



2025 Grow Up and Grow Old Application

Date

Business Name

Contact (Name)

Business Address

City

State

Zip

County

Email Address

Phone (business or mobile)

Website (if applicable)

Business License or FED ID Number (if applicable)

1. Are you a full time student currently attending a college or university?
Yes No

a. What is your major?

1. What is the current status of your business?
Operating an existing business
In process of starting a business
Planning to expand an existing business
Involved in family business
Purchasing or taking over a business

3. How long has your business been in operations?

Less than 1 year – 3 years
Over 15 years

3 – 8 years
My business is not in operations at this time.

9 – 15 years

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4. Industry type: Select the industry your business is in. (Please select only one.)

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting

Arts, Entertainment, Creative, Recreation

Construction

Educational Services

Finance and Insurance

Food Service (restaurant, caterer, etc.)

Franchise

Healthcare and Social Assistance

Information Technology/Telecommunications

Management

Manufacturing/Production

Non-profit Organization

Professional Services

Public Administration

Real Estate Rental/Leasing/Sales

Retail/Trade

Research & Development

Transportation

Waste and Remediation

Other Services

5. Describe the nature and the range of the products and/or services you offer.

- 6.
- a. How many full-time employees do you have or plan to have, including yourself?
 - b. How many part-time employees do you have or plan to have, including yourself?

7. Do you work or plan on working full-time in your business?

8. What is the primary location of your business?

Your home

Owned space (not your home)

Partner's home

Incubator space

Rented space (not your home)

I currently do not have a location

I have a mobile business

Other (please explain)

9. What are your plans for the future? For example, improve the quality of the products/ services, grow, expand into new product/service lines, test new markets, etc.

10. Please explain what kind of formal business planning have you done. What impact has it had on your business?

11. Why do you want to participate in the Grow Up and Grow Old course?

How much does the Grow Up and Grow Old course cost? The cost for the Grow Up and Grow Old course is typically \$25.00. If a participant does not complete the course, the payment will not be refunded (unless there is a special circumstance to where the participant is unable to complete, the decision to return payment will be made by the City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities).

If the applicant is selected to participate in the 2025 Grow Up and Grow Old course, they must commit to attend all sessions and complete all assigned coursework beginning October 28, 2025

through November 25, 2025. Classes will meet on Tuesdays (in-person) for two (2) hours (6:00 PM – 8:00 PM). Participants are allowed to miss one (1) class. If a participant misses more than one (1) class and does not notify the Office of Business Opportunities of their absences, they will not receive credit for completion and can take the course again when it's offered.

By signing the agreement below:

- The participant will attend the Grow Up and Grow Old course and understand they are allowed to miss one (1) class. Also, if they miss more than one class and do not notify the Office of Business Opportunities of absences/inability to complete the course, they will not receive credit for completion and can take the course when it's offered again.
- Must submit payment of \$25.00 by the first day of class (October 28, 2025). ***Applicants who are selected will receive further instruction on how to submit payment and where.***
- Must attend in-person (no virtual classes) and successfully complete all assigned coursework by the instructor.

Business Representative Signature

Date

Alternate representative of business (provide their name)

City of Columbia

Date

Submit completed application to the following address below no later than October 24, 2025:

City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities
Attn: Carla Eichelberger, Program Compliance Coordinator
1401 Main Street, 4th Floor
Columbia, SC 29201
Office Phone: (803)545-3950
Fax: (803)401-8859

**Fax is acceptable, must still be submitted by the deadline.*