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YES TO START UPS 2026

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

This Participant Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between:

- County of Yuba, Community Development and Services Agency ("County"),
- Sacramento Valley Small Business Development Center ("SBDC"), and
- The undersigned individual or business entity ("Participant").

Together, the County and SBDC are referred to as the "Program Organizers."

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the obligations of Participants in the Yes to Start Ups program, ensuring compliance with program requirements, County standards, and applicable laws. Key program dates and milestones are outlined in *Attachment A – Program Schedule*, which is incorporated by reference into this Agreement. The Yes to Start Ups program is designed to support early-stage entrepreneurs and small business owners in Yuba County by providing free training, mentorship, and access to grant funding opportunities that help launch or grow local businesses.

2. Participant Commitments

By signing this Agreement, the Participant agrees to:

2.1 Attendance

Participants are expected to attend all seven (7) required online training sessions. One (1) absence may be excused with prior notice to the Program Organizers.

2.2 Deliverables

Complete all required deliverables and assignments by the deadlines set forth by the Program Organizers, including but not limited to business plans, financial statements, pitch competition participation, and completion of the SBDC Economic Impact Survey. Completion of the required deliverables is required prior to disbursement of grant funds.

2.3 Eligibility

Participants must be 18 years of age or older to enroll in the program. If applying as a business team, participation is limited to two (2) team members per business. Both

team members are required to attend all mandatory training sessions and complete program deliverables.

2.4 Location Requirement

Maintain a principal residence or business operation in Yuba County, California.

Participant shall provide proof of residence or business operation in Yuba County with this Agreement. Acceptable forms of proof include, but are not limited to:

- A valid California driver's license or ID showing a Yuba County address;
- A recent utility bill (water, electricity, gas, or internet) in the Participant's name and Yuba County address;
- A lease agreement, property tax bill, business license, or certificate of occupancy showing a Yuba County address; or
- Other equivalent documentation reasonably demonstrating residence or business operation in Yuba County.

2.5 Good Standing

Remain in good standing with the County, meaning:

- No unresolved Code Enforcement or Environmental Health actions exist; or
- If such actions exist, Participant is actively working with the County toward resolution.

2.6 Legal Operation

If currently operating a business, ensure operations are lawful under applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Full licensing is not required to participate in the program, but businesses in operation must be operating legally.

2.7 Cost of Participation

Participation in the Yes to Start Ups program is provided at no cost to participants. All training, advising, and program materials are fully funded by the County of Yuba in partnership with the Sacramento Valley SBDC.

2.8 Non-Transferability

Participation in the Yes to Start Ups program is non-transferable. Only the individual(s) listed on this Agreement may attend program sessions, receive advising, or compete in pitch events.

3. Program Organizers' Commitments

The County and SBDC agree to:

- Provide structured training, coaching, and mentoring resources as outlined in the program curriculum.
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- Administer and distribute participant grants and awards, consistent with County and program guidelines.
- Offer ongoing small business advising, access to resources, and connections to market opportunities.

Program participants will have access to no-cost business training, one-on-one advising from the Sacramento Valley SBDC, and opportunities to apply for microgrants through the program's pitch competitions.

4. Term & Termination

4.1 Term

This Agreement is effective upon the date of Participant's signature and remains in force through the conclusion of the 2025-2026 Yes to Start Ups program cycle, concluding May 7, 2026.

4.2 Termination

The Program Organizers may terminate participation if the Participant:

- Fails to attend required trainings or complete deliverables;
- Misrepresents eligibility or standing with the County;
- Operates unlawfully; or
- Engages in disruptive, disrespectful, or otherwise unprofessional conduct during the program.

Termination may result in loss of access to the program and resources. If terminated, the Participant will be asked to leave the program.

5. Indemnification

Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County, SBDC, and their officers, agents, and employees from any liability, damages, or expenses arising from Participant's actions, business activities, or breach of this Agreement.

6. Media & Publicity Release

Participant grants permission to the County of Yuba, the Sacramento Valley SBDC, and their partners to use their name, business name, likeness, or photographs taken during the program for promotional or educational purposes. This may include use in publications, websites, social media, or press materials. Participation in the program does not entitle the Participant to compensation for such use.



6.1 Sponsor Information Release

Participant agrees that the County of Yuba, the Sacramento Valley SBDC, and their program partners may share the Participant's name, business name, email address, and phone number with program sponsors for the limited purpose of business outreach, networking, and promotional opportunities related to the Yes to Start Ups program. Sponsors are expected to maintain confidentiality and use such information only in connection with program-related activities.

7. Miscellaneous

- No Employment Relationship: This Agreement does not create an employment or agency relationship between the Participant and Program Organizers.
- Governing Law: This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of California, with venue in Yuba County.
- Entire Agreement: This Agreement represents the entire understanding between the parties and may only be amended in writing by all parties.

8. Acknowledgment & Signatures

By signing below, the Participant acknowledges that they have read, understood, and agree to comply with the terms of this Agreement as a condition of participation in Yes to Start Ups.

Attachments

The following attachment is incorporated into and made part of this Agreement:

- *Attachment A – Program Schedule*
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Participant

Name: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

County of Yuba, Community Development and Services Agency

Authorized Representative: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Sacramento Valley SBDC

Authorized Representative: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



Attachment A – Program Schedule

The following schedule outlines the anticipated timeline for the 2025–2026 Yes to Start Ups program. Dates are subject to change with notice to participants.

Phase	Date	Notes
Application Opens	December 1, 2025	
Application Closes	January 31, 2026	
Participants Notified	February 6, 2026	
Program Kickoff	February 10, 2026	Evening event (in person)
Courses Begin	February 16, 2026	1 virtual session a week (7 total)
Courses End	April 6, 2026	
Practice Pitches	April 20, 2026	Evening event (in person)
Pitch Round 1	April 30, 2026 + May 1, 2026	Daytime event (in person)
Pitch Round 2	May 7, 2026	Evening event (in person)

*Two in-person cohort meetups will be scheduled between February 16, 2026, and April 6, 2026. The specific dates for these meetups will be shared with participants following the program kickoff. Attendance at the cohort meetups is not required but is strongly encouraged for networking and peer learning opportunities.

