



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the ThinkBIG Program?

ThinkBIG—Build. Invest. Grow.—is a program designed to support entrepreneurs and small business owners as they navigate growth and connect with the right resources in our community. Through this initiative, we sponsor a business’s first Chamber membership, allowing owners and entrepreneurs to fully access Chamber resources, networking opportunities, and business development programs.

Who is eligible to apply?

Entrepreneurs with a small business that is legally registered in Florida and currently operating in Sarasota or Manatee County.

If I am a past OFA grant recipient, can I re-apply for this sponsorship?

Yes, past recipients can submit a new application.

How do I apply?

Eligible business owner can submit an application on the Sarasota Chamber website at: _____

When is the application window open?

Applications open on March 4, 2026. The deadline to submit an application is March 31.

What do I need to apply for the sponsorship?

Applicants must submit the completed application along with proof of business registration, most recent tax return or financial statements and acknowledgement in participating in 3 events with GSCC.

What is the sponsorship process?

Once your application has been submitted, ThinkBIG will review all required documents and materials. If everything is complete and approved, you will receive a sponsorship letter via email officially welcoming you to the program.

When will I know if my business has been awarded the sponsorship?

A thank you email from our membership department will be sent to you via email.

What is expected of my company/business, should I be sponsored as a Sarasota Chamber Business member?

Participation requires active engagement in Chamber opportunities and attendance at a minimum of three membership events.

How is the Business Assistance Funds Program funded?

As a program of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, the funding is made possible through the generous support of the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation.

What if I have additional questions?

The ThinkBIG team is here to assist you. Please contact:

Lorene Bauck (Lo-ren)

ThinkBIG Program Manager

lbauck@sarasota.chamber.com or 941-556-4058