

BEST Foundations Program

Building with Entrepreneurs in the Skilled Trades

Applications Open June 22, 2026 • Apply at www.communitywealth.org
Applications Due July 27, 2026

The BEST Foundations Program is an intensive, cohort-based training initiative designed to equip skilled trades business owners from historically underutilized communities with the tools, relationships, and credentials needed to compete for — and win — larger institutional contracts in Denver's booming construction market.

◆ 2026 CURRICULUM: SEVEN SESSIONS TO CONTRACT READINESS ◆

Session 1	Working with Prime Contractors Understanding procurement, relationships, and partnership requirements
Session 2	Working with Anchor Institutions Institutional procurement, compliance, and relationship strategy
Session 3	Bonding & Insurance Requirements Risk management and bonding processes for institutional contracting
Session 4	Certifications & Compliance MBE certifications and regulatory compliance frameworks
Session 5 ★ NEW	Estimating, Break Even Analysis & Lines of Credit Financial foundations for profitability and larger contracts
Session 6 ★ NEW	Workforce Development Apprenticeships, workforce development programs, and employee ownership options
Session 7	Building an Effective Marketing Toolkit Digital presence, building a sales pipeline, and capability statement development

★ NEW FOR COHORT 2

Sessions 5 and 6 are brand-new additions — expanding the program's financial literacy and workforce development focus to meet the demands of institutional contracting.

◆ APPLICATION & PROGRAM TIMELINE ◆

June 22, 2026	Applications Open Application portal goes live; information session also held this date
June 22, 2026	Information Session #1 Prospective applicants learn about the program and requirements
June 29, 2026	Information Session #2 Second opportunity for prospective applicants to ask questions and apply
July 27, 2026	Applications Due Final deadline for Cohort 2 applications
August 17, 2026	Finalist Announcements Selected participants notified and onboarding begins
September 10, 2026	First Day — Cohort 2 Session 1: Working with Prime Contractors
December 3, 2026	Last Day & Graduation Planning Session 7 complete; graduation planning begins

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- ▶ Skilled trades business owners from historically underutilized and underrepresented communities
- ▶ Businesses with at least 2 years of operation and demonstrated trade expertise
- ▶ Necessary skilled trades licenses and insurance for your field
- ▶ A target minimum of \$40,000 in revenue
- ▶ Owners seeking to access larger institutional contracts with prime contractors and anchor institutions
- ▶ Businesses located in or serving the Denver metro area and surrounding Colorado communities
- ▶ Owners who can commit to attending all seven sessions and completing graduation requirements

READY TO APPLY?

Applications Open: June 22, 2026

Apply Online: www.communitywealth.org

Questions? Contact:

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Small Business Development Manager

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www.communitywealth.org

★ *If you do not meet the minimum requirements related to years in business and revenue, we encourage you to still apply.*