Important: This is a sample form for offline preparation only. It contains all the application questions for **Acumen Angels** and **TED2026.**

To work on your responses, please **download a copy** for your use.

As a reminder, this year, we streamlined our processes to enable you to apply to Acumen Angels and TED2026 using a single form. You may also choose to apply to just one, in which case,

➔ click **here** to view the Acumen Angels-only application form
➔ click **here** to view the TED-only application form

When you are ready to submit your application (to either or both opportunities), please use **this link**.

Page 0 - LANDING PAGE OF APPLICATION FORM

Hello Foundry Member!

We are excited that you are applying for this year's Global Foundry opportunities. This unified form allows you to efficiently apply to multiple programs. The current opportunities are:

1. Acumen Angels 2025 - Awards USD 25,000 or USD 50,000 to eligible social entrepreneurs in the foundry.
2. Angels Climate Tech Africa: In collaboration with EY & ServiceNow. Inc - A subset of Acumen Angels 2025 *exclusive to climate-tech entrepreneurs in select African countries*.
3. TED2026: An opportunity to attend the TED conference in Vancouver, Canada from 13 - 17 April 2026.

You can apply for one or all opportunities within this single form. We estimate the core shared section of the form will take ~30 minutes to complete. Additional opportunity-specific sections will take approximately 15 - 20 minutes each.

Before you begin, we strongly recommend you:

- **Read** about the ideal candidate profile and eligibility criteria for each program here:
  - Acumen Angels 2025
  - Angels Climate Tech Africa: In collaboration with EY & ServiceNow. Inc
  - TED 2026
- **Preview** the application questions here and prepare your answers in a separate document first, then copy them into this form.
- **Save** your progress regularly while on this form.

Page 0 - LANDING PAGE OF APPLICATION FORM The deadline to submit your application for any or all opportunities is 14 October at 11:59 PM, Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)!

Brief overview of this form

Apart from the eligibility check, this form contains 6 sections:
1. Contact & Background
2. Organizational Information
3. TED-Only Section
4. Impact Summary
5. Financial Summary
6. Acumen Angels Only Section: The Pitch Masterclass

At the beginning of each section, you will find an overview of the information required to complete the main questions in the section. Please review these to ensure you have the required materials to hand before beginning each section.

Troubleshooting - If you have any trouble filling the form, please send us an email at - Damilola Kolawole <dkolawole@acumen.org> Cc'ing Kome Oruade <ooruade[@acumen.org](mailto:ooruade@acumen.org)>
We'll be happy to help!

Good luck!

Click "Next" to begin.

Section 1: Program Selection & Eligibility

Complete this Eligibility Check section to help you determine whether you qualify for one or all open opportunities. To preview the questions before starting, please click here.

Important Note: Many of the fields with your personal information will be pre-filled with the data you've submitted previously. It is very important that you check and update this information if needed, so that we have the correct, most up-to-date information about you and your organization.

1. Full Name: [Dropdown from Foundry Database]

[ ]

You may start typing your name to narrow down the list. Note that only Foundry members are eligible to apply for open Foundry opportunities. Current program participants with programs ending in October 2025 are eligible for TED, while participants with programs ending in November 2025 are eligible for Acumen Angels. If you meet these criteria and do not see your name on the list, please contact Damilola at dkolawole@acumen.org cc'ing Kome at ooruade@acumen.org

2. Acumen Academy Program: [Auto-populated from Database]

[ ]

3(a). Select the opportunity(s) you are applying for:
- ☐ Acumen Angels 2025 / Angels Climate Tech Africa
- ☐ TED2026
- ☐ Both

You can select only one from the list.

3(b) If "both": Are you applying for both opportunities using the same or different organizations?
- ☐ Yes, I am applying to both opportunities with the same organization
- ☐ No, I am applying using separate organizations for each opportunity

If you are applying using separate organizations, contact the program team immediately at dkolawole@acume.org, cc'ing ooruade@acumen.org

4. Organization Name:

[ ]

5. Please choose what describes your role/position in your organization
- Founder/Co-Founder
- CEO or equivalent
- An executive-level role (COO, Director, etc.)
- Mid-level to senior management role

- Entry-level to Junior-level role
- Internship/Not currently in employment

5(b) If you are the CEO or a high authority figure but not a founder, how long have you been in your role? Will you still be in this organization in 3 years? What drives your commitment and involvement in the organization? If you have equity participation in the organization, please include the details in your response.

Acumen Angels is for founders. CEOs and high authority figures who are not founders but lead high-impact potential organizations will be considered eligible ONLY in exceptional circumstances.

6(a). Is your organization legally incorporated?
   a. Yes
   b. No, but we will have an incorporation certificate before 30 November 2025
   c. No, we plan to incorporate later than 30 November 2025

6(b) What year was your organization created (as a legal entity)?

Please use your best judgment to approximate a date closest to when your organization became a legal entity. You could also round off to the 1st of the month.

7. Does your organization have a bank account (in the name of the legal entity)?
   a. Yes
   b. No, but we will have an official bank account before 30 November 2025
   c. No, we plan to open an official bank account later than 30 November 2025

8(a). What is the legal status of your organization?
   ☐ Not-for-profit Entity
   ☐ Social Enterprise
   ☐ For-profit entity (sole proprietorship, LLC, or Corporation)
   ☐ Hybrid (for-profit and nonprofit)
   ☐ Cooperative
   ☐ Government Entity
   ☐ Academic Institution
   ☐ None of the above

For detailed definitions, please see this document.

8(b). If none of the above

Please clarify

9. Please select the region where your legal entity is based.
- [ ] Bangladesh
- [ ] Colombia
- [ ] East Africa - I (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda)
- [ ] East Africa - II (Ethiopia, South Sudan, Burundi, South Sudan, Somalia, other)
- [ ] India
- [ ] West Africa - I (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone)
- [ ] West Africa - II (Liberia, The Gambia, other)
- [ ] Pakistan
- [ ] The UK
- [ ] Spain
- [ ] South-East Asia
- [ ] Other

10(a). Which of the following best describes the stage of the organization, project, or initiative for which you seek Acumen Angels funding?
- [ ] Blueprint - I/we have an idea in development
- [ ] Pilot - I/we are testing or piloting an idea
- [ ] Start-Up - The organization/initiative is operational; we are increasing our customer base and have verified product/service market fit
- [ ] Fully Operational and Growing - The organization/initiative is fully operational, and we are increasing our customer base and have stable clients or beneficiaries
- [ ] Scaling - The organization/initiative is fully operational and we are building or have built systems and processes to grow efficiently and increase our impact

10 (b) The TED Conference is better geared towards Foundry organizations at a more developed stage, Foundry members leading an organization at an earlier stage are generally considered ineligible to apply. However, we understand that circumstances vary significantly, and you may believe an exception should be made for your organization based on your previous leadership experience.

Please share your most impactful and/or senior *previous* **leadership role** with a brief description of the organization or initiative you led. (This is particularly important to share if you are currently leading a start-up organization. We want to know about your previous experience as a leader.) Please include your role, the budget/revenues of your organization, the number of employees, impact data (if available) and a brief description of the organization. (200 word maximum).

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11. Ability to attend all days of the TED conference PLUS a full day Foundry Workshop

All TED attendees from the Foundry will be required to attend all 5 days of the conference, plus a full-day Foundry Workshop on 12 April 2026. Attendees must be able to arrive in Vancouver, Canada, by 11 April 2026, and stay until the conference ends at noon on 17 April 2026.

Do you confirm that you are able and willing to attend all events and be present from **12 - 17 April 2026** ?

☐ Yes

☐ No

12. Ability to speak English fluently

All TED Talks are delivered in English. To get the most out of attending the TED Conference, English fluency at a Proficient/Advanced level is required. Additionally, at the Acumen TED lunch, Acumen meetings, and events, you will be required to speak fluent English.

Please confirm your level of fluency in English:

☐ Proficient/Advanced - I can express myself fluently and spontaneously. I can use language flexibly and effectively for all purposes.

☐ Beginner/Elementary - I can only understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases

13a. How many full-time staff, **other than yourself**, does your organization have?

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Please enter whole numbers, e.g. 1, 2, 3, 10.

13b. How many part-time staff does your organization have?

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│                                                               │
│                                                               │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
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Enter 0 if no part-time staff. Please enter whole numbers, e.g. 1, 2, 3, 10.

13c. How many of your total paid staff (full-time and part-time) are female? (Help Text: Disaggregating data by gender is required by the funders that make certain Foundry opportunities possible. Please use your best judgment to approximate this number.)

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┌───────────────────────────────┐
│                               │
│                               │
└───────────────────────────────┘
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Please enter whole numbers, e.g. 1, 2, 3, 10.

14a. Please mention the exact amount of external funding (in USD) you have raised to date (including equity, debt, grants, and any other kind of financing).

[ ]

In your calculation, do not include earned revenue (i.e., sales) or founder(s) savings used in the organization. Please enter whole numbers only, e.g. 30000.

If social Enterprise, for-profit, or hybrid entity and has raised more than USD 100,000

Acumen Angels requires for-profit organizations to have raised NOT more than USD 100,000 from external sources at the time of this application. If you've raised more than $100,000 and yet you believe that an Angels award of $25,000 or $50,000 will significantly contribute to the growth of your initiative, please explain your reasoning in the box below. We will consider eligibility exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

[ ]

Make sure you clearly state what your organization does and your key impact data to date.

14b. Please explain the type of funding the above amount represents.

- ☐ No funding to date
- ☐ Family & Friends
- ☐ Individual Donations
- ☐ Corporate Grants
- ☐ Foundation Grants
- ☐ Government Grants
- ☐ Convertible Notes
- ☐ SAFE (Simple Agreement for Future Equity)
- ☐ Equity
- ☐ Debt
- ☐ Other

You can select multiple options by pressing the Ctrl button.

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15. Acumen Angels requires all organizations to have defined at least one revenue stream (i.e. you have a customer who pays for your services/products/you have a recurrent flow of donations).

I understand that showcasing a credible pathway to financial sustainability is going to significantly impact the success of my application.

- ☐ Yes, I understand

If you are not sure what this means, please contact Damilola at dkolawole@acumen.org cc'ing Kome at ooruade@acumen.org to ask clarifying questions.

16. Acumen Angels requires nonprofit organizations to apply with projects/initiatives that innovate on core model OR support scale OR build the team's capacity/tech for scale.

I understand that an application asking for funding for core operational expenses has significantly less chance of success.

☐ Yes, I understand

If you are not sure what this means, please contact Damilola at dkolawole@acumen.org cc'ing Kome at ooruade@acumen.org to ask clarifying questions.

17. Acumen Angels requires all awardees to cover any applicable taxes that may arise from receiving an award

☐ Yes, I understand

If you are not sure what this means, please contact Damilola at dkolawole@acumen.org cc'ing Kome at ooruade@acumen.org to ask clarifying questions.

Section 2: Contact Information

In this section, we will ask for some basic information about you.

Note for TED2026: If you are applying for TED2026, you will be required to share some information about your Canadian visa status. Before you begin, please ensure you have access to your passport information.

Contact Information Update

Please select your name and review the pre-populated data. If your name is not on the list, please still fill out all fields.

1. Your Name

[   ]

You may start typing your name to narrow down the list. Note that only Foundry members are eligible to apply for open Foundry opportunities. Current program participants with programs ending in October 2025 are eligible for TED, while participants with programs ending in November 2025 are eligible for Acumen Angels. If you meet these criteria and do not see your name on the list, please contact Damilola at dkolawole@acumen.org cc'ing Kome at ooruade@acumen.org

2. First Name

[   ]

3. Last Name

[   ]

4. Email Address

[   ]

5. Phone Number (WhatsApp preferred)

[   ]

Help text: Please include your country code

6. LinkedIn Profile

[   ]

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7. Your Gender
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Non-binary/third gender/other

☐ Prefer not to disclose

8. Specify your role/position in your organization

[   ]

Please add your title as it may appear on your business card

9 What is your country of residence?

[*Please select...*]

10. What is your city of residence?

[   ]

11a. Do you have a passport valid for <u>6 months past the date of the TED conference (</u>13 - 17 April 2026)?

☐ Yes
☐ No

11b If no, please confirm that you are committing to acquiring a valid passport by 30 November 2025

☐ Yes

12. Do you need a VISA to travel to Canada? If you're unsure, you can check here - <u>Find out if you need a visa to travel to Canada</u>

☐ Yes
☐ No

13. Will you require financial support to secure a VISA and/or vaccinations (if required)?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Section 3: Organizational Information

In this section, we seek to learn more about your organization. We will ask you questions about your solution, competitive advantage, and target customers/beneficiaries.

1. Please provide a link to your organization's website if you have one

2. What country does your organization have primary operations in?

Please select…

3. What is the city/town where your organization is headquartered?

4a. Is your project/organization/initiative part of a bigger enterprise or of the government?
☐ Yes
☐ No

4b. If Yes, what is the name of the larger organization?

(Help Text: We recognise that there are many leaders working within existing organizations creating innovative solutions to tackle poverty & injustice, shifting institutional culture and building new collaborations.)

5. Do you work in any of these sectors below?

a. Activism & Advocacy
b. Agriculture
c. Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief
d. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
e. Workforce Development & Employment
f. Rural Development
g. Urban Development
h. Formal Education
i. Energy
j. Environment, Conservation & Sustainability
k. Financial Services / Financial Inclusion
l. Health
m. Housing
n. Legal
o. Skills Development
p. Water & Sanitation

q. Information and communications
r. Other

For detailed definitions, please see this document.

If 'Other', please mention the sector your organization focuses on.

6. Select the best option that describes the main focus area(s) of your organization or initiative. You may select multiple if appropriate. *Limit up to three.* [multi-select from the pre-defined list]

a. Agriculture
b. Arts, Sports and Culture
c. Communication and Media
d. Criminal Justice & Prison Reform
e. Disability Inclusion
f. Education
g. Energy
h. Environment Sustainability
i. Financial Services / Financial Inclusion
j. Gender Issues/Female Empowerment/LGBTI Empowerment
k. Government Services of Public Policy
l. Health
m. Housing
n. Homelessness
o. Human Rights
p. Legal
q. Mental Health
r. Migration, Refugees & Integration
s. Peace & Conflict Resolution
t. Social Enterprise support
u. Technology
v. Water / Sanitation
w. Workforce Development & Employment
x. Youth Empowerment
y. Other

6b. If 'Other', please mention the sector your organization focuses on.

We want to acknowledge that a few of the questions below may overlap with information you'll also include in your pitch deck. Because you'll submit the **final version of your pitch deck after the Pitch Masterclass**, this section gives you the chance to share a clear snapshot of your work as it stands now—rather than relying on your draft deck that may be updated.

As pitch decks vary across board, this also ensures the selection panel has consistent, comparable information across all applicants while also allowing you the flexibility to improve your pitch deck later on. We hope that you can answer these questions using information you already have, rather than needing to build something from scratch.

☐ I understand

7. What does your organization/initiative do? What is its mission? What problem are you trying to solve? (100 words maximum)

8. What is your competitive advantage? How is your product/solution better than those being provided by others, or what are you improving? (50 words maximum)

9. Who are your target customers/beneficiaries that you are currently serving? (30 words maximum)

Section 4: TED2026

In this section, we will ask you specific questions to help you understand what you can expect at TED2026 and if this is the right opportunity for you at this time.

You will need to upload a video recording of yourself talking about your work.

As a reminder, we want to highlight that all TED Talks are conducted in English. Additionally, at the Acumen TED lunch, Acumen meetings and events, Foundry members will be required to speak English. To get the most out of attending the conference, English fluency is required and is therefore a criterion to be eligible for this opportunity. This is why aspects of the application form related to TED2026 are only available in English.

The next 3 questions are specific to TED2026. Therefore, your responses **must** be provided in English to be considered.

☐ Yes, I understand

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1. During the lunch hosted by Acumen at TED (which will include Board members, Acumen donors, and friends of Acumen), you will have one minute to introduce yourself, tell people what inspired you to get involved in solving problems of poverty, describe what your organization does, tell them how many customers your organization is serving, and share your longer term goal for your organization (e.g. customers served or a big change your organization will cause to occur). You can view examples from previous TED attendees here.
Please write this script (150-200 words).

2. Once you have written the script, please take a video of yourself (not exceeding 1 min duration) delivering this one-minute pitch. **(Share the link to your video below).** Here are sample videos of Duro Oye and Raj Vable delivering their pitches at TED 2023.

3. You are sitting at a lunch table with 10 other TED attendees. You are asked these questions. How will you respond?
You're here with Acumen? I am not familiar with Acumen and their Fellowship/Accelerator. What, if anything, changed for you and your organization as a result of your participation in Acumen's program? What influence(s) did the program have on your leadership? How has the Acumen Community supported you? (Word limit: 200 words)

Section 5: Impact Summary

Acumen is committed to solving problems of poverty, and we are interested in understanding the ways that your organization is creating an impact.

If you haven't gone through the process of quantifying your impact yet, please use your best judgment to approximate these numbers.

In this section, we seek to understand your organization's impact to date. You may need to reference recent impact reports or data sheets to complete this section.

1. Please enter your impact summary in the table below.

*For examples of how to calculate **Direct** and **Total** beneficiaries (lives impacted), see [this document](#).*

	# of **direct** beneficiaries/Customers served.	estimated # of **female** customers/beneficiaries served.	**Total** number of people who have benefited from your product/service.
Since the start of the Organization			
In the last year **(2024)**			

Please enter only numbers <u>without decimals</u> ("Last Year" Numbers should be lower than "Since the Start of the Organization").

2. Include a brief description of how you served these beneficiaries/customers and how you arrived at this calculation. (100 words Max).

3. What percentage of your customers/beneficiaries **fall below the poverty line (in the country you operate in)?**
   a. Less than 25%
   b. 25% to 50%
   c. 50% to 75%
   d. 75% to 100 %

Section 6: Financial Summary

In this section, we seek to understand your financial performance since inception and in the last year (2024/2025). To complete this section, you may need to reference your audited financials or management accounts.

We want to acknowledge that this section may overlap with information you'll also include in your pitch deck. Because you'll submit the **final version of your pitch deck after the Pitch Masterclass**, this section gives you the chance to share a clear snapshot of your work as it stands now.

In the pitch deck, we will ask you to provide more detailed highlights about your financials. Our expectation is that the answers below will be useful for building your pitch deck.

Complete if leading a nonprofit, cooperative, government entity, academic institution, or "None of the above".

What was the annual revenue and/or budget (in USD) for the **last year** and **since the start** of your organization/initiative?

Year	Annual Operating Budget (USD)	Revenues/Earned Income (USD)	Grants & Other Funds Raised (USD)
Since the start	NA		
Last year (2024/2025)			

What was the annual revenue and/or budget (in USD) for the **last year** and **since the start** of your organization/initiative?

Year	Annual Operating Budget (USD)	Revenues/Earned Income (USD)	Grants & Other Funds Raised (USD)	Net Income/EBITDA (USD)
Since the start	NA			
Last year (2024/2025)				

Section 7: The Pitch Masterclass

In this section, we will ask you to upload your draft pitch deck. As a reminder, your pitch deck doesn't need to be "final" at this point. Rather, it should provide sufficient information about your work and the proposed use of funds for Acumen Angels to receive feedback from an investor.

1. Please select the session you will be attending from the options below. ***Note that only Foundry Members who attend one of the sessions can submit an Angels Application. You only need to sign up for one session.***

- ☐ Tuesday, 28 October - 12 Noon UTC *(You can check the corresponding time for your country [here](#).)*
- ☐ Thursday, 30 October - 12 Noon UTC *(You can check the corresponding time for your country [here](#).)*

2. To make the most of the Pitch Masterclass, we ask you to submit a draft of your pitch deck in advance. This helps our team tailor breakout rooms and session content so you receive the most relevant and practical feedback.

Pitch decks vary in content and length; Please use your discretion to create the version that best reflects your work and your ask. Best Practice is to follow the format and information suggested in the template deck for a successful application. (Depending on your organization type, download the

- [For-profit template](#), or
- [Nonprofit template](#).

After the live Pitch Masterclass, you will have the opportunity to refine and resubmit your deck, incorporating the expert input you've received. The Acumen Team will use your **final submission** to evaluate your Angels application for an award of **USD 25,000 or USD 50,000**.

_____

Insert the link to your pitch deck.

Thank you for completing the form.

Acumen Angels 2025: We look forward to welcoming you to the Pitch Masterclass.

TED2026: We will update you on the outcome of your application during the week of 15 December 2025.