

Danville Area Chamber of Commerce

Women's Enterprise *Initiative*



Women's Enterprise Initiative 2026 Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any additional questions that aren't listed below, we would be happy to help. Please contact Amy Millington at president@danvilleareachamber.com at the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce to learn more about the Women's Enterprise Initiative and determine whether it's the right fit for your business.

What is the Women's Enterprise Initiative?

The Women's Enterprise Initiative (WEI) is a three-month business accelerator created by the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce to help women entrepreneurs strengthen, grow, and scale their businesses. Through expert-led workshops, peer collaboration, one-on-one coaching, and accountability, participants gain practical tools, new connections, and a personalized action plan to move their business forward.

Who is the program designed for?

The program is designed for women business owners who are ready to intentionally grow their business.

Ideal participants include:

- Home-based businesses
- Solo entrepreneurs
- Service-based businesses
- Retail businesses
- Professional services
- Consultants
- Creative entrepreneurs
- Established small business owners looking to reach the next level

Whether you've been in business for one year or ten, the program is designed to help you build momentum.

Do I need to be a Chamber member?

No. Chamber membership is not required to apply. However, Chamber members receive preferred pricing and additional opportunities to stay connected after completing the program.

danvilleareachamber.com/womens-enterprise-initiative



What makes this program different?

Unlike traditional workshops, the Women's Enterprise Initiative combines education with accountability and community.

The program emphasizes:

- Practical implementation
- Small-group collaboration
- Personalized guidance
- Meaningful connections with other women entrepreneurs

How many participants are accepted?

To encourage meaningful discussion, individualized support, and strong peer relationships, the cohort is intentionally limited in size to 30 participants.

What if I'm just starting my business?

Early-stage businesses are welcome if they have moved beyond the idea stage and are actively operating. Businesses that have been in operations for at least a year will be prioritized.

Applicants should be committed to growing a sustainable business and be ready to actively participate in the program.

What does the program cost?

Due to the generosity of our sponsors, the six-session program will be offered at a modest fee of \$200 for Danville Area Chamber Members and \$350 for Non-Chamber Members.

Fees will be collected upon acceptance into the program and billed through the Chamber Office. The fee includes workshops, program materials, coaching, three in-person luncheons, and networking opportunities.

How are participants selected?

Applications are reviewed based on:

- Business goals
- Readiness to participate
- Commitment to completing the program
- Desire to actively engage with the cohort

The goal is to create a diverse group of entrepreneurs who can learn from and support one another.

Do I have to own my business full-time?

No. Many successful entrepreneurs are building businesses while balancing careers, family responsibilities, or other commitments. What matters most is your commitment to growing your business and actively participating in the program.

My business is home-based. Is this program for me?

Absolutely. In fact, the Women's Enterprise Initiative was designed with home-based businesses in mind. Many women-owned businesses begin at home, and the program provides the tools, connections, and support to help them thrive.

Is my business too small?

Not at all. Whether you're a solo entrepreneur or have a growing team, the program is focused on helping businesses build a strong foundation for sustainable growth.

Can I send an employee or business partner in my place?

The program is intended for the primary business owner or founder. Because each session builds on previous discussions and includes peer accountability, consistent participation by the same individual is essential. If your business has multiple owners, please contact us to discuss whether both owners may participate.

My business is already established. Is this still a good fit?

Absolutely. The program isn't just for new businesses. Established business owners often participate to refine their strategy, explore new growth opportunities, strengthen their leadership, or work through challenges alongside other entrepreneurs.

Can nonprofit organizations participate?

Please contact the Chamber to discuss your organization. Depending on the structure and goals of the organization, nonprofit leaders may be eligible for future cohorts or specialized programming.