



**What is Emerge:** The goal of the Emerge Entrepreneurship Program is to help new business owners do the careful planning required to minimize the risk of launching a new enterprise. The Emerge Program was created to give participants a hands on learning experience. Participants will learn core entrepreneurial skills as they go through the process of taking a business idea from the early stages to a business ready to launch. Participants will work with instructors, mentors and industry experts throughout the program. By the end of the Emerge program participants will have a complete business plan and will have the opportunity to pitch their business to community leaders and potential investors.

**Who is eligible to apply?**

The Emerge program is open to any individual 18 years or older who wants to be, or already is a business owner. Ideal candidates will fall into one of two categories:

- Individuals who want to open their own business and ensure that they are fully prepared and have the resources necessary to launch a new business.
- Individuals who already own a business, and realize that there are areas of their business which they need additional education and resources.

**How long is the program?**

The Emerge entrepreneurship program is a six month program which meets twice a month on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. Classes will begin January 10<sup>th</sup> and end on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held at the College of Sequoias Visalia Campus.

**Tuition:**

Tuition for the Emerge Entrepreneurship Program is \$350.00. This includes all program materials, resource guide, 12 classes, access to a mentor and industry leaders.

\*Payment in full will be required upon acceptance to the program.

**Emerge Timeline:**

- The deadline to submit applications is Friday, November 17, 2017.
- Application interviews will be conducted November 27 - December 6, 2017.
- Program orientation will take place on December 13, 2017.
- Classes begin Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at COS Visalia Campus.
- Final presentations and commencement will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 2018.

Participants must complete the attached application and return to Visalia Chamber of Commerce:

222 N. Garden St. Suite 300, Visalia, CA 93291  
or e-mail to [nicola@visaliachamber.org](mailto:nicola@visaliachamber.org).

All applicants must participate in a panel interview as part of the application process.



## Application:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Running a business is hard, it takes discipline and enthusiasm. It's important know that you have spent some time laying out your thoughts, considered financials, and that you are going to be able use the information from this program to create a roadmap to success. You do not need to have all of the answers figured yet, but we want to see that you are thinking about your short-term and long-term timelines logically and realistically.

1. Why do you want to participate in the Emerge Entrepreneurship Program? Please choose one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ You are looking to learn skills and gain resources to start a business in the future.

\_\_\_\_\_ You plan to use this program to create and launch a new business in the next year.

\_\_\_\_\_ You own a business and are looking to refine entrepreneurship/business skills.

2. Why do you want to do this program now?

3. As an entrepreneur you are accountable to many people including; employees, vendors, customers etc. To highlight how you can prioritize, communicate and plan proactively; how have you demonstrated your accountability to the people around you?

