



Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

presented by **M&T Bank**
Understanding what's important®

Sponsored by Binghamton Local Development Corporation, M&T Bank and the SUNY Broome Entrepreneurship Assistance Center with support from Binghamton University's Koffman Southern Tier Incubator

\$10,000 Prizes

1st Place - \$7,000, 2nd Place - \$2,000, 3rd Place - \$1,000

plus gift certificates for remaining finalists

1st Place prize includes:

- website design and internet marketing services
- professional business association membership
- legal and accounting services
- business signage

IMPORTANT: winners must operate enterprise within City limits or agree to relocate therein.

Eligible applicants must plan to start a business or have an existing business that is no more than five years old. Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete business start-up or management training with the Entrepreneurship Assistance Center at SUNY Broome OR attend the online Business Development Workshops presented by Binghamton Economic Development on March 23-25, 5:00 - 6:00 pm. Please read the eligibility requirements at <https://www.binghamton-ny.gov/government/departments/economic-development/2026-business-plan-competition>

Important Dates

3/23-25	Online Business Development Workshops 5:00 - 6:00 pm. Please register at https://www.binghamton-ny.gov/government/departments/economic-development/2026-business-plan-competition
4/1	Application and Executive Summary due. For an application, please visit: https://www.binghamton-ny.gov/government/departments/economic-development/2026-business-plan-competition
4/8	Finalists announced.
4/22	Full written business plans due. Email to: ecodev@cityofbinghamton.gov
5/20	15-minute Competitor presentations followed by 10-minute Q&A Session with Judges - Final Scoring, 3:30 - 8:00 pm, Koffman Southern Tier Incubator, 120 Hawley Street
5/27	Winner announced, Koffman Southern Tier Incubator, 3 rd Floor

For more information or an entry form, please contact the Binghamton Local Development Corporation: (607) 772-7161, ecodev@cityofbinghamton.gov

The Entrepreneurial Assistance Program, located at SUNY Broome, is made possible by the Broome Enterprise Triad - SUNY Broome, Broome-Tioga Workforce New York and the Broome County Urban League.



Sponsored by:



BLDC-EAP Binghamton Business Plan Competition 2026

Co-sponsored by the Binghamton Local Development Corporation and the SUNY Broome Entrepreneurial Assistance Program

The Binghamton Local Development Corporation (BLDC) supports the City of Binghamton's economic development strategy by attracting new businesses, working to retain and grow established businesses, build industrial and commercial capacity, promote employment and foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

The SUNY Broome Entrepreneurial Assistance Center's Entrepreneurial Assistance Program (EAP) provides resources and assistance to ventures in all stages, from start-ups to existing community businesses wishing to expand. EAP is sponsored by SUNY Broome, Broome-Tioga Workforce New York, Broome County Urban League, and the Binghamton Local Development Corporation with funding from Empire State Development Corporation.

Additional support is provided by a generous grant from M&T Bank, and Binghamton University's Koffman Southern Tier Incubator which provides promotion, facilities, and technical support for this year's competition. Additional funding is made possible by the Binghamton-Oneonta Building Trades Council and Sall-Stearns.

PRIZES

\$10,000 Cash Prizes from M&T Bank, the BLDC and the Binghamton University Koffman Southern Tier Incubator: 1st Place - \$7,000; 2nd Place - \$2,000; 3rd Place - \$1,000; plus gift certificates for remaining finalists

First Place Winner (only) will receive in addition:

- **5 hours of accounting services courtesy of Davidson Fox & Co., Binghamton**
- **\$500.00 of legal counsel courtesy of Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP, Binghamton**
- **One year membership in the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce**
- **\$500.00 in sign creation services courtesy of 3i Graphics & Signs, Binghamton**
- **\$500.00 in website services courtesy of Freshy, Binghamton**
- **\$500.00 in branding services courtesy of Idea-Kraft, Binghamton**
- **One year membership in the Triple Cities Makerspace, Binghamton**
- **3-months free co-working membership at the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator courtesy of Binghamton University**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Eligible applicants must either have an existing business located in the City of Binghamton that is no more than five years old or present a plan to locate a new business in the City of Binghamton.**
- **The business must be consistent with the City of Binghamton's planning and zoning ordinances. This includes approved home-based businesses. For more information**

BLDC-EAP Business Plan Competition 2026

please visit: <https://www.binghamton-ny.gov/government/departments/planning-zoning-historic-preservation-department>

- Only for-profit ventures qualify.
- Applicants must demonstrate the ability to finance and open the business in the City of Binghamton within four months of winning the competition and commit to keeping the business in the city for a minimum of three years.
- It is strongly recommended that applicants complete business start-up or management training before applying (e.g.: EAP Classes, SUNY-Broome Continuing Education or entrepreneurial curriculum, degree programs in related fields).
- Prior applicants may compete again. Prior winners may not compete again.
- The free “Business Plan Development Workshop” presented by Binghamton Economic Development is strongly recommended for all participants (see below).
- **Winner:** Must be encouraged to meet with advisory groups (EAP/SBDC) quarterly for the first year.

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES - STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR APPLICANTS

Business Plan Development Workshops, Monday-Wednesday, March 23-25, 2026
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

To register, please visit: <https://www.binghamton-ny.gov/government/departments/economic-development/2026-business-plan-competition>

QUALIFYING ROUND

APPLICATION + EXECUTIVE SUMMARY DUE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

Interested applicants will need to complete an application which can be accessed through a link at <https://www.binghamton-ny.gov/government/departments/economic-development/2026-business-plan-competition>

Applicants must download, complete and sign the application form and attach a **1-2 page Executive Summary** presenting their business plan or concept. Please refer to the Executive Summary outline to guide you. A team from BLDC and EAP will review and select the most viable business ideas to participate in the competition as finalists. **The completed application form and a 1-2 page Executive Summary must be submitted by Wednesday, April 1, 2026 by email to ecodev@cityofbinghamton.gov.** Please put "BLDC Business Plan Competition Executive Summary Submission" in the subject line of the email.

FINAL ROUND

FULL WRITTEN BUSINESS PLANS DUE BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

Written business plans will be reviewed by the judges in advance of the oral presentations. Finalists must submit written business plans by **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**. Submissions

BLDC-EAP Business Plan Competition 2026

may be made via email or by regular mail (postmarked Wednesday, April 23rd). Please email to ecodev@cityofbinghamton.gov, or BLDC, 38 Hawley Street, 4th Floor, Binghamton, NY 13901. Competitors should send responses or addendums in MS Office compatible applications (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint) or as an Adobe .pdf.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS: KOFFMAN INCUBATOR

Oral presentations for selected finalists will be scheduled **Wednesday, May 20, 2026 from 3:30 - 7:30 PM** and will take place in person at the Koffman Incubator first floor conference room. Each participant will have up to 15 minutes to present and 10 minutes for Q&A with the panel of judges. We recommend augmenting presentations with PowerPoint, product samples, demonstrations, etc.

Questions? Call Joel Boyd at the BLDC, (607) 772-7161

JUDGES & SCORING

Judges: Judges from the financial and small business sectors representing the BLDC and EAP will score the competition.

Scoring: The oral/video presentation will count as 40% of the overall score and the written business plan will count as 60%. Within the written business plan and oral/video business plan presentation, points will be weighted with the most emphasis on complete and realistic financial analysis (1 low to 5 high). In case of a tie, business plans that incorporate services to or employment of veterans will receive an additional point. Otherwise, a winner will be chosen by lot from among the tied candidates.

Written Business Plan

Thoroughness (based on outline)	1	2	3	4	5	(10%)
Feasibility (marketable)	1	2	3	4	5	(10%)
Financial statements (complete, realistic)	1	2	3	4	5	(40%)
	low		average		high	

Oral/Video Business Plan Presentation

Thoroughness (based on outline)	1	2	3	4	5	(15%)
Feasibility (marketable)	1	2	3	4	5	(15%)
Professionalism of presentation	1	2	3	4	5	(10%)
	low		average		high	

BLDC / EAP Business Plan Competition
Qualification Application + Executive Summary
Due April 1, 2026 to ecodev@cityofbinghamton.gov Access Application
Documents Here:

<https://www.binghamton-ny.gov/government/departments/economic-development/2026-business-plan-competition>

Name _____ Date ___/___/___

Address _____

Business Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Business Name _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Female _____ Male _____ Veteran _____ Disabled _____

Ethnicity/Race Question 1

Hispanic or Latino _____ Not Hispanic or Latino _____

Ethnicity/Race Question 2

American Indian/Alaska Native _____ Black or African American _____

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander _____ Asian _____

White/Caucasian _____ Other _____

Home based business? Yes _____ No _____

Start-up business _____ Existing business _____ If so, how long? _____

QUALIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

If you win, are you willing to locate or relocate your business in the City of Binghamton (regardless of where you live)? Yes _____ No _____

List the business start-up/management training you have completed: (including degree programs, workshops EAP Class, Entrepreneurial Curriculum)

**BLDC / EAP Business Plan Competition
Qualification Application + Executive Summary Due
April 1, 2026 to ecodev@cityofbinghamton.gov**

Describe your business:

Describe your experience in this line of business:

Describe your target market(s):

Describe your competitive advantage in this market:

Do you have a comprehensive written business plan? Yes _____ Partial _____ No _____

How would you use the prize money? (Be specific. If multiple uses, include budget)

What are the sources and uses of financing for your business?

PLEASE INCLUDE 1-2 PAGE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. EMAIL QUALIFICATION APPLICATION FORM AND 1-2 PAGE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TO ECODEV@CITYOFBINGHAMTON.GOV ON APRIL 1, 2026. OUTLINE FOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY IS ATTACHED.

I declare that the statements made in this application – including attachments – are true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. False statements shall be sufficient cause for dismissal of this application.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Applicant's Name

Title

QUALIFICATION APPLICATION + EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due April 1, 2026 to ecodev@cityofbinghamton.gov

Outline for Qualifying Executive Summary

Your executive summary is your pitch.

The first paragraph of your executive summary should generally include **your business's name, its location and what product or service you will sell.**

The second should highlight your **target market(s)**, competitors, niche and your competitive advantages.

Include your **financial analysis**, projected sales and profits, unit sales and profitability. Think about these questions: How much money will it take to start or expand your business? What will be the sources of that money? How would the prize money be spent? What is the income potential of the business? How much money do you need to make each month to break even?

Include your **marketing strategy**: how will you reach and win over new customers?

Describe **your team**: explain how you and your business partner(s) are each uniquely qualified to execute your vision for this business and why you are the right team to bring this business to success.

Include **milestones** and how you plan to achieve them. If you have already accomplished notable milestones, mention those. For example, if you are opening an ice cream shop, investors will want to know about your plans to sign a lease, design the interior and open for business. Or if you have invented a new medical device, prospective investors will want to know where you are in the clinical trial process. What steps have been accomplished?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CHECK LIST

1. Your name, business name, location
2. Product or service you are selling
3. Financial Analysis
4. Marketing Strategy
5. Your Team
6. Milestones

BLDC-EAP Business Plan Competition 2026

WRITTEN BUSINESS PLAN

Due April 22, 2026 to ecodev@cityofbinghamton.gov OR
BLDC, 38 Hawley Street 4th Floor, Binghamton, NY 13901

Outline for Written Business Plans

- Statement of Purpose/Executive Summary (no longer than two pages)
- Market Analysis - include research and results
 - Target market(s)
 - Competition
 - Unmet need = market niche
 - Competitive advantage(s)
 - Patents/Trade Secrets/Licensing
- Marketing Plan
 - Products and/or services
 - Pricing
 - Promotion - methods and budget
 - Place - methods of distribution
- Location
 - Advantages and disadvantages
 - Associated expenses
- Organization and Management
 - Legal structure
 - Professional resources
 - Information about management and key personnel
- Summary of Sources and Uses of Funds
- Projected Income Statement for the next three years- each year listed month by month
- Projected Cash Flow Statement for the next three years- each year listed month by month
- Projected Balance Sheet (for start-up ONLY) OR Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss for the last year for existing businesses
- Analysis of Financial Statements
 - Significant assumptions (realistic, measurable) and break-even analysis

ORAL PRESENTATION

Due May 20, 2026

Koffman Southern Tier Incubator, Main Conference Room

Outline for 15-Minute Oral Presentation

- Begin with a brief, concise description of your business
 - Name, business name, product or service
- Market analysis - briefly describe the market research you have done and the findings
 - Your target market(s)
 - Your competitors
 - Your niche
 - Your competitive advantages
- Marketing
 - Outline your market strategy
 - Marketing plan and budget
- Location and space needs
- Financial considerations
 - Significant assumptions (realistic, measurable)
 - Analysis of Financial Statements
 - Break-even analysis
 - How much money will it take to start or expand your business?
 - What will be the sources of that money?
 - How would the prize money be spent?
 - What is the income potential of the business?
 - How much money do you need to make each month to break even?
- End with why your business will be successful