

2025 Upper Shore STRT1UP Roadshow Pitch Competition Igniting Innovation & Celebrating Entrepreneurship

Guidelines & Eligibility

- **Eligibility:** [Complete the application](#) to be considered for the competition.
 - This competition is open to businesses and startups within, or locating, to Cecil, Kent, or Queen Anne's Counties and college students attending Washington, Chesapeake, or Cecil Colleges.
- **Application Deadline:**
 - **March 19, 2025, at midnight.**
- **Selection Process:**
 - A multi-county team will review all applications.
 - Top applicants will be notified by **March 28, 2025.**
- **Pitch Format:**
 - Selected finalists will deliver a 4–5-minute pitch covering:
 - The problem or opportunity your business addresses.
 - Your solution and high-level business plan.
 - Answers to key questions about your team, competitive landscape, venture stage, recent accomplishments, future goals, and any specific "ask" (e.g., funding, partners, customers).
 - Pitchers will have the opportunity to create a video pitch following the competition
- **Judging Criteria:**
 - Clarity of the idea, including its business model and value proposition).
 - Viability and potential of the business idea.
 - How well the identified problem or opportunity is addressed by plan.
 - Potential positive impact, particularly to the Upper Shore community (e.g. economic, social, environmental).
 - Innovation.
 - Level of innovation
- **Awards:**
 - **1st Place:** \$4,000
 - **Runner-up:** \$1,500
- **Coaching Opportunity:**

- Selected applicants will have the opportunity to work with Mike Binko, StartUp Maryland via a virtual session in preparation for the pitch competition.
 - **Register Now:**
[Pitch Competition Registration](#)
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Important Dates

- **February 26, 2025:** Applications Open
 - **March 19, 2025: at midnight:** Deadline to Apply
 - **March 28, 2025:** Pitchers Selected
 - **April 4, 2025: 2 pm** Virtual Session with Binko – How to prepare for the pitch?
 - **April 11, 2025:** Pitcher’s Slide Submissions Due
 - **April 15, 2025:** 2025 Upper Shore STRT1UP Roadshow Pitch Competition
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Join Us!

Whether you are competing, cheering on local innovators, or looking to engage with regional business leaders, this is an event you won’t want to miss! Experience an inspiring day of innovation, networking, and opportunity. For more details or questions, please contact the event team. We look forward to seeing you there!

Register to attend or apply to pitch [Today](#).