

Coast Catalyst Business Accelerator Program

Program Overview

The Community Futures Coast Catalyst Accelerator Program is designed to empower entrepreneurs on the Sunshine Coast to develop, refine, and scale their businesses. Through a mix of webinars, in-person workshops, mentorship, and hands-on activities, participants will gain the tools and resources they need to succeed in today's competitive marketplace.

The program places a strong emphasis on supporting underrepresented groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, youth, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and persons living with disabilities. Building on the success of the Local Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (LEAP!), which was run by Community Futures from 2013 to 2019, Coast Catalyst offers expanded support and a broader reach, making the program more accessible and inclusive for a diverse range of participants.

This program uses the Business Model Canvas as its core framework and includes opportunities to strengthen business strategies while building financial literacy, marketing, sales, and pitching skills. Each week combines online learning with interactive, facilitator-led workshops. Participants will leave the program with either a completed Business Model Canvas or a full business plan tailored to their financing requirements and business launch plan.



Program Goals

01.

Master Strategic Business Planning: Equip participants with the tools to map, evaluate, and refine their business ideas through iterative customer insights and effective planning techniques.

02.

Develop a Comprehensive Business Model Canvas or Full Business Plan: Guide participants in creating actionable models or detailed plans to articulate value, strategies, and competitive positioning.

03.

Strengthen Financial Literacy: Enable participants to build realistic budgets, 2-year financial projections, and actionable funding plans.

04.

Enhance Branding and Marketing Strategies: Teach participants to develop impactful branding and marketing plans tailored to their customer base and growth goals.

05.

Build Entrepreneurial Confidence: Foster participants' ability to pitch effectively to customers, clients, funders, and partners.

06.

Create a Supportive Entrepreneurial Network: Establish connections among participants, mentors, and local business leaders to build a lasting support system.

07.

Demystify Entrepreneurship: Provide real-world insights by learning from experienced entrepreneurs and business experts.

08.

Deliver Real-World Outcomes: Ensure participants complete a BMC or full business plan, 2-year financial projections, refine their pitch, and develop actionable plans for business launch or scaling.

Program Schedule

The program runs for 8 weeks, followed by a pitch event.

Key Dates:

Program Started:

March 20, 2025

Pitch Event:

May 22, 2025

The cohort is running right now, next cohort dates to be determined.

Reach Out to Learn More

Contact Yarrow Drtina at yarrow.drtina@communityfutures.org or call (604) 885-1959 to ask questions and learn more about facilitation and mentorship opportunities.

