

Round2024 RISE Challenge Schedule

The dates, times, and locations of this schedule are subject to change.

Program/Event	Date/Time/Location	Details
*Application Portal Opens	September 25, 2023 12:00 p.m. (Noon) RiseInSherman.com	Online application available at RiseInSherman.com. The initial application is used to ensure your business qualifies for the RISE Challenge. You will be required to accept that your business meets each of the qualifications listed on page 3. Then, you will upload your organizational documents and a two-minute elevator pitch video. The video must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be no longer than two minutes. • Show and tell us about your product/service. • Tell us about how the company started and the current status. • Explain how much funding you are seeking and how those funds will be used to help your company meet its goals. The video does not have to be a highly produced product (cell phone videos accepted); however, it should be professional and clearly define your product/service. Videos must be uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo and submitted for review. Please review the privacy setting in the video service to ensure the judges can view the video and the applicant's privacy concerns are also addressed.
*Required One-on-One with SEDCO Information Sessions Must attend only one	October 2, 9, 16, 23 Monday afternoons SEDCO Board Room 307 W. Washington St., Ste. 102, Sherman, TX	Interested applicants may schedule a one-on-one meeting with SEDCO staff to learn about the application, qualifications, and challenge requirements. Call 903.868.2566 or email April Day at april@sedco.org to schedule an appointment.
*Application Portal Closes	October 25 12:00 p.m. (Noon)	Applicants must submit their online application and video submission no later than 12:00pm on October 25, 2023.
Round 2 Applicants Notified	October 26	Applicants advancing to Round 2 will be notified by email and non-advancing applicants will be provided notice with feedback from the Program Partners.
*Introduction Meeting with SBDC	November 1 -10	Set up an initial meeting with Grayson SBDC to complete new client paperwork.
*Grayson SBDC Workshop 1	November 14 3:00-5:00 p.m. SEDCO Board Room	Business Plan Basic's Company Overview
*Grayson SBDC Workshop 2	November 21 3:00-5:00 p.m. SEDCO Board Room	Business Plan Market/Customer Financials Executive Summary
*SBDC Meetings	November 22 - December 15, 2023	Continue working with SBDC to complete business plan, financials, and additional documentation. <i>*Same day appointments are not typical.</i>
*1 st Draft of Business Plan, Cash Flow Due & Investor Fact Sheet	January 2, 2024	Round 2 applicants will submit a first draft of their business plans, two years of cash flow projections and Investor Fact Sheet.
Follow up with SBDC	January 2 - 12	SBDC will reach out to set up a follow-up meeting after reviewing documents.
*Initial Pitch to Judging Panel	January 16 Time TBA SEDCO Board Room	Round 2 applicants will participate in an initial pitch to the judging panel. The judges will have reviewed the initial application and the first draft of the business plans. Applicants will have 30 minutes to present their product/service and business goals. There will be a 15-minute Q&A following the presentation. Timeslots will be scheduled at the 2 nd Grayson SBDC Workshop on November 21, 2024. It is encouraged but not required to include handouts, slideshows, videos, etc. during your presentation. If you need A/V accommodations, contact SEDCO by January 15, 2024. Watch " <i>Shark Tank's Best Pitches Explained by the Cast</i> " for helpful tips in preparing for your presentation to the judging panel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq3fwHwgB9g

Program/Event	Date/Time/Location	Details
Round 3 Applicants Notified	January 17, 2024	Applicants advancing to Round 3 will be notified by email on next steps. Non-advancing applicants will be provided notice with feedback from the judges.
*Final Draft of Business Plan, Cash Flow and Investor Fact Sheet	January 24	Round 3 applicants will submit their final draft of the business plan, two years of cash flow projections, and a
Cost Breakdown & Bank Statements Due	January 31	Applicants will submit and itemized bid/cost breakdown for use of RISE funding and a copy of their most recent business account bank statements.
*Site Visits by Judging Panel	February 5 - 16	The judges will visit each place of business for the Round 3 applicants to learn more. If you are not able to do an on-site visit because you have not yet secured a space in Sherman, you may hold your site visit at the SEDCO Office. However, you must show pictures and video of your location and plans for the space in your presentation.
Applicants provided with Site Visit Feedback	February 20	
*Final Presentations	March 7 Time TBA Austin College 900 N Grand Ave, Sherman, TX 75090	Round 3 applicants will enter the final stage of judging with a presentation to the judging panel. Think “ <i>Shark Tank</i> .” Judges will have reviewed the final business plans and cash flow, and they will have visited your business site. It is critical that you can answer all of the questions on page 7 of this packet.
Finalists Notified	March 8	Finalists will be notified by email. The Round 3 applicants that are not selected will be provided notice with feedback from the judges. <i>The amount of each award will not be disclosed until the Awards Ceremony.</i>
Awards Ceremony *Finalists are required to attend.	March 21, 2024 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mabee Hall, Austin College	All applicants will be invited to attend the RISE Challenge Awards Ceremony. <i>Reminder: Funds will not be disbursed at the Awards Ceremony. Allocations will need to be approved by the SEDCO Board and all agreements fully executed before funds are distributed.</i>
*SEDCO Application for Financial Assistance Due	April 1	RISE Winners must complete the SEDCO Application for Financial Assistance. This is a standard form SEDCO must have on file for each company before performance agreements are drafted.
Business Location Documents Due *Mandatory for winners relocating or opening a business in Sherman.	April 5	Winners who are relocating or opening a business in Sherman must submit a signed purchase or lease agreement for the Sherman location to SEDCO. *Not required if business is already located in Sherman.
SEDCO Board Meeting	April 9 11:30 a.m. SEDCO Board Room	At this meeting, the Board will discuss and consider approval of the Resolutions authorizing the allocations awarded by the judging panel.
*AFFA, Promissory Note & Personal Guaranty Execution; W-9 Submission Due	April 19	SEDCO staff and attorney will draft the agreements and send to the winners for review and signature. Please submit a copy of your W-9 to SEDCO.
*Check Presentations & Facility Walk-Thru	Early May	SEDCO staff will contact the winners to schedule a check presentation and facility walk-thru. <i>Be prepared to have your picture taken!</i>
*1 st Meeting with Grayson SBDC	One month from check presentation Grayson SBDC 6101 Grayson Dr, Denison, TX 75020	Winners must schedule their first meeting with the Grayson SBDC within the first month following the date of the check presentation. These meetings are required every month for the first 6 months of the AFFA to ensure the company has the necessary tools and information to succeed. The meetings will then be required once per quarter for months 7-12 of the AFFA. At the one-year mark, the Grayson SBDC will determine if follow up meetings are required. Please refer to your AFFA for more details.
*1 st Quarterly Report to SEDCO	October 15, 2024	Winners must submit a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Report, and an Employment Report to SEDCO each quarter. Please refer to your AFFA for more details.

Program Partner Contacts:

Cary Wacker, Austin College, cwacker@austincollege.edu, 903.813.2042

Dr. David Griffith, Austin College, dgriffith@austincollege.edu, 903.813.2587

Dr. Karen Stidham, Grayson SBDC, stidhamk@grayson.edu, 903.463.8787

Kent Sharp, SEDCO, kents@sedco.org, 903.868.2566

Ashton Bellows, SEDCO, ashtonb@sedco.org, 903.868.2566

Shannon Blake, SEDCO, shannonb@sedco.org, 903.868.2566

April Day, SEDCO, aprild@sedco.org, 903.868.2566

Willie Wu, PQD Design & Manufacturing LLC, williewu@pqdusa.com, 833.877.3634 ext. 888

**Questions?
Email us at
info@RiseInSherman.com**