



Ready to Start or Grow Your Small Business?

The BELT (Business and Entrepreneur Launch Tool) Initiative is now accepting applications for a 10-week business accelerator program.

This immersive experience offers direct access to industry experts, targeted educational resources, one-on-one mentorship, and a powerful network of fellow entrepreneurs. Join a community of driven entrepreneurs and get the tools you need to start or transform your business!

This program will dive into the most critical elements of business management to provide participants with the tools needed to tackle your big goals.

As an added bonus, participants will have the opportunity to compete in a pitch-style competition for a chance to win a variety of awards to help spur business growth and development. **Launching your new business just got way easier!**

Don't miss out! This program runs weekly Sept. 3-Nov. 19.

Click the link, scan the QR code or visit niic.com to get started.

Register Now

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, 8/29

Estimated Package Cost: Over \$2,000
Your Cost to Participate: \$125

BELT is a collaboration between the following partner organizations in Noble, DeKalb, Steuben & LaGrange counties:

Powered By:

INDIANA FOR THE BOLD
Economic Development Corporation

INDIANA
Small Business
Development Center

NOBLE
County
INDIANA

niic

Northeast
Indiana
Innovation
Center



What's included in the BELT Program?

- A 10-week business accelerator cohort where you will receive hands-on training from field experts on every aspect of launching your small business
- Access to FREE one-on-one mentoring/coaching opportunities with a professional in the area where you need it most
- Ongoing wrap-around support from the NEI Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the NEI Innovation Center (NIIC)

Once completed, participants will have the opportunity to compete in an interview/pitch competition for a chance to receive one or more resources to launch/grow your business:

- A graduated lease on a storefront property in the 4-county region to launch their business
 - Rent will start at \$240/month and increase incrementally over the course of one year, freeing up capital for other business priorities
- A low-interest loan of up to \$2,500 to launch their new venture & leverage additional funding (3 available)
- 1-year Chamber membership in the county of choice in the 4-county region (4 available)
- 1-year DABA membership for one DeKalb County participant (1 available)
- QuickBooks training from Mannia & Company (4 available)
- **Free to all: headshot session at pitch party, capital access map, personal journal & pen for note taking**
- Personal studio space at a coworking/incubator space (based on current availability):
 - 231 Main Co-working (Kendallville) – 5 available
 - Co-work Steuben (Angola) – 10 available
 - DeKalb Co-working (Auburn) – 5 available
 - Registration fee reimbursement (\$125) – 2 available
- 6-month membership at the CLC Cookery (shared kitchen space)
 - Includes 20 hours/mo. access to equipment, storage, freezer/fridge, personal locker, water use, cleaning supplies & high-speed Wi-Fi
- Free marketing start-up bundle (custom logo, business card and brochure design, social media set up) (4 available)
- Other awards currently being pursued include: free assistance with first year tax filing, free legal consultation, etc.

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