



Access Accelerator
Small Business Development Centre

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY

2025

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

The Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) proudly introduces the Young Entrepreneurs Academy – an initiative designed to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit of Bahamian youth.

This Academy was created to address key challenges faced by young aspiring entrepreneurs, including limited access to practical business training, mentorship, and funding. By transforming traditional business education into a fun, fast-paced, and engaging experience, the Young Entrepreneurs Academy equips students with the skills, confidence, and connections to move from idea to action.

The 2025 cohort will participate in a condensed 3-week version of SBDC's flagship Business Blueprint Training Course, reimagined as a six-period class schedule covering essential topics such as business modeling, branding, budgeting, and innovation. Participants will also benefit from:

- Mentorship with each applicant placed in a guided study group led by tutors who are experienced entrepreneurs;
- Networking opportunities through Entrepreneurs Speak, a TED Talk-style event in partnership with the University of The Bahamas;
- And access to up to \$10,000 in startup funding, awarded to standout participants who complete the training and successfully meet all eligibility requirements.

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy blends education, empowerment, and excitement – providing youth with a solid foundation in entrepreneurship while building a strong support network of mentors, peers, and ecosystem partners. By investing in our future founders today, we're helping shape the business leaders of tomorrow.



TRAINING: YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY

Many young entrepreneurs are full of brilliant ideas, passion, and creativity – but often lack access to the foundational business knowledge needed to bring those ideas to life. Understanding the basics of branding, customer service, e-commerce, pricing, and financial literacy (including how to manage business money separately) is essential to turning a side hustle or dream into a real, sustainable business.

To equip young people with these vital skills, the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) is proud to present the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. This 3-week course includes 6 core modules and is designed to teach participants how to think like business owners – whether they plan to launch a product, offer a service, or explore a new market.

Participants will explore the following topics:

- Period 1: Community & Customer Studies
- Period 2: Product Placement & Delivery
- Period 3: Digital Engagement Lab
- Period 4: Team Building & Financial Foundations
- Period 5: Money Math for Entrepreneurs
- Period 6: Business Innovation & Growth Strategies

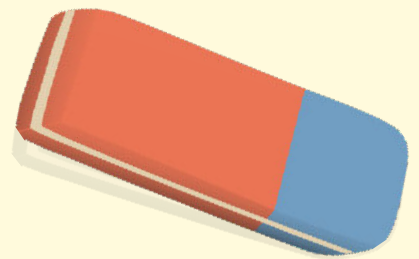
MENTORSHIP AND COMMUNITY

Mentorship is a key pillar in helping young entrepreneurs successfully navigate the world of business. Learning how to structure, manage, and grow a business requires real-world guidance and support. To ensure that participants receive the help they need throughout the program, all applicants of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy will be randomly assigned to small peer groups, each led by a tutor – an experienced entrepreneur who will serve as a guide throughout the 3-week course.

Tutors will offer:

- Light-touch mentorship and encouragement
- Advice based on lived entrepreneurial experience
- Support in completing course challenges and assignments
- Weekly group check-ins or activities

In addition, all participants are expected to attend all scheduled info sessions and masterclasses and participants are encouraged to collaborate and support one another, sharing ideas, tips, and solutions within their assigned group.



YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS STANDALONE GRANT

We recognize that accessing traditional sources of funding for young entrepreneurs remains a challenge. Given the importance of professional branding & packaging, e-commerce platforms, insurance and more, the SBDC is pleased to offer a standalone grant of up to \$10,000.00 for successful applicants of the 2025 Young Entrepreneurs Initiative. Successful applicants will also receive a BCCEC membership as part of their grant award.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- The MSME is majority owned by a young person (ages 18-35)
- The MSME is majority Bahamian-owned.
- The MSME earns less than \$5,000,000 in annual sales.
- The MSME employs less than 50 people.
- The applicant completed the Young Entrepreneurs Academy training course and the Young Entrepreneurs Survey.
- The applicant attended the Entrepreneurs Speak Event
- The applicant attended the weekly masterclasses

Applicants must also provide the following documents:

- Simple Business Plan
- Business License
- Passport Photo Page
- Vendor Invoices & Wire Instructions



INITIATIVE SCHEDULE

The tentative Young Entrepreneurs Initiative schedule can be found below.

Note: The dates below are illustrative and subject to change. Date changes will be communicated to programme registrants.

Date	Event
September 15th	Training Registration Opens
September 15th	General Assembly (Info Session)
September 28th	Training Registration Closes
September 29th	Training & Mentorship Begins
October 2nd	Break Time (Virtual Masterclass)
October 2nd	Application Info session & Grant Applications Open
October 9th	Lunch Time (Virtual Masterclass)
October 14th	E-Speak & In Peron Networking
October 17th	Training & Mentorship Ends
October 19th	Grant Application Closes



Guaranteed Loan Programme

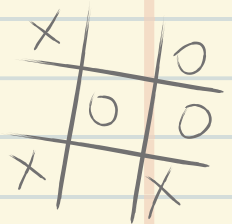
Beyond the Grant: Access More Funding for Growth



We believe in long-term growth, not just short-term support. That's why the Young Entrepreneurs Programme also opens the door to our Guaranteed Loan Programme, designed for businesses who are ready to scale to the next level.

In addition to the standalone Crafting The Bahamas grant, eligible MSMEs can access further funding through our extended financing pathway:

- Up to \$20,000 in matching grant funding
- Up to \$80,000 in micro loan funding
- Up to \$250,000 in equity funding
- Up to \$500,000 in guaranteed loan funding



How It Works

After applying and confirming eligibility, the SBDC's Investment Committee may approve you for a matching grant and a government-backed loan guarantee. With this approval, our team will help you apply directly to trusted financial partners, including:

- Fidelity Bank
- Simplified Lending
- National Workers Cooperative Credit Union
- Teachers & Salaried Workers Cooperative Credit Union
- Bank of The Bahamas
- Commonwealth Bank
- Bahamas Entrepreneurial Venture Fund
- Bahamas Development Bank

Ready to grow? Fill out our Service Request Form and get connected with an advisor today!

