THE PHILIP E. AND CAROLE R. RATCLIFFE FOUNDATION

Shore Hatchery Competition

Event Date: Friday, April 23, 2027

Location: Junior Achievement, 301 Tilghman Rd., Salisbury, MD 21804

Transform your vision into success

The Shore Hatchery Competition is a bi-annual business competition for Mid-Atlantic startups that provides funding and support to help entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses, creating new jobs and economic opportunities in the region.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be businesses based in the Mid-Atlantic region.
- Eligible startups must have been established within the past five years.
- Previous winners and past competitors are not eligible to apply again. However, applicants who were not selected to compete may reapply in the future and are encouraged to strengthen their submission with guidance from the SBDC or the Rommel Center for Entrepreneurship.



Awards

A total of $100,000 will be awarded each semester amongst the winners. ($50,000 maximum award per winner) Award announcements will be made in person at the event, following deliberations. Winners must complete the required paperwork in order to receive their award.

Deadlines

Opens: February 1, 2027, at 12:01 AM

Closes: March 8, 2027, at 11:59 PM

Competition Process

- **Online Application:** Applicants must complete an online application that includes a background profile, contact information, and a full business plan with financials.
- **Exhibit Tradeshow:** Competitors will take part in an exhibit-style tradeshow on competition day featuring their product or service.
- **Presentation:** Each competitor must prepare a 1-minute pitch and participate in a 6-minute Q&A session with the judges.
- **Meetings:** Competitors will participate in 3 meetings: 1 info session + 2 pitch practices (all virtual) to prepare for the event.

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Learn more about the competition

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