The Entrepreneur District
Entrepreneur in Residence Application

Entrepreneurs in Residence encompass a wide spectrum of business owners who use The Entrepreneur District as a place to create collaboration, develop their businesses, and transform themselves.

The Entrepreneur District is for you, the business owner, who has one of the following two goals:

❑ The desire and potential to grow and scale your business.

(In ways such as, but not limited to: hire employees, own/rent your own office space, expand to other cities, go from part-time side business to full-time business owners, increase revenue, etc.)

OR

❑ The desire to sustain and maintain your business at its current level by creating a more robust, well-rounded, strategic, and/or stable business.

Please check the above box(es) that most applies to you. If you fall into either or both of those categories, we encourage you to apply!

For 2027, the Entrepreneur District at Dakota Business Lending is geared to service or customer focused businesses that need professional office space. Dakota Business Lending will offer free office space at our location. Residents will have access to conference room space as needed at Dakota Business Lending as well as all business support and programming from the Entrepreneur District and Dakota Business Lending (outlined below).

Here are the **four qualifications** you must meet in order to proceed with the application:

1. Must own a for-profit small business in full operation and registered with your state.
2. Must be a solopreneur working full-time on your business.
3. a. Must be in need of a physical office space and able to work from Fargo, ND Entrepreneur District office **no less than 8 hours a week**.
4. Must have a strong willingness to collaborate with other Entrepreneur District Residents.

❑ I meet the above qualifications and would like my application to be considered for Residency at The Entrepreneur District.

Name: _____ Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The Entrepreneur District

Program Parameters

Being a resident of The Entrepreneur District brings you some pretty amazing opportunities and perks -- *all at no charge!* But even though your residency at The Entrepreneur District is free, we do have some expectations for you to meet in order to become and stay a Resident. Below is the general outline of parameters which will be discussed in greater detail upon your acceptance into The Entrepreneur District.

Entrepreneur District Provides	Resident Provides
Office Space Donated office space at Dakota Business Lending includes office furniture, conference room access, and internet. *Inventory storage or large product assembly space is **not** available. *Residents must obtain general liability insurance.	**On-site Availability** Residents must be on-site at Dakota Business Lending Entrepreneur District office in Fargo, ND no less than 8 hours per week.
Education Access to free education and development programing and business coaching.	**Involvement** Residents are expected to attend mandatory monthly District meetings as well as attend as many weekly engagement opportunities as they can.
Mentorship Alignment with a strategic mentor. Networking opportunities with key leaders.	**Active Engagement** Residents are encouraged to connect with mentors 2-4x per year.
Collaboration & Partnership Connecting with residents on idea generation, problem solving, collaboration, etc. Periodic opportunities for larger community-based networking.	**Attendance** Residents are expected to work 8 hours in-office outside of required meetings to best utilize support of other residents Residents are encouraged to lead designated District programing when applicable.
Capital Access to a micro-loan if needed.	**Application** Brief loan application information if needed.

**More specific details of each above program parameter will be outlined at the first resident meeting.*

Our goal with these parameters is not to give you busy work, but to foster community engagement opportunities that will help you network, continue to develop skills to succeed, and grow your business. All the above expectations have flexibility so that you can choose the right programs, training, times, etc. that work for you and will help you hone your business and leadership skills.

If you'd like any additional details on expectations, email The Head of the District, Mackenzie Brimm at hello@brimmmarketing.com.

This application is valid for Residency at the Entrepreneur District for 12 months. Applications have the opportunity to be renewed for a second year at the discretion of the Head of District.

I, _____, understand that the Entrepreneur District will fulfill its above listed obligations to me, its potential resident, and I will fulfill the above outlined obligations to the Entrepreneur District and community unless otherwise discussed and amended between myself and the Head of District.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date:_____

The Application

At the Entrepreneur District, we don't want to pigeonhole you into a specific type, genre, person, etc. We know that there is more to your story and the opportunities you bring than what can be conveyed in this application, but we still need the basics of who you are and what you do. Along with those basics, we want all the goals, dreams, vision, challenges, shortfalls, and more. We will do our best with these questions to help you share those with us, but we know we likely won't be able to draw out all of what makes you YOU.

So... feel welcome to elaborate, add, or diverge from a question in the space provided or on an additional sheet of paper.

*And finally, know that there is **no** wrong answer. We are **not** looking for someone or some business that fits into a perfectly packaged box. We **are** looking for a wide range of entrepreneurs that all fit together to support each other and help us all rise to the level that feels right for each resident individually.*

Be honest. Be transparent. Speak your mind and your heart.

All information in the application will be kept <u>strictly</u> confidential between you, Mackenzie Brimm - Head of District, and the Dakota Business Lending Application Review Committee.

<u>About Your Business:</u>

Let's get the basics out of the way before we dive into the gushy stuff.

Name of Business: _____

Name of Owner(s): _____

Doing business: ◯ in-person ◯ online ◯ both

Business Description:_____

_____

_____

Current physical operating location: _____

Where are you doing business: ☐ Local area ☐ Statewide ☐ Nationally ☐ Internationally

How long have you been in operation: _____

Current Business Assessment:

You can't plan your destination until you know where you are starting from. Again, there is no wrong answer here. Residency is open to businesses of all ages and stages. Whether you are 5 days or 5 years into business ownership, you have unique perspectives, talents, and potential that can be nurtured in the Entrepreneur District.

Do you have another job outside of running your business? If yes, what is it?

_____

2026 revenue: _____

How did you generate that revenue? (i.e.: types of product sales, services, etc.) _____

_____

_____

Were you profitable in 2026? If yes, by how much? If no, share with us why.

_____

_____

_____

Hours worked per week (circle): ◯ 10 or less ◯ 10-30 ◯ 30+

Tell us your getting started story: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Future Goals

Now that we've got a starting point, let's plug a destination into your business GPS. And don't worry if you don't have a super precise goal. A general direction is just fine as well.

What are your business goals for 2027 in the following categories (if applicable)?

Revenue: _____

# of Products/services sold: _____

What are your top priority business goals for this year?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What areas of your business are you currently working on that are new, exciting, or ignite a fire in you?

_____

_____

_____

Current Challenges:

At the Entrepreneur District, it's okay if you have challenges. Actually, we embrace them. If everything you write on this application is glowing and rosy, we'd likely not accept you, because at the Entrepreneur District we only work with humans, not magical unicorns.

So, we encourage you to again answer honestly and transparently. When we know exactly where you are at, we then know what we can do to best help. Challenges are simply opportunities to learn and we are all for learning!

What 3 things do you and your business need most in order to grow or maintain?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What challenges are you currently facing in the areas below? Or what gaps in those areas do you need help meeting or growing in?

Financial: _____

Educational: _____

Network: _____

Physical Space/Location: _____

Resources: _____

Other challenges: _____

_____

_____

About you

Yes, you are here because you own a business, but our primary goal is about transforming the entrepreneur as a whole. That's YOU!

What skills or talents do you have that have helped your business thrive?

_____

_____

What do you like to do when you are not running your business?

_____

_____

Tell us about your culture, heritage, spirituality, philosophy on life, fundamental beliefs, or anything else that makes you *you*.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Why should you walk through the Entrepreneur District door?

We've got lots of data and details and likely can put together a pretty decent picture of who you and your business are, but what we'd most like to hear is why. Why do you want to be a resident at the Entrepreneur District?

How many hours per week do you anticipate spending at The Entrepreneur District?

_____

The floor is yours. Give us your best pitch as to why you should be here.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Run out of room? We had a hunch you might. Feel welcome to attach a second sheet.

Applications are due December 4, 2026.

You will be notified if you make it to round 2 (in-person interview) by end of January, 2027.
Finalists will be notified of acceptance into the Entrepreneur District by February, 2027.
Move into the Entrepreneur District in March 2027.

Email completed form to Mackenzie Brimm at hello@brimmmarketing.com.