
8. Competition organizers reserve the right to delay or extend the registration period and adjust the number of finalists selected to make the presentation pitch at any time.
9. By applying, you agree to the competition terms and conditions.
10. If your business is not selected as a finalist, you are still encouraged to attend. You will have a great opportunity to network with like-minded entrepreneurs and learn about business development resources available in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.
11. All finalists will receive a Pitch Competition Tips and Rules Package

Competition Guidelines and Rules

1. All Pitch Application submissions will be reviewed by the Business Expo Organizers prior to the competition final qualification date.
2. If a registrant's application is selected as one of the competition finalists prior to the final qualification date, the registrant will be invited to compete in the GWHCC Business Expo Business Pitch Competition.
3. Up to 8 finalists will be selected to compete in the Live Pitch Event. In the event one or more finalists cannot compete on the day of the conference, alternate applicants may be selected by Business Expo organizers to replace them. Business Expo organizers reserve the right to adjust the number of finalists at any time.
4. One representative of each finalist company will have 2 minutes to make their pitch presentation before the judges' panel. Pitches will be hard stopped at 2 minutes. Time will begin when the presenter begins speaking. The presentation will be followed by a 2-3 minute Q&A with the judges.
5. Presenters must be physically present for the Live Pitch Event at the GWHCC Business Expo Pitch Your Biz Competition, which will be held on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 3:15 pm. Failure to arrive by 3:00 pm may result in disqualification. No prerecorded presentations will be permitted.
6. Companies may have a "back up" presenter ready to make the pitch if an emergency arises or unforeseen circumstance prevents the original presenter from participating.
7. The use of PowerPoint or slide presentations is not permitted. Props, posters, or prototypes may be used or displayed, however, set up time will not be provided. Handouts and samples may not be distributed to the judges or audience at any time during your presentation.
8. All public sessions of the competition may be recorded and rebroadcast by event organizers, the public at large, or members of the media. Participants should not expect or assume any rights of confidentiality related to data or information presented or discussed during the public session.
9. Winner will be announced at the GWHCC Business Expo Pitch Your Biz Competition the same day and must be present to claim their award.
10. Competition organizers reserve the right to disqualify any application submission that it deems inappropriate, unethical, or offensive – or to disqualify any finalist that violates the rules of the Live Pitch Event.