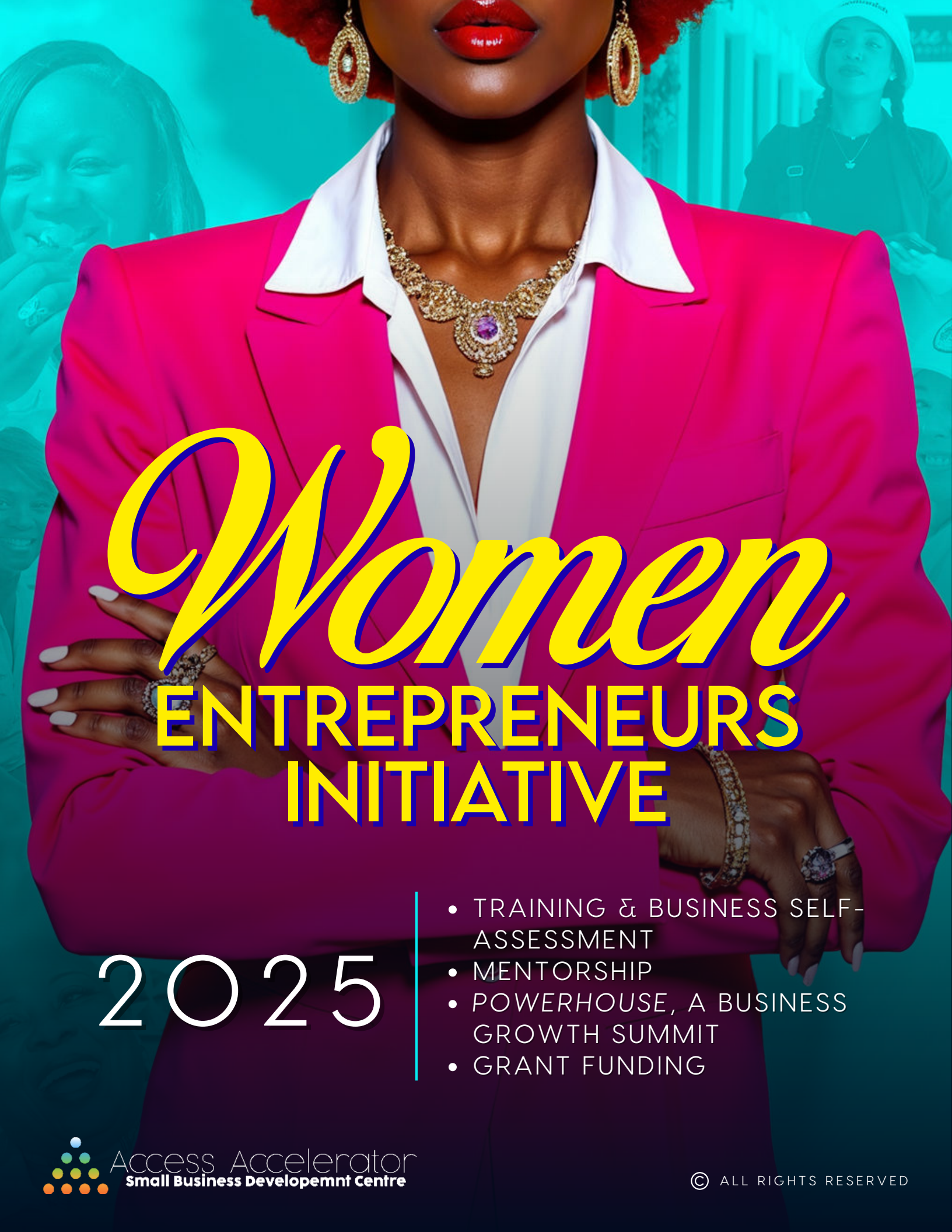




Women

ENTREPRENEURS INITIATIVE

2025

- TRAINING & BUSINESS SELF-ASSESSMENT
- MENTORSHIP
- POWERHOUSE, A BUSINESS GROWTH SUMMIT
- GRANT FUNDING



INITIATIVE *Overview*

At the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC), we believe that one of the most powerful economic forces of our time is the woman entrepreneur; not defined by limits, but by possibility.

According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, women are starting businesses at rates equal to or faster than men in many regions, and those businesses are more likely to prioritize social impact and community growth. The World Bank further affirms that when women lead, entire economies benefit; yet traditional support systems often overlook the strength women already possess.

That's why the Women Entrepreneurs Initiative was launched: not to teach women how to lead, but to create a space where their leadership is recognized, refined, and resourced.

With the launch the third and final cohort, the SBDC shifts from a narrative of overcoming to one of owning. This final chapter is about women who know they're ready, and now demand the tools to match their ambition.

This is more than a programme. It's a declaration: **Women are Unlimited.**

INITIATIVE *Summary*

Women, Unlimited is a holistic, entrepreneurial programme that aims to honor what women already are - visionaries, problem-solvers, builders, and leaders - while providing direct, tangible and relevant support where it is needed most.

Each component of the programme, from training and mentorship to funding and networking, is designed to build on **six foundational pillars**: *Strategy, Financial Mastery, Branding, Customer Experience, Operations & Leadership*.

PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

TRAINING	MENTORSHIP
Practical, in-depth and self-paced online training videos, covering the six pillars. Supporting resources and templates (e.g. business plan) will also be provided.	One-on-one and group guidance for up to 200 participants provided by business professionals based on results of a business self-assessment/audit.
NETWORKING	FUNDING
Small-scale, high-value networking event with expert panels, breakout rooms, and resource booths aligned to the six pillars.	Programme participants can apply for up to \$10,000 in grant funding. After a 3-level adjudication process, the most exceptional applicants will be awarded.



TRAINING: *Power Pillars*

As part of **Women, Unlimited**, participants will take part in a condensed training designed to provide practical, actionable insights across six key areas of business, which represent some of the most critical areas that determine a business's sustainability and growth.

By starting with a business audit and self-assessment, participants gain a clear picture of where they currently stand, highlighting strengths to build on and gaps that may be holding them back. This allows each entrepreneur to identify the areas most relevant to their own journey.

Module 1: Strategy

Define your vision, set clear goals, and align your business for long-term growth.

Module 2: Financial Management

Strengthen money management skills to improve stability and profitability.

Module 3: Branding

Craft a brand identity that captures attention and builds trust with your audience.

Module 4: Customer Experience

Learn to deliver memorable interactions that keep customers coming back.

Module 5: Operations & Efficiency

Streamline processes and systems to save time, reduce costs, and scale.

Module 6: Leadership

Build confidence, influence, and resilience to lead yourself, your team, and your business.



MENTORSHIP: *Power Circles*

Mentorship is a powerful tool for women entrepreneurs, offering not only business guidance but also encouragement, accountability, and the opportunity to learn from those who have already navigated the entrepreneurial journey. This layer of support complements the Power Pillars training by creating space for deeper conversations, problem-solving, and confidence-building.

As part of the programme, women entrepreneurs will complete a simple Business Audit during registration, helping them reflect on their strengths and challenges across six key areas of business. These results will guide the mentorship process, ensuring that each participant receives support that is both personalized and practical.

Each mentor will receive a Mentor Support Plan template that captures their mentee's audit results and outlines a clear plan for the three weeks of mentorship. Sessions may be one-on-one or in peer groups, depending on the mentee's needs. At the end of the programme, participants will complete a post-programme survey, including some of the original audit questions, to measure growth and track outcomes.

Mentors will be carefully selected for their entrepreneurial and business expertise, ensuring participants are matched with role models who understand the unique challenges and opportunities facing women in business.

Mentorship will be provided to the first 200 registrants who indicate an interest in receiving this support.



POWERHOUSE

A Business Growth Summit

Step into your power at Powerhouse, the bold and dynamic summit designed to supercharge women entrepreneurs. Dive into the 'Power Six' pillars of business growth through high-impact panels, interactive breakout sessions, and transformative networking.

This is where knowledge meets opportunity, connections spark growth, and women entrepreneurs rise together.

Attendance at the Powerhouse networking event is **mandatory** for all programme participants to be eligible for the Women Entrepreneurs Grant.

Women Entrepreneurs STANDALONE GRANT



While women are of great importance to the economy and the community, they continue to face challenges in accessing capital and resources needed to succeed. In fact, the SBDC's Gender Equality Survey revealed that nearly 60% of respondents believe women do not have equal access to funding opportunities as their male counterparts.

To combat this, the SBDC will now launch its final Women Entrepreneurs Grant fund, which aims to award up to \$10,000 in grant funding to the most outstanding applicants. **Applications for funding will be open from October 20 to November 9, 2025.**

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

- The MSME is 100% woman-owned.
- 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 Power Pillars training course, the Gender Equality Survey and the programme feedback survey.
- The applicant attended the Powerhouse summit.

Applicants must also provide the following:

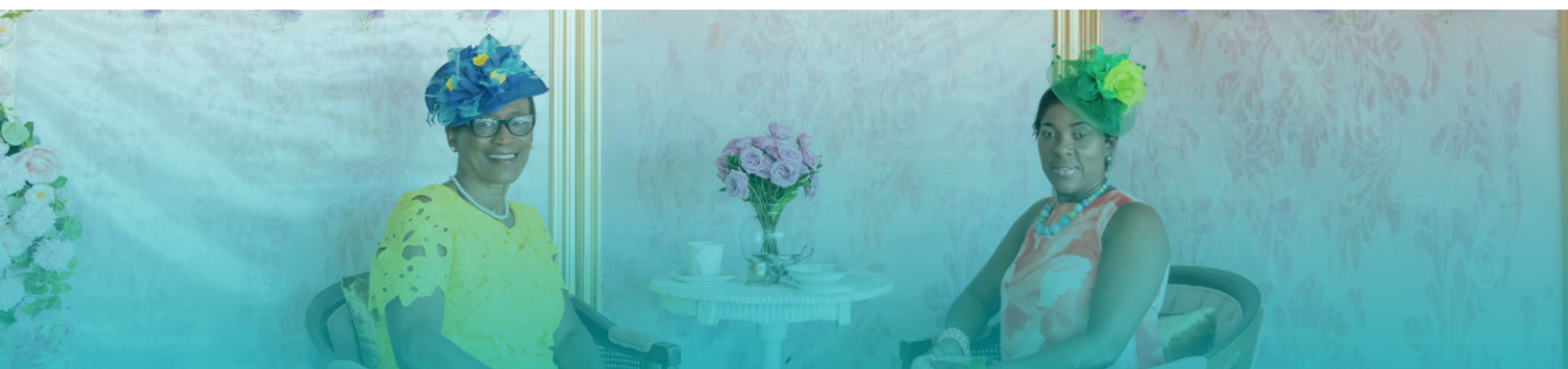
- 90-second Pitch Video
- Executive Summary
- Business License or Proof of Application/Renewal
- Passport Photo Page
- Vendor Invoices & Wire Instructions

INITIATIVE *Schedule*

The tentative Women, Unlimited schedule can be found below.

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

PROGRAMME REGISTRATION	October 6 - 16, 2025
GENERAL INFO SESSION	October 8, 2025
TRAINING & MENTORSHIP BEGINS	October 20, 2025
APPLICATION INFO SESSION	October 21, 2025
GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD	October 20 - November 9, 2025
POWERHOUSE SUMMIT	October 30, 2025
TRAINING & MENTORSHIP END	November 7, 2025
GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT	December 11, 2025



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 Women Entrepreneurs Initiative 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 Women Entrepreneurs 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.

Ready to grow?

Fill out our Service Request Form and get connected with an advisor today!

