

# 2026 MERAKI AWARD PROGRAM

a financial award program to encourage women businessowners



**Meraki** [may-rah-kee] (adjective) This is a word that modern Greeks often use to describe doing something with soul, creativity, or love - put "something of yourself" into what you're doing, whatever it may be.

This Meraki award and recognition is intended to provide financial support to women pursuing their dream of business ownership who demonstrate a passion and commitment to that dream. The highest-scoring applicant will receive \$5,000.

Eligible applicants are women 18 years and older that own an existing 100% woman-owned business with annual gross revenues of \$100,000 or less. The business must prove gross revenue reported to the Internal Revenue Service in 2024. The financial award can help with expenses associated with education and business development. Applicants must reside in and the business must operate in Yuba or Sutter counties.

Complete the attached application and return it to: Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation, 950 Tharp Road, Suite 1303, Yuba City, CA 95993 or [jslade@ysedc.org](mailto:jslade@ysedc.org) by January 15, 2026.

For information contact Jackie Slade at (530) 751-8555.

funding made possible from  
**DAY FOR WOMEN**  
*Time to Rise*



# ABOUT YOU

Name

Phone

Email

☐

I am 18 years of age or older

# ABOUT THE BUSINESS

10 points possible

Company Name

Business Address

Home Address

☐ Sole Proprietor

☐ Partnership

☐ Limited Liability Company

☐ Corporation

Website Address

Facebook/Instagram URL

Company Description

Describe a typical day in your business

Describe your support network (civic group membership, industry associations, mentors, etc.)

# STRATEGIES & TACTICS

40 points possible

Brief business plan including projections for growth and improvements (provide as Attachment A)

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Business Plan Attached

# ALMOST DONE

50 points possible

Describe your personal strengths and weaknesses that could affect your business. How will you use your strengths? How will you overcome your weaknesses?

How will you use the funds, if awarded, and how will it help to meet your growth projections?

Is there something else you would like the reviewers to know about you or your business?

Please include three letters of support (provide as Attachment B)

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Letters of support attached

Provide 2024 Corporate or Partnership Tax Return OR Schedule C of a personal 1040 Return (provide as Attachment C)

☐ Tax returns or Schedule C attached

Provide a completed W-9 Form (Revised March 2024). Go to <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf> to download the form (provide as Attachment D)

☐ W-9 Form attached

**Applications will NOT be processed if ALL questions are not answered, and ALL Attachments are not included.**

Return this application and all attachments to Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corporation, 950 Tharp Road, Suite 1303, Yuba City, CA 95993 or [jslade@ysedc.org](mailto:jslade@ysedc.org) by January 15, 2026.

Applications will remain confidential. An independent three-member review panel will rank applications to determine the awardee.

The awardee will be recognized at The Day for Women event on March 7, 2026 at the Live Event Center in Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain | 3317 Forty Mile Rd., Wheatland, CA 95692.