

Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative



BENEFITS

LED's Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative, delivered in partnership with the Edward Lowe Foundation, aims to accelerate growth of second-stage businesses in rural areas of Louisiana. With the unique challenges rural entrepreneurs face, program participants will be able to identify what scaling means for both their companies and their communities. Then they'll move on to develop and refine their business strategy and will be connected to the right tools and expertise to execute the strategy.

Participation in the virtual kickoff retreats helps you to create an overall growth strategy, identifies strengths and weaknesses and establish your commitment goals. Our three monthly virtual roundtables allows participants to discuss pressing issues in a confidential environment. The customized Strategic Research engagements provides business intelligence related to specific growth challenges delivered by a team of highly-skilled specialists.

ELIGIBILITY

For consideration, applicants must be a CEO, business owner or key decision maker in the company.

The company must have its principal place of business in a Louisiana city with less than 50,000 population. The company should typically employ at least five but not more than 100 employees and have an annual revenue of \$600,000 and \$50,000,000. The company should deliver products and services to customers outside of their local markets or demonstrate the capacity to do so. The company must be organized for profit to perform a lawful, commercially useful function. Additional consideration will be given to companies that demonstrate past and potential growth.

Process

1

Apply

Complete and submit the application online between April 1 and April 30.

2

Review

LED reviews the application pool for vetting and selection.

3

Status

Companies will be notified of their status and next steps.

4

Confirmed

LED connects confirmed participants with the Edward Lowe Foundation for preparatory items in advance of program launch.

5

Prepare

LED works with participants individually to prepare for their Strategic Research engagement.



For more information on the Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative, scan the code or visit the website below.

<http://opportunitylouisiana.gov/Rural-Entrepreneurship>