



## Rural Entrepreneur 2026 Pitch Application



### Eligibility Requirements:

1. Be an entrepreneur operating a for-profit business in Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, or Wyoming counties in northeastern Pennsylvania.
2. Been in business for at least one year, have less than 20 employees, and be current on all taxes.
3. Demonstrate a clear and impactful use for the grant funds in their business.
4. Not a winner in the 2025 She Means Business Pitch Competition.

### 1. Applicant Information

- **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EIN:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Business Address:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Month/Year Business Started:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# of Employees:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Website/Social media (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Business Overview (200 Words Maximum)

- Briefly describe your business and attach to this application.

### 3. Use of Funds (300 Words Maximum)

- Provide an explanation of how you would use the \$3,000 reimbursable grant to grow your business and attach to this application. Include:
  - The proposed purchase
    - Eligible uses include marketing, training, equipment (under \$10,000 value), etc.
    - Ineligible uses include taxes, payoff/refinance debt, payroll, etc.
  - How the funds will benefit your business
  - The expected outcomes (e.g., increased revenue, new customers, job creation)

**4. Pitch Preparedness** Pitches will be presented in-person in Towanda, Bradford County on **Thursday April 23, 2026** in the afternoon to a panel of 3 judges.

- If selected to compete, are you willing to present a 5-minute in-person pitch to a judging panel about your project?
  - Yes
  - No
- If selected to compete, would you like free assistance from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to prepare your pitch?
  - Yes
  - No

## 5. Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated on:

1. Clarity and feasibility of the proposed use of funds.
2. Completeness and professionalism of the application.

**Questions?** Ask Cynthia Traore at [traore@northerntier.org](mailto:traore@northerntier.org)

**Submission Deadline:** Completed applications must be submitted by **Friday, March 20, 2026** to Cynthia Traore at [traore@northerntier.org](mailto:traore@northerntier.org)

**Those selected to go on to the next round will be notified by Monday, March 23, 2026 to prepare for pitch presentations on Thursday, April 23, 2026.** Pitch winners will be notified by Wednesday April 29, 2026.

**I hereby certify that all information provided in this document, as well as any accompanying documents, are true and complete.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Business Owner

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**Good luck!**

**We're excited to learn about your business and how this grant can help you grow!**

Disclaimers:

*\*This is a reimbursable grant. Reimbursements will be processed upon submission of paid in full receipts. All receipts and a close out report (template provided upon grant approval) are due by Friday, May 30, 2026.*

*\*\*If any information provided by the applicant is found to be falsified, funds disseminated will need to be returned. For auditing purposes, all records will be maintained for 3 years (6/30/2029).*