



Women's Venture Summit (WVS) is looking for innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and local communities. We know supporting women startups and entrepreneurs is critical for women's economic freedom. 2019 was a banner year with \$130 Billion dollars in VC funding raised. Women received less than 2.2%, which is \$10 Billion less than one company's total funds raised. Women's Venture Summit is looking for partners to host regional Women's Fast Pitch events to help our journey into elevating women founders and funders to GET TO EVEN.

Eligibility Rules for Participating in the **Women's Fast Pitch (WFP)**, hosted by **Women's Venture Summit**, is open only to:

- A company's product or service must launch before June 1, 2020
- Each company may only enter one product or service to Women's Fast Pitch
- A company that enters more than one product or service will not be eligible to participate
- Founders of the company applying must retain some portion of ownership in the company
- The Company must not have raised over ten (10) million dollars in funding from combined funding source
- At least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of their submission of an entry (or teams of such individuals)
- Registered corporations, LLC, or sole prop within the United States

#### **Registration Process for Participants:**

The Women's Fast Pitch launches every year in June. The initial round of the Women's Fast Pitch will take the form of local competitions that will be run across the country beginning no earlier than June 1 each year and ending no later than August 30, 2019 by host organizations such as universities, accelerators, clusters, and scale-up communities. For more information regarding these local competitions as it becomes available, please visit [womensventuresummit.org](http://womensventuresummit.org). While these local competitions will be identified as part of the Women's Venture Summit, they will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with these rules; they will be administered solely by the local host organizations and will be judged by individuals selected by each host at their sole discretion. At a minimum, however, each application must contain a business plan covering the contestant's proposed product or service and must satisfy the fast pitch criteria.

Following the completion of the local competitions, each host organization will identify one winner that will advance to pitch at the Women's Venture Summit. For a winning entry that has been submitted by a team of competitors, the host organization must list the team's self-identified winner via the online portal found under the Women's Fast Pitch section, located on [womensventuresummit.org](http://womensventuresummit.org).

**Prize for Winners:** Cash prizes totaling \$5,000 will be awarded to the highest ranked contestant in the final round at the Women's Venture Summit.

**Process for Host Organizations:**

**Initial Round – Local Competitions** - Organizations that wish to host a local competition as part of the initial round of this Challenge must submit a request via the online form at [womensventuresummit.org](http://womensventuresummit.org).

The online survey will ask for detailed information about the organization and local pitch challenge. Please be ready to share details that provide WVS with a clear understanding of your organization and plans to host the local challenge.

WVS will evaluate all requests to host a local Women's Fast Pitch competition in its sole discretion and will confirm a host's participation in writing. Additionally, with some exceptions, organizations that wish to host a WPF local competition will be required to agree to the terms of a Co-sponsorship Agreement with WVS that defines the scope of the relationship for the purposes of WPF and outlines the co-promotion and marketing terms. WVS will notify prospective hosts if such agreement is required. WVS will reject any nomination package submitted to the WVS by an organization that has not been officially confirmed by WVS to participate in the WPF Challenge.

Each host organization will determine the type of local competition, conducted in a manner that is consistent with these WPF Rules, that will best identify the most innovative and entrepreneurial business ideas, including the type of application that individuals need to prepare in order to compete. The local competitions will be administered solely by the local host organizations and will be judged by individuals selected by each host in their sole discretion. However, no individual acting as a judge at any stage of this challenge may have personal or financial interests in, or be an employee, officer, director, or agent of any contestant or have a familial or financial relationship with a contestant. Host organizations will also publicize the competition locally. Host organizations should notify WFP of the date and location of the local competitions for the purposes of publication at [womensventuresummit.org](http://womensventuresummit.org).

**Final Round – National Competition:** Each finalist will be offered the opportunity to participate in the WVS Final Challenge to be held on September 14, 2019 in San Diego, CA, where they will make a live investment pitch to an audience of active angel investors, VCs and audience choice. The audience will participate in a due diligence exercise that will allow them to "invest" fake money into the individual they feel should win. The winner will be announced that day. Finalists or supporting organization will be responsible for covering their own travel costs for the competition.

**Applicable Law:** The Women's Fast Pitch is being conducted by Women's Venture Summit pursuant to the America Competes Act (15 U.S.C. § 3719) and is subject to all applicable federal laws and regulations. By participating in this Challenge, each contestant gives its full and unconditional agreement to the Challenge Rules and the related administrative decisions described in this notice, which are final and binding in all matters related to the challenge. A contestant's eligibility for a prize award is contingent upon their fulfilling all requirements identified in this notice. All prize monies are funded through private sector sources. The private sector source is liable to the winners for payment of the prize. WVS reserves the right to modify or cancel WFP, in whole or in part, at any time prior to the award of prizes.

**Intellectual Property Rights:** All entries submitted in response to this WFP will remain the sole intellectual property of the individuals or organizations that developed them. By registering and entering a submission, each contestant represents and warrants that it is the sole author and copyright owner of the submission, and that the submission is an original work of the contestant, or if the submission is a work based on an existing application, that the contestant has acquired sufficient rights to use and to authorize others to use the submission, and that the submission does not infringe upon any copyright or upon any other third party rights of which the contestant is aware.

**Publicity Rights:** By registering and entering a submission, each contestant consents to WFP/WVS' and its agents' use, in perpetuity, of its name, likeness, photograph, voice, opinions, and/or hometown and state information for promotional or informational purposes through any form of media, worldwide, without further payment or consideration.

**Liability and Insurance Requirements:** By registering and entering a submission, each contestant agrees to assume any and all risks and waive claims against the Women's Venture Summit/ Women's Fast Pitch and its related entities, except in the case of willful misconduct, for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits, whether direct, indirect, or consequential, arising from their participation in this

WFP, whether the injury, death, damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise. By registering and entering a submission, each contestant further represents and warrants that it possesses sufficient liability insurance or financial resources to cover claims by a third party for death, bodily injury, or property damage or loss resulting from any activity it carries out in connection with its participation in WFP, or claims by the venue for damage or loss to property resulting from such an activity. Contest winners should be prepared to demonstrate proof of insurance or financial responsibility in the event WVS deems it necessary.

**Record Retention and Disclosure:** All nomination packages and related materials provided to WVS in the semi-final and final rounds of the WFP automatically become WVS records and cannot be returned. Contestants should identify any confidential commercial information contained in their entries at the time of their submission to the local Host Organization. WVS will notify contestants of any Freedom of Information Act requests the Agency receives related to their submissions in accordance with 13 C.F.R. part 102.