

# NORTHWEST COLORADO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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October 1, 2024

## DATE CHANGE

The kickoff date for **LEADING EDGE: Business Planning for Startups** has been updated from **October 3 to October 16** based on entrepreneur and partner feedback. The text below has been updated to reflect the most current information. Please update any articles, posts, or other communications to your stakeholders. Updated media resources are available at [www.northwestsbdc.org/leading-edge-2024/](http://www.northwestsbdc.org/leading-edge-2024/)

## Two Small Business Ownership Training Series Open to Western Slope Entrepreneurs

*LEADING EDGE is an intensive, specialized business training series designed to drive economic vitality.*

Northwest Colorado - Northwest Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is proud to offer two highly-reputable remote learning opportunities to both new and established entrepreneurs during the month of October. **LEADING EDGE: Business Planning for Startups** and **LEADING EDGE: Access to Capital** each support small businesses in the rural Northwest region by focusing on different aspects of business ownership. In addition, attendees of either program receive a short-term subscription to LivePlan, an online business planning software.

"The Leading Edge program gave me insight I didn't know I needed," said Lonnie White, a former Leading Edge participant in Meeker, CO. "It helped me sort through what I did know and provided guidance on things I was struggling with."

### ACCESS TO CAPITAL

October 15 - November 20

Led by Northwest SBDC consultant and former banker, Lisa Woods, **LEADING EDGE: Access to Capital** is a six-week program with in-depth finance education modules paired with weekly virtual discussion sessions and one-on-one consulting. Participants learn to identify and calculate their capital needs, assess their cash flow, create and use financial documents, find funding sources, and prepare for a loan application or funding pitch. Participants are further supported with a free two-month subscription to LivePlan, an \$80 value. Registration is open now and space is limited. The course fee is \$75, with competitive scholarships available.

## BUSINESS PLANNING FOR STARTUPS

October 16 - December 11

This newly-designed LEADING EDGE: Business Planning for Startups course has been curated with new Western Slope entrepreneurs in mind. The program is held online and features eight on-demand learning modules paired with live weekly forums hosted by multiple expert SBDC consultants. During the 8-week series aspiring rural business owners assess the viability of their startup ideas and learn what it takes to succeed. They'll refine their business models and complete their experience with a strategic business plan to secure financing and guide their business ventures. Participants are further supported with a free four-month subscription to LivePlan, a \$160 value. Registration is open now and space is limited. The course fee is \$275, with competitive scholarships available.

The Colorado Small Business Development Center Network's flagship strategic planning series, LEADING EDGE, delivers comprehensive training to small businesses by providing entrepreneurs with access to expert consultants, educational framework, and peer engagement. It's geared to help both start-up and existing businesses throughout the state in the areas of finance, marketing, human resources, and more.

To learn more or register, visit [www.northwestsbdc.org/leading-edge-2024/](http://www.northwestsbdc.org/leading-edge-2024/) or email Danise Cardona at [danise@northwestsbdc.org](mailto:danise@northwestsbdc.org).

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