2025 FoodCelerator - Application Preparation List

This list does not include every question on the application, but it's designed to help you gather the key information and documents you'll need to complete it.

We expect this program will be highly competitive with very limited spaces available and many applicants. Not all applicants will be chosen.

APPLICATION DEADLINE is September 8, 2025.

START HERE: CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY: Before moving forward, please make sure you view all Eligibility Requirements for the program by visiting:
https://www.scrantonchamber.com/celerator-programs/

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
We embrace the use of AI tools to support business development and creativity. However, it's important that your application reflects your own voice and intentions. If you choose to use AI, please avoid copying long, generic responses. Answers that don't feel personal or genuine may affect your selection.

WHAT TO HAVE READY BEFORE YOU START
The full application includes approximately 70 questions, including multiple-choice and short-answer responses (limited to about 150–200 words). While the application platform is mobile-friendly, we strongly recommend completing the form on a computer for the best experience.

We estimate the application will take about 30 minutes. We cannot guarantee you will be able to save your progress on the application and return later and we will not be able to retrieve lost data. This is why we recommend having information gathered prior to starting the application.

- **Contact Information** for Applicant and All Business Partners, if applicable
  - Full name, home address, date of birth
  - *If your business has partners, we are required to collect their information to verify that all owners are current on federal, state, and local taxes, as required by the County. This information will be used for verification purposes only. Business partners are not applying to participate in the program.*
- **Business Information**, including but not limited to:
  - Date your business was established
  - FEIN (if applicable)
  - Total number of employees (full-time and part-time, including the owner)
  - List of current licenses and registrations, with issuing agency and expiration dates
  - **Have your 2024 tax return handy - you'll need the net income figure (the profit or loss after expenses) to complete this section of the application. If you weren't in business in 2024, be prepared to provide your net income using internal records. See next page for more information.**
- **Short Answer Questions** - Be prepared to answer the following questions in short answer form. Short answer questions will be limited to approximately 150-200 words. **Be honest and specific in your short answers. We're looking for individuals who are ready to learn, open to feedback, and excited to explore their growth potential.**
  - Products/services you offer
  - Steps you've taken to grow your business
  - Challenges you've faced (and how you're addressing them)
  - What topic areas you'd like help with
  - What you hope to gain from this program
  - How you would use the $10,000 reimbursable grant, including specific expenses and the outcomes you hope to achieve
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Questions** - Due to the funding source, we're required to ask a few questions related to how you or your business were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to support businesses that are learning, growing, or addressing challenges related to that time.

Questions? If you have questions about the content of the application, you are welcome to contact Maria Day at mday@scrantonchamber.com. *Please note that we are not able to assist with technical or device-related issues.*

Ready to Apply? Scan this QR Code to access the application:

Net Income
For the purposes of this application, net income means the total amount your business earned after subtracting all expenses (ingredients, packaging, rent, equipment, etc.) from your total sales. This is the figure listed on your tax return as your business's profit or loss, and it may be a very small number, or even negative, which is okay.

You will need the 2024 net income for your business as reported on your 2024 business tax return.

Please refer to your 2024 federal business tax return. Use the net income as reported on the appropriate tax form for your business type:

- Sole Proprietors
  Schedule C (Form 1040):
  Use Line 31

- Partnerships
  Form 1065:
  Use Line 23

- S Corporations
  Form 1120-S:
  Use Line 22

- C Corporations
  Form 1120:
  Use Line 30

If you were not in business in 2024, please provide the net income to date for your business by taking your gross sales and subtracting your expenses.