



Black Humboldt Business Cohort Excelerator



Lead Organization: Black Humboldt

Key Collaborators: North Coast SBDC, North Edge Financing, Bling Brow Bar & Mo HD Creates

More Information: bit.ly/Black-Humboldt-CE

Sector: Arts, Culture, and Tourism; Workforce Development

Project Description

Black Humboldt's Business Cohort Excelerator is a culturally responsive business development program helping Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other underserved entrepreneurs in the Redwood Region move from promising ideas to sustainable, market-ready enterprises. In partnership with the North Coast SBDC, North Edge Financing, Humboldt Made, Bling Brow Bar, and Mo HD Creates, participants receive coaching, workshops, peer support, and practical tools to complete business plans, marketing strategies, pitch decks, vendor-readiness systems, and funding applications. The project strengthens local ownership, creates pathways to income and employment, and builds a connected regional ecosystem where entrepreneurs can launch, grow, collaborate, and remain rooted locally.

Intended Outcomes

- Participants complete a business plan, marketing plan, pitch deck, and vendor-readiness toolkit.
- Entrepreneurs strengthen pricing, financial management, funding readiness, and access to technical assistance.

- Businesses gain visibility and sales opportunities through markets, public pitches, and collaborative events.
- A lasting BIPOC business network supports local ownership, peer learning, and quality job creation

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

The 2026 cohort is underway, with entrepreneurs participating in workshops, one-on-one advising, peer feedback, and applied business-planning assignments. Participants are building core deliverables and preparing for public vending and pitch opportunities, with \$1,000 micro-grant support tied to completion. Early achievements include stronger business clarity, new collaborations, and improved marketing and pricing systems. Ongoing challenges include limited start-up capital, rural transportation and market access, childcare, and the need for sustained technical assistance after the cohort ends.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

Fund micro-grants and business tools. Offer mentorship, contracts, or vendor space. Shop, refer, and collaborate locally. Lead workshops and trainings for the group. Reach us at BlackHumboldt@gmail.com