Sustainable Impact Program (SIP) Frequently Asked Questions

INTAKE

When is the program accepting applications? Is there more than one intake period?

SIP will be accepting applications from April 1, 2026, to May 30, 2026. This will be the only intake period for the program.

How many companies will be selected to participate in the program?

26 companies will be selected.

Where can I find the application form? Does it save my progress?

The SIP application form will be available on the website [https://boundlessaccelerator.ca/sip-application-form/] from April 1 to May 30, 2026. Yes, there is an option on the form to "Save and Continue Later". This button is found on the bottom of the application form. Once you click save, you will receive a link via email to access the application form later.

Is there a minimum revenue requirement for this program?

No, though companies should be close to commercializing their first scalable product or service (within the next year).

How can I determine what stage my business is at (idea, discovery, validation, efficiency, scale)?

There will be five (5) options for your business state. The explanations are:

1. Idea: Entrepreneur with idea; initial market and technology exploration.
2. Discovery: Value proposition established; testing ideas; proof of concept; identifying customers; early financials; Friends-and-Family funding.
3. Validation: Business model established; minimum viable product; customer verified; initial orders; testing go-to-market strategy; pursuing angel funding; or in an accelerator
4. Efficiency: Initial market traction; scaling sales and marketing; demand creation; forecasting based on actuals; pursuing early-stage VC.
5. Scale: Validated product and market; customer growth; established management team; pursuing later-stage investment.

How do I find my NAICS code?

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Please visit the **Government of Canada's website** to identify your 5-digit NAICS code. Often businesses may be categorized by more than one code, please choose the most applicable one.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

What are the eligibility requirements to participate in this program?

- The applicant must be an early-stage business or Small to Medium Enterprise (1-499 employees), and the business must be headquartered in Southern Ontario (regions are outlined in the Program Guide under Appendix A)
- One or two team members of the business' leadership team are available to participate in the program (including all project hours with mentor, all educational components, and all pitch coaching).
- Business must be incorporated (Ontario or federal)
- Business owner/founder must be working in the business full-time
- Business must have a scalable product or service
- One or two team members are available to participate in an online certificate program with the University of Guelph (1.5-hour virtual lectures for 10 weeks during the program timeframe).

Do I have to be incorporated in Ontario to participate in the program?

You must be incorporated federally or in the province of Ontario in order to participate in SIP.

PROGRAM

How does the expert-matching work?

Once accepted to SIP, your Program Manager will determine the best expert/mentor to match you with based on your industry, business stage, and specific program goals. There will be an opportunity to engage more than one expert, depending on your program requirements.

How long does each program phase last?

Phase 1, "Strategic Discovery" will run from June 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026. Phase 2, "Implementation & Impact" will run from September 1, 2026, to February 26, 2027.

Are the educational components of SIP compulsory?

Yes, if accepted to SIP, you are required to participate in all educational components. These include two Investor Readiness Sessions, two Export Readiness Sessions, Group Pitch Coaching Sessions, and the University of Guelph Executive Education Course. More details on the timing

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of these sessions is available on the SIP webpage. **All educational components in SIP are offered virtually.**

What information will I be expected to provide for reporting requirements?

You will be expected to provide regular project updates as well as general business metrics during your participation in the Sustainable Impact Program, as a requirement to receive fully funded project work and education. Once your project is complete, post-program follow-up reports will be requested for up to 2 years. Metrics may include but aren't limited to: revenues, investment, employment, and intellectual property.

I am a co-founder/partner in the business. Do we all participate in this program, or is there one point of contact?

We expect that all decisions around project plans will involve a decision-maker in the business. This is usually the owner/founder/C-Suite. Other members of your team can be involved in these meetings and are welcome. Once projects begin, involvement may be limited to one or more functional area and/or person depending on the project scope. While more than one person may participate in the educational components of the program, only one is required.

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