



2026 Pitch Competition Rules & Eligibility Requirements

To participate in IdeaFunding 2026, applicants must meet all Founder & Company Eligibility Requirements and the Track-Specific Eligibility Requirements for the track to which they apply. Eligibility is assessed at the time of application.

Founder & Company Eligibility (All Applicants)

- **Ownership:** The applicant must be a founder, owner, principal, or member of the core leadership team of the applying venture.
 - One founder may submit only one application.
- **Location:** The company must be primarily an Arizona-based company.
 - If the company is incorporated outside of Arizona, at least 51% of the founding team must be physically based in Arizona for at least 51% of the year.
 - Organizers reserve the right to request reasonable documentation to verify Arizona-based status.
- **Entity Type:** Applicants may apply even if they have not yet formally registered a business or established a business bank account.
 - Prize funds cannot be disbursed to a personal bank account. Winning teams must have a formal business entity and business bank account established before funds are distributed.
 - Entity formation and business bank account must be established within 6 months of the competition for fund distribution or any prize funds will be considered forfeit.
- **Age:** At least one founding team member must be 18 years of age or older by the date of the first required training session.
 - All in-person sessions must be attended by a team member who is 18 or older.
- **Prior IdeaFunding Participation:** Prior participants are eligible to apply again **except:**
 - Past Main Stage finalists are not eligible to apply for two competition cycles following their Main Stage appearance.
 - Main Stage Grand prize winners are not eligible to apply again.

Pitch Competition Clarifications (All Applicants)

This Pitch Competition does not constitute "general advertising and general solicitation." This event is not for offering and selling company securities to qualified investors. No mention or solicitation of investment funds or equity can be discussed at any time, in compliance with the Securities Act of 1933 and the updated policies of SEC Rule 148. IdeaFunding organizers reserve the right to remove any team from the IdeaFunding Pitch Competition at any time.

No Investor Solicitation: IdeaFunding is not an investor pitch competition.

- Founders may describe how prize funds would be used but may not solicit equity investment or imply an investor ask during pitches or related events.

Track Placement: Applicants may apply to one track ONLY and must select the track that best aligns with their business model.

- Organizers reserve the right to request clarification or recommend a different track prior to final acceptance.

