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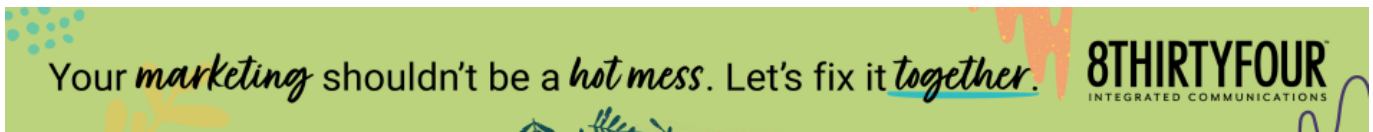


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SBDC announces the Return of the "Business by the Bay Pitch Competition"

May 14, 2025

Michigan Business
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Bay City, MI — The Michigan Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is thrilled to announce the return of the *Business by the Bay Pitch Competition*, a unique opportunity for Bay County entrepreneurs and early-stage business owners to showcase their vision, sharpen their skills, and compete for a share of **\$11,000 in cash prizes**.



Applications open May 14, 2025, and are due by August 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Participants will engage in a series of **in-person training workshops** covering marketing, financials, and pitch development. Over the course of several weeks, applicants will:

- Gain **practical business training** from experienced professionals
- Receive **personalized coaching** and feedback on their business ideas
- Develop and refine a compelling **pitch deck and presentation**
- Build meaningful **connections with local business mentors and peers**

The live pitch event will take place on **Wednesday, November 12, 2025**, at **John Glenn High School Auditorium** in Bay City, Michigan. Five finalists will take the stage to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges – and a live audience – in pursuit of funding and community support.

"An event like this is so exciting because we bring [business owners] forward into the community and they get to enjoy that support," said Michelle Judd, Small Business Consultant for the Michigan SBDC. "They also get some cash infusion into their businesses, which is not something existing businesses have the opportunity to do very often."

Who Can Apply:

Eligible applicants must:

- Be entrepreneurs, small business owners, or early-stage companies **based in Bay County, MI**
 - Have businesses **less than two years old as of November 13, 2025**, with annual sales under \$1 million
 - Be at least **16 years old** at the time of application
- Note: Nonprofits, marijuana-related ventures, gambling/lending/investment businesses, those on parole, or past winners of Business by the Bay cash prizes are ineligible.*

Participation Requirements:

Selected applicants must attend the following **in-person workshops** in Bay County:

- **August 27, 2025** – Kick-Off & Overview
- **September 10, 2025** – Marketing Workshop
- **September 17, 2025** – Financials Workshop
- **October 1, 2025** – Pitch Deck Workshop



Following the workshops, participants will submit their pitch decks for virtual judging. Five finalists will be chosen to present live at the final event. This is a great opportunity for small businesses in Bay County to train, network, hone their business ideas, and compete for cash prizes.

This isn't just a pitch competition – it's a growth experience.

Apply online starting May 14 at: <https://michigansbdc.org/business-by-the-bay> (<https://michigansbdc.org/business-by-the-bay>)

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The Right Place: New Report Shows GR's Progress in 10-year Strategy to Become Tech Hub

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Lorri Rischar, MBA, Owner & CEO, EDGE Partnerships, Lansing, Marquette, Chicago, joins Becky Burtka, VP of member engagement, Michigan Chamber, Lansing, MI. Together they Co-Host the new MBN show “BOLD

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LAFCU Named One of the Best Credit Unions to Work For in 2025

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Michigan Business Network | September 9, 2025

Lansing, Michigan-based organization honored for third time LANSING, Mich. — LAFCU is proud to announce it has been named one of the Best Credit Unions to Work For in 2025

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