



Contestant Overview

For a complete list of rules and guidelines, visit:

www.igniteks.com



This competition was created to empower, support and cultivate entrepreneurs. In Barton County we strive to champion creativity and innovative thinking and to compliment a project or idea with the tools, resources and investment necessary to see it thrive. We aim for this competition to be the first of many efforts to continue that mission in a positive and impactful way.

GREAT BEND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. a private 501(c)6 non-profit organization, located at 3111 10th Street, Great Bend, KS 67530. Referred to as "the Organizer" in this document.

Participation and Eligibility

- Startups can enter the competition by applying online for free.
- Any startup throughout the US can apply
- The Startup must be less than 5 years old (with 10 or fewer employees) at the date of the Grand Finale.
- The Applicant must be a **minimum 18 years of age**.
- If chosen as a contest winner, the Applicant agrees to locate their business within Barton County, Kansas for a minimum of 5 years.
- If the Applicant uses fraudulent methods or otherwise attempts to circumvent the rules, its submission may be removed from eligibility at the sole discretion of the Organizer.

Application period

The application period deadline is July 1, 2025.

Registration process

- Applicants can register online for free by submitting the application components at www.igniteks.com.
- The online application must include responses to all mandatory areas included in the application

If you have further inquires about IGNITE Rural Business, please contact:

Sara Arnberger GBED President director@gbedinc.com

Lee Ann June GBED Communications Director marketing@gbedinc.com

Prizes

The winners of the Semi-final round wins:

- \$50,000 – Grand Prize
- \$30,000 – Runner up
- \$10,000 – 3rd Place
- \$5,000 – People's Choice

Pre-selection Process

- Up to 20 applicants will be selected to engage in a one-on-one meeting with a business planning professional.
- Chosen applicants will then be paired with a local business mentor in a category the Applicant desires.

Semi-finals & Grand Finale

Up to 10 applicants that complete both steps of the pre-selection process will be deemed "Semi-Finalists" and asked to meet one-on-one with the IGNITE Rural Business jury.

Grand Finale

During the Grand Finale on **October 9th**, the Finalists will be provided ten (10) minutes to present their company and attempt to convince the members of the Jury of the merits of their business concept. Every pitch will be followed by five (5) minutes of Q&A conducted by the Jury.

The Grand Finale jury members will base their decisions on the following criteria:

- Innovation
- Creativity
- Long-term business strategy and viability

