

# ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- ❑ There is no fee to enter Build-Up Berkeley Business Pitch Competition.
- ❑ Applicants may compete with either a new or existing business.
  - **New Business:** *A new business is defined as one that will start up within 120 days after the date of the award.*
  - **Existing Business:** *An existing business is defined as a business who wishes to grow their business through new product or service development and plans to implement their expansion project within 120 days after the date of the award.*
- ❑ Businesses must be headquartered within Berkeley County, WV.
- ❑ Businesses must be for-profit ventures.
- ❑ One applicant per business may apply; the applicant will be the representative of the business for both the education sessions and pitch night. The pitch will have one presenter pitching the business; the presenter should have a founder/co-founder role within the business. No substituting is permitted.
- ❑ Build-Up Berkeley educators, mentors, or judges are not permitted to have their business participate in the competition.
- ❑ Previous Build-Up Berkeley participants and finalists are eligible to apply, except for previous Build-Up Berkeley Grand Prize Winners.
- ❑ Immediate family members of the Berkeley County Development Authority staff or Board of Directors are not eligible to participate.
- ❑ Participants who earn a spot in the competition are responsible for attending required education sessions, meetings, and events related to the Build-Up Berkeley Business Pitch Competition (refer to the calendar details on pp. 2). **In the event that the participant cannot attend all educational sessions, 5 points will be deducted from the Business Plan score for each missed session or any session where they are absent for 15 minutes or more.**
- ❑ Participants who earn a spot in the competition are responsible for submitting a complete Business Plan (refer to the calendar details on pp. 2).
- ❑ Individuals may register by submitting their elevator pitch of up to 90 seconds along with the Application and Participant Agreement Form on the BCDA website at [www.developmentauthority.com/BuildUpBerkeley](http://www.developmentauthority.com/BuildUpBerkeley). Applications must be submitted by Friday, August 9, 2024 at 5:00p.m.