



Young Leaders Entrepreneurship Scholarship and Training Program

Addressing Economic Development and Community Needs Through Young Leaders Entrepreneurship

Five organizations are collaborating to sponsor the Young Leaders Entrepreneurship Scholarships and Training Program. They are the Young Leaders of America Initiative (YLA) through the State Department, KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change Arrowhead Center Innovation at New Mexico State University, Ascendo Strategies, and JCI SXM A.C.T.I.O.N in St. Martin's in the Caribbean. The main goal of the project is to stimulate economic growth utilizing the innovative ideas of young leaders ages 12-24 in two countries, the United States and St. Martin's, Dutch Caribbean while also contributing solutions to social justice issues in each of the respective countries.

There is a shortage of young entrepreneurs in business development resulting in a shortage of the next generation of entrepreneurs. This program is designed to help support business growth and create sustainable economic development through aspiring young entrepreneurs who want to build businesses to address the needs of various communities. Young leaders in New Mexico will work in collaboration with young leaders in St. Martin's, Dutch Caribbean, in developing entrepreneurship ideas. This program provides training in strategic planning, financial development and recordkeeping and operational growth of a business. In addition, participants in the program will learn about problem-solving, goal setting, public speaking, teamwork, decision-making, and ethics.

This project will teach young entrepreneurs how to write a business plan that can be funded to develop a business enterprise for themselves that not only support their well-being but also those who live in their communities. Young people will learn about the importance of owning their own business and utilizing that business to help resolve social justice issues in their communities through financial contributions or aligned programs that support the communities where they live. In addition, the young people in both the United States and in St. Martin's will be able to engage virtually in conversations about the development of their businesses and discuss ways to increase international trade for the product or service they are developing as a part of their business. At the end of the program, a virtual business fair will be planned and up to

three young people from each country will be selected to receive a stipend to support the business they are seeking to develop.

Who Can Apply?

Young, aspiring, entrepreneurs in three categories are encouraged to apply for this innovative program: (1) ages 12- 14; (2) ages 15-17; and (3) ages 18-24 who reside in the state of New Mexico.

Program Platform

Through this youth entrepreneurship program, we are expecting to create a platform for at least fifteen (15) young entrepreneurs from each country to receive business tips and trainings during the project with a total of up to thirty (30) participants. The long-term goal is for communities in both New Mexico and St. Martins to benefit from the brilliant ideas presented by the young people who participate in the program through the formation of new businesses.

We hope to spread the culture of entrepreneurship and the support for its success, as well as the skills and knowledge of participating entrepreneurs, which are critical for fostering productive youth entrepreneurship in the countries. Our intention is to see young people drawn to entrepreneurship out of both a desire for change and an opportunity to realize their vision for owning their own business.

Businesses also have a responsibility to help address some of the social needs of their community. This program will help young entrepreneurs decide and develop ways to contribute to addressing the social needs of the communities where they live. This is not a requirement; however, it may be an additional consideration. A business can thrive individually and help the community where it is housed to also thrive.

Participant Selection

Based on the vision for the business and the operational sustainability, fifteen (15) young leaders will be selected to participate in the project based on the application submitted. Young leaders will describe their business explaining the problem or pain being solved via the value proposition of their goods and/ services, goods/services of core to the business, and target customers or users. For purposes of this program, a business presented for participation in this program can be either a for profit or nonprofit business.

Commitment to Success

Trainers with expertise in business success will conduct training once a week for four consecutive weeks. Outside of the face-to-face time, participants will be required for additional work in estimate of 1-2 hours a week. Speakers and facilitators for the sessions will engage participants in a range of leadership thinking that will also help the business they envision address a range of social justice issues such as homelessness, access to health care, job skills development and education for low-income children, to name a few.

This accelerator program is designed to also help activate small businesses to address social issues in your community through your entrepreneurship. There will be four (4) workshops plus two (2) additional sessions for the three businesses that are chosen to receive a stipend to support the launch of their business. Every participant will be given a certificate of completion. Three participants from New Mexico and three participants from St. Martins will be awarded stipends to support the continuation of their business vision.

How To Apply

Complete the attached application and submit it via email to info@kwhlawcenter.org.

Applications are due October 23, 2021 – 11:59 pm Mountain Time

You may email your questions to info@kwhlawcenter.org or call (505) 205-0868.

Application
Young Leaders Entrepreneurship Scholarship and Training Program

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Age: _____

If age under 18, authorization by parent or guardian is required.

Parent/guardian authorization:

Name:

Signature:

Please describe the business idea you would like to start. Your description should include the problem you are solving, the core product or service you will develop in your business, your vision for the business, and the need for the business. In addition to the business perspective, please describe how might your business address any social needs in your community. You may attach additional pages.

Please sign this page acknowledging the following statement:

I understand that if my business proposal is accepted to participate in this program, I will attend all the sessions of the program.

Signature of Applicant: _____

If Applicant is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also sign below:

Print Name of Applicant: _____

Name of Parent or guardian, if applicable: _____

Date: _____

Business Description

Problem to be addressed by business idea (500 words max.)

Value proposition of their goods and/ services (500 words max.)

Goods/services core to the business (500 words max.)

Target customers or users (500 words max.)

Founding team (500 words max.)