

For Immediate Release
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QEDC's StartUP! Competition Helps Queens-Based Entrepreneurs Launch, Grow Successful Businesses

Contestants Take Classes, Network, and Vie for \$10,000 Prizes

(Kew Gardens, NY) — Do you live in Queens? Are you looking for funding to grow your business or get a new one off the ground?

Queens Economic Development Corporation's 15th Annual [StartUP! Competition](#) offers a \$10,000 grant to existing and startup businesses. Plus, participants have the opportunity to connect with other entrepreneurs in the completely free program, receive technical support from QEDC experts, and have one-on-one consultations with experienced advisors.

A collaboration with Resorts World Casino New York City, Queens Public Library, and the Srivastava Technology Fund, [StartUP!](#) is a four-month program for solo entrepreneurs and teams that are in the early stages of developing or growing their businesses. Participants must take four online workshops on the following topics: Identify and Validate Customer Needs and Problems; Develop and Test Your Business Model; Branding Strategies for Startups; and Financial Statement Basics for Startups.

The recorded workshops are shared by request until March 1, when applications are due. Since [StartUP!](#) is completely online this year, contestants can learn and wear pajamas at the same time!

After attending a fourth session, the final step is to complete and submit an online application in any of four categories – Technology; Community; Food; and Sustainability. Three finalists in each category will present their businesses to a panel of judges. Then, the judges will select one \$10,000 winner in each category.

Since it began in 2006, [StartUP!](#) has awarded a total of \$450,000 in grants to 71 winners chosen from a combined pool of 4,300 participants.

QEDC believes that inclusion is an economic imperative and entrepreneurship is open to everyone, regardless of gender, race or birthplace. For more information on these programs and other services, go to www.queensny.org.

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