VILLAGE VENTURES™ BUSINESS PITCH COMPETITION

What is Village Ventures™?

The goal of ETV's 5th Annual Village Ventures Pitch Competition is to empower VEN Business Owners to grow their companies more successfully by:

- Creating visibility for and awareness around their products and services
- Encouraging them to refine their business, marketing, and growth plans strategically
- Providing them with free access to 1-on-1 strategic business counseling and pitch coaching funded by ETV
- Awarding monetary prizes to the finalists.
- Empowering all participants to be capital-ready and connected resources

Top 5 finalists will present their pitch live on February 6, 2027. All Finalists will receive an invitation to the North Star Celebration on February 19 at the Park Avenue Club, where the winners will be announced!

Competition Overview

The Village Ventures Pitch Competition has two phases. In the first phase, all participant submissions will be evaluated by the Judges to select five finalists to pitch live for cash prizes in the second phase.

What do you need to submit?

- Executive Summary (maximum 3 pages/slides)
  - Background information on you/your business (including average annual revenue and expenses over the past 3 years)
  - Business/Marketing Plan (outline provided)
  - Specific plans for how you intend to use the cash award to grow, sustain, or enhance your business

Official Rules and Terms will be provided upon payment of competition fees.

- 60-90 second video introducing yourself and your business, including how you intend to use the cash award for your business
- Your photo (and product or location photos if applicable)
- Completion of a VEN Business Counseling Session

Complete application due at 11:59 PM on January 5, 2027

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be eligible to enroll in ETV's Village Empowerment Network™ (VEN) at **empowerthevillage.org** and be enrolled at the time of application

To demonstrate viability, applicants must work in the business full-time with a history of at least $15,000 in sales/revenue OR investment with a plan to transition to full-time

Submit application materials by 1/5/27 to admin@empowerthevillage.org

Pay the $75 early-bird ($100 regular price) non-refundable application fee by 1/5/27

*Fees will be refunded by ETV if an insufficient number of applications are received to proceed with the competition.

Phase 1: Preliminary Round

Judges will evaluate all submissions and select 5 finalists for Phase 2.

Finalists will be announced by February 1st.
All participants must "Save the Date" of February 6th in case they are selected to pitch live.

Phase 2: Final Round

Candidates with the top 5 scores* during the Preliminary Round of judging submit additional information and will be asked to present their **business pitch in-person.**

- Up to 3-5 minute pitch followed by Q&A
- No slides, but props are allowed
- Cash prizes for all finalists; the top prize will be $5,000!

**All Pitch applicants will be invited to participate in ETV's inaugural Village Ventures Commerce Council Cohort program.*

Winners will be announced at the North Star Celebration on February 19!

Questions? Email admin@empowerthevillage.org