

# Chambliss and TVFCU to Host 2025 Startup Social and Idea Leap Grant Pitch Competition

Join us on May 8, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. ET

## Event Details

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025

Chambliss Startup Social: 4:30-6 p.m.

Pitch Competition: 6-8 p.m.

Location: The Signal (21 Choo Choo Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37402)

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Chambliss will host its Chambliss Startup Social on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at [The Signal](#). For the fourth year in a row, the event, which will take place during National Small Business Week, will be held in conjunction with [Tennessee Valley Credit Union's \(TVFCU\) Eighth Annual Idea Leap Grant Pitch Competition](#).

The Chambliss Startup Social will allow entrepreneurs, startup founders, thought leaders, investors, established business owners, and supporters to connect in a fun and celebratory atmosphere.

Following the Startup Social, each of the five Chattanooga finalists will participate in the pitch competition for a chance to win one of five grants to support and expand their small business. The grand prize recipient will receive \$30,000, second place will receive \$15,000, and three runners-up will each receive \$10,000.

Event registration is open to the public and is RSVP only. To learn more about the event or to register, please visit the [Idea Leap Grant registration page](#).

TVFCU's Idea Leap Grant is an extension of the credit union's Idea Leap Loan initiative, which was created specifically for small businesses in 2016 to fill a void in the community for capital for start-up and early-stage businesses. In 2023, TVFCU expanded the program by hosting separate Idea Leap Grant competitions in the Chattanooga, Ocoee, and Northwest Georgia regions. To date, TVFCU has funded more than \$6 million in loans to emerging and early-stage businesses through the loan initiative. Furthermore, TVFCU has awarded nearly \$720,000 in Idea Leap Grants and scholarships to almost 60 unique businesses. In 2025, they will award an additional \$225,000 in grants.