



# MEN IN



# BUSINESS

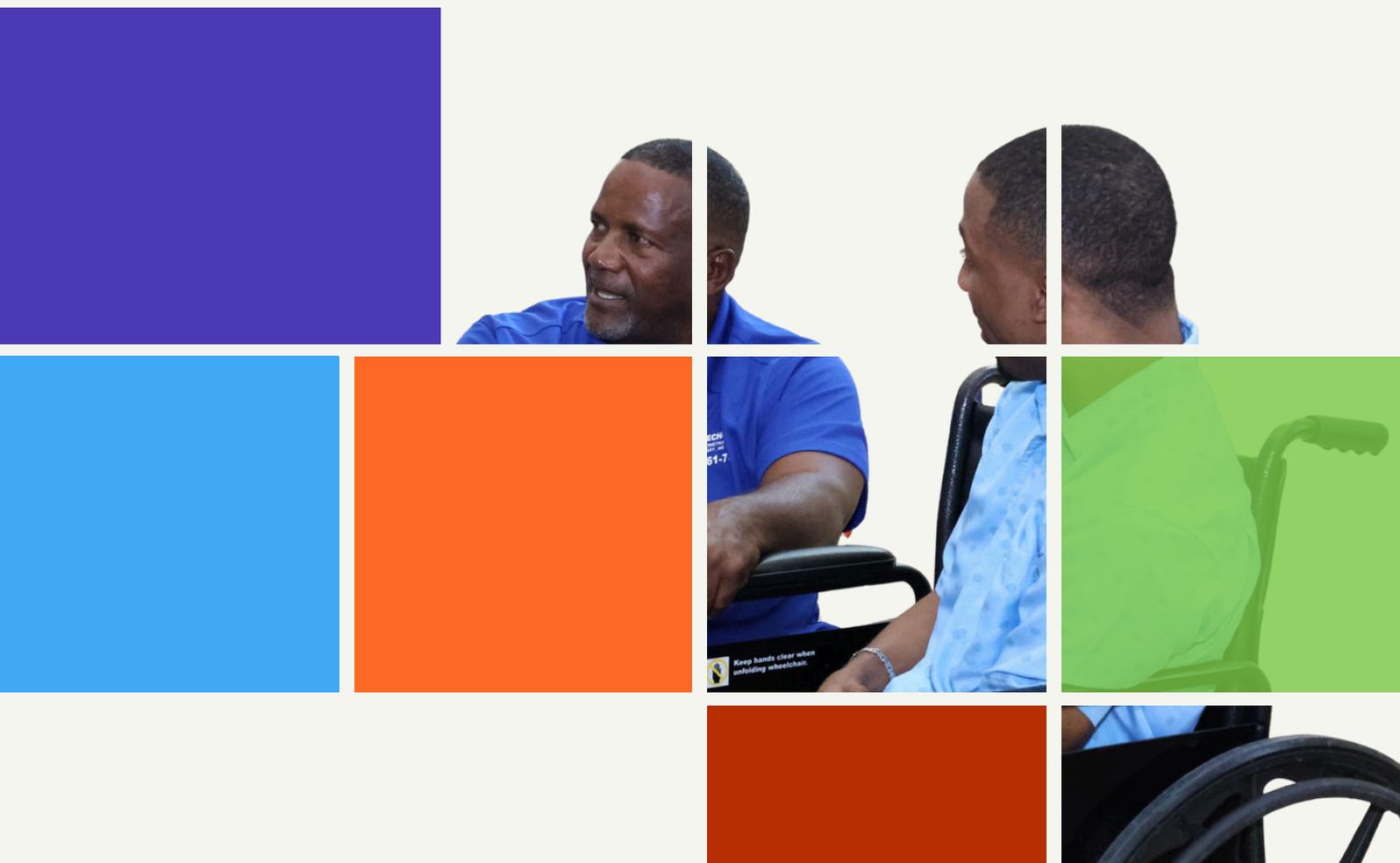
# 2025

# INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Based on the 2024 Men in Business survey results, most applicants operated in industries that not only align with national economic priorities but also directly support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focusing on top sectors such as Food & Beverage, Tourism, Agriculture, Construction, Transportation, Technology and more will help to strengthen national resilience, enhance economic independence, and promote long-term, inclusive growth.

At the SBDC, we recognize that men excel across a wide range of industries that play a vital role in driving our economy forward. We know that the road to success is always under construction and this initiative is designed to meet men where they are and equip them with what they need.

The **2025 Men in Business Initiative** recognizes the power of these men and the value of strengthening not just their businesses, but their mindset and personal development. This initiative will lay the foundation to build adaptable and sustainable businesses through training and mentorship reinforcing business resilience and skill development brick by brick.



# INITIATIVE SUMMARY

## Groundbreaking Registration Drive

The Men in Business will launch with a groundbreaking Inspirational Trade Show.

This event is not just a registration drive, but a dynamic networking event. This powerful and inspirational experience will connect attendees with essential tools, resources, and industry leaders. It's a hands on opportunity for men to forge partnerships, gain valuable insights, and be inspired by those who've paved the way before them.

## Business Blueprint Training

SBDC will offer online training designed to support both aspiring and established entrepreneurs.

The Business Blueprint Training Course equips participants with the foundational knowledge to succeed in business. Topics include identifying community needs, defining target customers, differentiating their brand, pricing strategies, setting up an online or brick-and-mortar store, and protecting intellectual property, among others.

## Mentorship Programme

The SBDC will also implement Mentorship to help build soft skills, develop confidence, and shift mindsets.

As part of the training registration, men entrepreneurs will be asked to identify which industry they operate in. This will allow the SBDC to effectively pair experienced business professionals with programme participants within their industry, delivering hands-on guidance and support.

## MIB Standalone Grant

The SBDC will launch the Men in Business Standalone Grant Programme to offer funding up to \$10,000

Approved uses of grant funds include: leasehold improvements, production equipment, raw materials, accounting software, incorporation fees, insurance premiums, security deposits, licensing fees, marketing campaigns and employee training.





# THE GROUND BREAKING

## An Inspirational Trade Showcase



Andre Rodgers National  
Baseball Stadium



10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Groundbreaking is a dynamic trade show and inspiration showcase that marks the official launch and registration drive for the Men in Business Programme. As part of the event experience, attendees will identify which sector or colour of the economy they represent, with name tags distributed accordingly. This engaging format fosters industry-specific networking while celebrating the diverse roles men play in driving economic growth.

Tues, November 18



# VIRTUAL TRAINING

The Business Blueprint Training Modules cover a range of critical topics, which are described below.

MODULES	DETAILS
<b>Module 1</b> <b>Solve a Problem For Your Community</b>	This module teaches how to align your business strengths with community needs, identify your ideal customers, and create an inclusive, accessible experience for all.
<b>Module 2</b> <b>Create an Identity For Your Business</b>	This module focuses on building a strong brand identity through a memorable name, a unique story, eye-catching logo design, and sustainable packaging.
<b>Module 3</b> <b>Distribute Your Products and Services</b>	This module covers how to sell your products through online stores, fulfillment centers, consignment, and when to invest in a physical retail space.
<b>Module 4</b> <b>Optimize Your Supply Chain for Efficiency</b>	This module teaches the fundamentals of supply chain management, from sourcing and production to logistics and inventory control, to improve overall efficiency and customer satisfaction.
<b>Module 5</b> <b>Build a Relationship with Your Customers</b>	This module focuses on building strong customer relationships through effective communication, feedback collection, social media engagement, and responsive customer support.
<b>Module 6</b> <b>Upgrade Your Digital Marketing Skills</b>	This module teaches how to create impactful content, optimize your website, use data analytics for growth, and strengthen cybersecurity and privacy practices.
<b>Module 7</b> <b>Build and Grow Your Team Responsibly</b>	This module focuses on building leadership and a growth mindset, hiring the right team members, empowering them through development, and knowing when to expand.
<b>Module 8</b> <b>Master Labour Laws for Business Success</b>	This module covers creating fair employment contracts, defining clear job roles, handling dismissals legally, and managing smooth retirement transitions for employees.
<b>Module 9</b> <b>Sustain Your Business by Generating a Profit</b>	This module teaches how to manage business finances by separating personal and business accounts, controlling costs, pricing for profit, and tracking sales and expenses.
<b>Module 10</b> <b>Protect Your Intellectual Property</b>	This module covers protecting your intellectual property through copyrights, trademarks, patents, and trade secrets to safeguard your creations and maintain a competitive edge.

# LIVE TRAINING

## ***BUILDER'S LAB MASTERCLASSES***

We will host masterclasses for our Men in Business initiative because soft skills are the backbone of long-term business sustainability. While technical knowledge helps an entrepreneur start a business, soft skills such as problem-solving, organization, planning, pricing, communication, leadership, and critical thinking help that business grow, overcome challenges, and adapt to the changing demands of the future. By strengthening these abilities, we equip men to make strategic decisions, manage operations efficiently, build customer trust, and design profitable models that can stand firm regardless of economic shifts. These skills serve as the pillars that keep a business stable, resilient, and ready for continued growth.

These masterclasses will also play a transformational role in shaping the mindset and personal development of the men we serve. As they learn to communicate with clarity, lead with confidence, plan with intention, solve problems creatively, and think critically through complex situations, they develop a deeper sense of self-awareness and purpose. This growth influence how they show up as fathers, partners, and leaders within their communities. Through this initiative, we aim to empower men to build sustainable businesses and to evolve into stronger, more intentional versions of themselves, capable of creating lasting impact in every area of their lives.

The masterclasses will take place over a three-week period and will be hosted by different industry experts who bring real-world knowledge and diverse perspectives. This dynamic learning environment will expose participants to practical insights, proven strategies, and personalized guidance that can be applied directly to their businesses. Engaging with experts and peers will foster strong professional relationships, creating a network of support that extends long after the sessions end. These connections will encourage collaboration, accountability, and shared growth among the men in the programme. Ultimately, participants will gain both valuable skills and a community that strengthens their journey toward sustainable success.

# MENTORSHIP

Mentorship plays a vital role in personal and professional development by providing guidance, knowledge, and support from experienced individuals. It helps mentees navigate challenges, gain new perspectives, and build the confidence needed to achieve their goals. Through mentorship, emerging entrepreneurs can develop critical soft skills, improve decision-making, and foster a mindset geared toward growth and innovation. It also strengthens networks and creates opportunities for collaboration and shared success within industries. The first 200 registrants of the Men in Business Initiative Programme who indicate a desire to receive mentorship will be paired with mentors who have expertise within their respective industries.

*Mentors will be required to:*

- Host weekly group or individual sessions and follow a structured mentorship outline aligned with the programme's training modules.
- Ensure that participants receive consistent guidance, practical insights, and targeted support to strengthen their business acumen and overall professional growth.
- Support mentees by providing updates on programme details and key deadlines. They will also ensure that mentees clearly understand all application requirements.



# MEN IN BUSINESS

## *STANDALONE GRANT*

We recognize that accessing traditional sources of funding for Men entrepreneurs remains a challenge. And, given the importance of professional branding & packaging, ecommerce platforms, insurance and more, the SBDC is pleased to offer a standalone grant of up to \$10,000.00 for successful applicants of the Men in Business Initiative. Applications for funding will be open from January 19 - February 8, 2026.

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

- The MSME is majority Bahamian-owned.
- The sole, equal or majority owner is a male.
- The MSME earns less than \$5,000,000 in annual sales.
- The MSME employs less than 50 people.
- The applicant attended the Builder's Lab Masterclasses.
- The sole, equal or majority owner completed the Business Blueprint training course.

### **Applicants must also submit the following documents:**

- Executive Summary/Business Plan
- 2025 Business License
- Shareholders Register (if applicable)
- Passport photo page
- Proof of address (e.g. voter's card/utility bill)
- Vendor invoices
- Wire instructions (business bank accounts only)



# INITIATIVE SCHEDULE

The tentative Men in Business Initiative schedule can be found below. Please note that dates below are illustrative and subject to change. Date changes will be communicated to programme registrants.

ITEM	DATES
<b>Programme Registration</b>	November 18, 2025 - December 12, 2025 <i>(or until max capacity reached)</i>
<b>MIB Initiative Information Session</b>	January 7, 2026
<b>Blueprint Training Course Opens</b>	December 12,, 2025 - January 11, 2026
<b>Mentorship</b>	January 12 - February 5, 2026
<b>Builders Lab Masterclasses</b>	January 12 - February 5, 2026
<b>Application Information Session</b>	January 15, 2025
<b>Grant Application Period</b>	January 19 - February 8, 2025
<b>Grant Announcement</b>	<b>March 12, 2026</b>



# GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAMME

We believe in long-term growth, not just short-term support. That's why the Men in Business 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 the Men In Business Initiative grant, eligible MSMEs can access further funding through our extended financing pathway:

- Up to \$10,000 in standalone grant funding
- Up to \$20,000 in matching grant funding
- Up to \$50,000 in micro loan funding
- Up to \$500,000 in guaranteed loan funding
- Up to \$250,000 in equity funding

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!



# ALL ABOUT THE SDGS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 global objectives established by the United Nations in 2015 to promote peace, prosperity, and environmental protection by 2030. They aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure well-being and equality for all people. Together, the SDGs provide a universal framework for countries to work toward a sustainable future.

