

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last updated: July 2026

Find answers to common questions about the Port of Seattle Business Accelerator Program, including eligibility, the application process, program participation, and key dates.

Do I need to be certified through NWMMSDC before applying? No, certification through the NWMMSDC is not required to apply for the Business Accelerator Program. The program is open to all eligible businesses. However, if you are interested in learning more about NWMMSDC certification, please let us know and we would be happy to share more information.

When will I be notified about my application status? All applicants will be notified of their application status the week of August 17th, after the interview and review process is complete. We will reach out to every applicant regardless of the decision.

How many businesses will be accepted into the program? Up to 15 businesses will be selected to participate in this cohort.

Is my business eligible if I provide IT consulting services? The program is designed for businesses in Architectural & Engineering services, Construction, Energy, and industries related to Aviation, Maritime, and Corporate sectors. IT consulting is not a listed industry, however if your work supports Port-related operations such as technology solutions for facilities, infrastructure, logistics, or corporate functions, you may be eligible under the Corporate sector. We encourage you to apply and describe how your services connect to Port contracting opportunities, and our selection committee will evaluate your eligibility as part of the review process.

When will the program begin? The program is expected to begin on September 10th and will meet weekly on Thursdays through December 17, 2026. Selected participants will receive the confirmed kickoff date and full session schedule before the program begins.

When will I receive the full program schedule? The full program schedule will be shared with selected participants before the start date in September. This will include session dates, key milestones, mentor-protégé expectations, and the program completion date.

Will mentors and participants be paired before the program begins? Yes, mentor and participant pairings will be made prior to the program start date based on participant needs, industry alignment, and mentor availability.

Can different employees from the same company attend different program sessions? We encourage the business owner or a member of the leadership team to serve as the primary participant and attend all sessions throughout the program. Consistency is important as each session builds upon the previous one.

How successful are businesses after completing the Accelerator Program? Do participants go on to work with the Port? The Accelerator Program is designed to help businesses strengthen their readiness to pursue contracting opportunities. While participation does not guarantee contract awards, many alumni have reported business growth, expanded networks, increased confidence in pursuing public contracts, and new opportunities with agencies and prime contractors. We are proud of the growth our alumni have achieved and look forward to supporting the 2026 cohort on their journey.