



BBOP CENTER INNOVATION PITCH COMPETITION 2026

OFFICIAL ELIGIBILITY POLICY & LEGAL DISCLAIMERS

1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes the eligibility requirements for participation in the BBOP Center Innovation Pitch Competition 2026.

2. BUSINESS ELIGIBILITY

- Must operate a startup business (early-stage, ideation, or exploration phase)
- Franchises are not eligible
- Nonprofit organizations are not eligible
- Business must be based in the United States
- Pre-revenue businesses are permitted but must demonstrate customer interest (e.g., surveys, signups, letters of intent)

3. FOUNDER ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant must be the Founder, Co-Founder, or Chief Executive Officer
- Applicant must be the primary decision-maker for the business
- Only one application per business is permitted

4. FUNDING LIMITATION

Applicants must not have raised more than **\$100,000 USD** in total outside funding at the time of application.

For purposes of this policy, “outside funding” includes, but is not limited to:

- Personal investment by the founder(s)
- Capital contributions from friends and family
- Grants or awards
- Loans (including personal or business loans)
- Angel or investor funding
- Crowdfunding proceeds

BBOP Center reserves the right to request documentation or verification of funding amounts at any stage of the application or selection process.

5. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must attend and present in person
- Event Date: June 19, 2026
- Location: San Bernardino, California
- Virtual participation is not permitted

6. BUSINESS QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must solve a real market need (customers are willing to pay)
- Must demonstrate a clear and sizeable market opportunity
- Must have a sustainable competitive advantage or differentiation
- Must present a viable business model with a path to revenue

7. COMPLIANCE AND VERIFICATION

BBOP reserves the right to verify all information submitted and disqualify applicants for inaccuracies, misrepresentation, or failure to meet eligibility requirements.

8. FINAL AUTHORITY

BBOP Center retains sole discretion regarding eligibility determinations and competition participation decisions.

9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) OWNERSHIP

All applicants retain full ownership of their intellectual property, including but not limited to business concepts, products, services, trade secrets, trademarks, and proprietary materials submitted or presented in connection with the competition.

By participating in the BBOP Innovation Pitch Competition, applicants acknowledge and agree that:

- BBOP Center, its partners, sponsors, judges, and affiliates, do not claim ownership of any intellectual property presented.
- BBOP Center does not provide confidentiality protections for information disclosed during the application process, pitch presentations, or related activities.
- Applicants are solely responsible for protecting their intellectual property, including filing for trademarks, patents, or other protections as appropriate.

Participation in the competition constitutes acknowledgment that information disclosed may be viewed by judges, attendees, partners, and the public.

10. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

By applying to and participating in the competition, applicants agree to release and hold harmless BBOP Center, its officers, employees, contractors, partners, sponsors, judges, and affiliates from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, losses, or expenses arising out of or related to:

- Participation in the competition
- Use or misuse of any information presented
- Interactions with judges, sponsors, or other participants
- Decisions made based on feedback, outcomes, or awards

BBOP Center makes no representations or warranties regarding:

- Business success
- Funding outcomes
- Investment opportunities
- Commercial viability

All participants engage at their own risk

11. USE OF FUNDS (PRIZE AWARDS)

Any cash awards or funding provided through the competition are:

- Non-dilutive (no equity is taken by BBOP Center)
- Intended to support business development and growth activities

Award recipients agree that:

- Funds will be used for legitimate business purposes, including but not limited to:
 - Product development
 - Marketing and customer acquisition
 - Operations and infrastructure
 - Technology and tools
- Funds will not be used for unlawful, personal, or non-business-related expenses

BBOP Center reserves the right to:

- Request a brief summary of how funds are used
- Highlight recipient progress for marketing and reporting purposes

Receipt of funds does not create:

- A partnership
- An investment relationship
- Any ongoing financial obligation from BBOP Center

12. NO GUARANTEE OF FUNDING OR OPPORTUNITY

Participation in the competition does not guarantee:

- Selection as a finalist
- Receipt of funding
- Access to investors or capital
- Business success or advancement

All decisions made by judges and BBOP Center are final and not subject to appeal.

13. MEDIA, PUBLICITY, AND CONTENT USE

By participating, applicants grant BBOP Center the right to:

- Record, photograph, and capture video/audio of all competition activities
- Use participant names, likenesses, business names, and pitch materials for:
 - Marketing and promotion
 - Social media and digital content
 - Reporting and stakeholder communications

This includes the use of:

- 3-minute public pitch videos
- Pitch decks
- Event footage

Participants waive any right to compensation related to such use.