

US Christmas light installation business Business Case: An Extensive Sample Plan

FestiveBright LLC, Colorado LLC founded October 2024, operates as a licensed Christmas light installer in Denver targeting homeowners earning \$100K+ with \$299-\$799 installations. We project \$350,000 Year 1 revenue at 65% gross margin. Founders Jordan Taylor (12-year home services veteran, exited \$1.2M roofing business in 2022) and Riley Chen (ex-landscaping COO managing \$2.8M P&L) launch with \$105,000 funding.

1. Executive Summary

Denver homeowners waste 17 hours annually installing lights (Angi 2023), with 68% hiring professionals due to fall risk (CDC data shows 50,000+ ladder injuries yearly). FestiveBright solves this via UL-listed LED installations at \$333 average ticket, capturing 2.8% of the \$12.5M Denver SOM. Our model achieves 65% gross margins through commercial-grade materials costing \$117 per job (35% of revenue) and 50% deposit requirements improving cash flow.

We generate revenue through four channels: residential installations (82% of Year 1 revenue), smart controller add-ons (\$149/unit at 42% attach rate), maintenance visits (\$79 at 18% adoption), and removal/storage (\$129). Year 1 requires \$105,000 funding: \$65,000 SBA loan (7(a) at 8.5% interest) and \$40,000 founder equity. This funds \$48,000 vehicle down payments, \$12,000 LED inventory, and \$36,000 marketing to acquire 1,050 customers. We reach profitability Month 4 (January 2025) with \$65,700 net income.

Funding enables 753 break-even jobs (fixed costs \$161,800 / \$215 contribution margin) and 39% safety margin. By Year 3, \$850,000 revenue at 36.3% net margin delivers \$308,700 profit. Investor ROI: 4.7x by Year 3 exit at 5x EBITDA (\$1.54M valuation).

2. Company Overview

FestiveBright LLC formed as Colorado LLC for liability protection and pass-through taxation. Denver location targets Front Range ZIP codes 80209, 80221, 80302 (median home value \$625,000) where 14.2% of 185,000 homes hire installers annually (IBISWorld). Ownership: Jordan Taylor (CEO, 60%) with Colorado Home Improvement Contractor License #123987; Riley Chen (COO, 40%) holding OSHA 10 certification.

Key team: Taylor grew prior home services company to \$1.2M revenue in 3 years with 88% client retention. Chen reduced field operations costs by 22% at Green Oasis Landscaping while managing 12 seasonal technicians. Advisory board includes Maria Lopez (ex-HomeAdvisor GM, 15% equity stake) and David Wu (CPA specializing in seasonal businesses).

Date	Milestone	Status	Next Steps
Oct 2024	Business registration, LLC formation	Complete	Secure warehouse lease
Nov 2024	Vehicle financing (\$48k down), initial inventory purchase	Pending	Finalize SBA loan closing
Dec 2024	Launch Google Ads campaign (\$3k/mo)	Planned	Achieve 150 bookings by 12/15
Jan 2025	Process \$75k takedown revenue	Planned	Implement loyalty program
Mar 2025	Sign 3 property management contracts	Planned	Negotiate commercial pricing
Aug 2025	Order Year 2 inventory (\$15k)	Planned	Secure \$20k line of credit

3. Market Analysis

U.S. holiday lighting services market: \$2.1B (IBISWorld 2023). Colorado SAM: \$48M (1.2% of national market based on population). Denver SOM: \$12.5M (26% of Colorado market via 185,000 target homes x 14.2% adoption x \$480 avg spend). Methodology: IBISWorld revenue data adjusted for Colorado's 2.3% population share and Denver's 54% metro concentration.

Primary customers: Homeowners 45-55 years old (42% of segment), \$150K median income, 7+ years in home. Budget: \$300-\$800 (78% pay cash, 22% use payment plans). Commercial clients: Property managers budget \$1,000-\$3,500 per building (85% renew annually per Angi commercial data).

Market trends: 14% annual growth (IBISWorld); 42% demand for smart controls (up from 28% in 2021); 90% LED adoption (vs 75% in 2020); 55% retention rate among professional installers (Angi 2023).

Segment	Size (\$)	Growth Rate	Our Share Target	Rationale
Residential (Under 2,500 sq ft)	\$6.1M	12%	3.5%	Price sensitivity; 45% of market
Residential (2,500+ sq ft)	\$3.9M	18%	5.2%	Higher spend; 29% of revenue
Property Management	\$1.8M	22%	2.1%	Year 2 expansion target
Commercial (Retail/Office)	\$0.7M	15%	0.8%	Year 3 entry point

Category	Total Addressable	Serviceable Available	Serviceable Obtainable	Methodology
U.S. Market	\$2.1B	-	-	IBISWorld NAICS 561920
Colorado Market	-	\$48M	-	1.2% of national (CO pop 0.5% of US)
Denver Metro	-	-	\$12.5M	26% of CO market via 185K homes x 14.2% adoption x \$480

4. Competitive Analysis

Direct competitors: BrightLights Colorado (\$520K revenue, 4.2 Google stars), Holiday Bright (franchise, \$410K revenue), SparkleLight Pros (\$280K revenue). BrightLights spends \$4,500/month on Google Ads but lacks smart controls. Holiday Bright charges 20% premium for standardized packages. SparkleLight uses DIY-grade lights with 32% customer complaint rate (Yelp analysis).

Our advantages: 1) Smart lighting integration (42% of customers demand this; competitors charge \$250+ for non-WiFi controllers), 2) Commercial-grade LEDs (100,000-hour lifespan vs competitors' 50,000-hour), 3) Climate-controlled storage (\$129 fee covers \$65 cost), 4) OSHA-certified crews (reducing insurance claims by 35% per National Association of Home Builders).

Competitor	Revenue Est.	Pricing	Key Strength	Key Weakness	Our Differentiation
BrightLights CO	\$520K	\$279 base	Google Ads dominance	No smart controls	Wi-Fi standard in Premium package
Holiday Bright	\$410K	\$329 base	Brand recognition	Rigid packages	Custom 3D designs via SketchUp
SparkleLight Pros	\$280K	\$249 base	Low price	DIY materials	UL-listed commercial LEDs
DIY Retailers	N/A	\$150 kits	Low cost	No installation	Time savings (17 hrs avg)
Landscapers	\$180K avg	\$299 base	Existing relationships	Seasonal staff	Dedicated holiday technicians

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
UL-listed materials	Seasonal cash flow	Commercial expansion	Snowstorm delays
Smart integration	Limited brand awareness	Payment plans	LED price inflation
5-star service model	Warehouse dependency	HOA contracts	Competitor price cuts
100% satisfaction guarantee	No off-season revenue	Post-holiday sales	Regulatory changes

5. Products & Services

We provide end-to-end service: virtual design consultation (using SketchUp), installation with commercial clips (no nail damage), mid-season maintenance, and climate-controlled storage. Residential installations use 14-gauge wire (vs competitors' 18-gauge) for 30% fewer voltage drops. Smart controllers enable scheduling via GEEKMAXI app with 99.2% uptime (verified in 2023 tests).

Pricing at 15% premium over market average: Base Package (\$299) costs \$105 COGS (35% margin), Premium (\$599) costs \$209 (65% margin) due to 1.5x materials. Commercial pricing at \$1,200 minimum (55% margin) based on Greystar contract benchmarks. Loyalty program drives 27% repeat bookings (Angi industry average: 22%).

Tier	Price	Features	Target Customer	Expected % Revenue	Gross Margin
Base Package	\$299	1,000 ft LED, roofline	First-time users	45%	65%
Premium Package	\$599	1,500 ft, trees, smart controller	Homeowners 45-55	32%	65%
Custom Design	\$799+	3D mockup, animations	Luxury homes	15%	70%
Smart Controller	\$149	App/voice control	All segments	5%	85%
Full Season Bundle	\$749	Install + maintenance + storage	Repeat customers	3%	68%

Metric	Value	Calculation/Notes
Price per service	\$333	Weighted avg of 1,050 Year 1 jobs
COGS per service	\$117	\$299 base package COGS: \$105 materials + \$12 labor
Gross Profit per service	\$216	\$333 - \$117
Gross Margin %	65%	\$216 / \$333
CAC	\$58.60	\$36,000 marketing / 614 customers (58.5% close rate)

LTV	\$599	$\$333 \times 1.8 \text{ avg transactions} / 10\% \text{ churn}$
LTV:CAC	10.2x	$\$599 / \58.60
Payback Period	1.7 months	$\$58.60 \text{ CAC} / (\$216 \text{ GP} \times 58.5\% \text{ monthly retention})$

6. Marketing & Sales

Google Ads drives 68% of leads at \$2.40 CPC (Denver average for "Christmas light installer"). Targeting 25 keywords with 1,500 monthly searches: "professional Christmas lights Denver" (210 searches, \$3.10 CPC), "holiday light installation near me" (390 searches, \$2.80 CPC). Expected 145 leads/month at \$58.60 CAC. Partnerships with property managers deliver 22% of jobs at \$22 CAC (15% commission on \$147 avg revenue).

Sales cycle: 1) Lead capture via website chat (32% conversion), 2) Virtual estimate within 24 hours (78% show rate), 3) Proposal with SketchUp mockup (58.5% close rate), 4) 50% deposit via HoneyBook, 5) Installation within 5 days. Average cycle: 3.2 days. Conversion funnel: 145 leads -> 113 estimates -> 66 bookings.

Retention: Email sequence sends care tips at Day 7 (open rate 41%), loyalty discount offer at Day 30 (12% redemption). Free maintenance visit for Premium customers increases retention to 88% (vs 72% industry average). Referral program yields 19% of new customers.

Channel	Monthly Budget	Expected CAC	Expected Leads/Month	Conversion Rate	Expected Customers/Month	ROI
Google Ads	\$3,000	\$58.60	145	42%	61	265%
Facebook/Instagram	\$800	\$42.10	38	38%	14	318%
Property Managers	\$0	\$22.00	20	100%	20	568%
Referrals	\$500	\$26.30	19	100%	19	1,025%

Month	Google Ads	Social Media	Content/SEO	Events	Other	Total	Expected Leads	Expected Customers
Oct	\$3,000	\$800	\$500	\$0	\$200	\$4,500	222	94
Nov	\$3,000	\$800	\$500	\$0	\$200	\$4,500	222	94
Dec	\$3,000	\$800	\$500	\$0	\$200	\$4,500	222	94
Jan	\$1,000	\$300	\$200	\$0	\$100	\$1,600	74	31
Feb-Sep	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$50	\$250	12	5

7. Operations

Daily workflow: 6:00 AM crew briefing, 7:00 AM dispatch via Trello, 3 jobs/crew/day max (2 crews). Installation process: 1) Pre-job photo documentation, 2) Gutter clip installation (no nails), 3) Voltage testing, 4) Client walkthrough. Capacity: 4 technicians handle 120 jobs/month peak (December). Warehouse inventory: 50,000 ft LED strands (\$0.30/ft), 2,000 smart controllers (\$45/unit), stored on pallet racking.

Key vendors: LEDLights.com (30% discount at \$10K orders, 15-day payment terms), Aurora Warehouse (800 sq ft @ \$650/month, 12-month lease). Technology: HoneyBook (\$99/month for scheduling/invoicing), SketchUp Free (design), QuickBooks Online (\$30/month).

Vendor/Supplier	Service	Monthly Cost	Contract Terms	Backup Option
LEDLights.com	LED strands	\$1,000	Net 15, 30% discount >\$10k	ChristmasLightsEtc.com
Aurora Warehouse	Storage	\$650	12-month lease	Extra Space Storage
Geico	Insurance	\$467	Annual policy	Progressive
Toyota Financial	Vehicle lease	\$1,200	36-month term	N/A

Tool	Purpose	Monthly Cost	Users	Alternatives Considered
HoneyBook	CRM/Scheduling	\$99	3	Dubsado (rejected: \$129/month)
QuickBooks Online	Accounting	\$30	2	Wave (rejected: no inventory tracking)
Google Workspace	Email/Docs	\$18	3	Microsoft 365 (\$12.50/user)
Trello	Project Tracking	\$0	5	Asana (rejected: \$10.99/user)

8. Management Team

Organizational structure: 2 founders (CEO/COO), 1 full-time operations coordinator (\$45,000 base + 5% bonus), 4 seasonal technicians (\$22/hr). Compensation philosophy: Base salaries at 75th percentile for Denver home services, with 10% revenue bonus for exceeding targets. Founders take \$5,000/month draw until Year 2 profitability.

Advisory board: Maria Lopez (HomeAdvisor GM 2018-2022, 0.5% equity), David Wu (CPA, \$150/hr retainer). Key consultants: Electrical engineer (\$75/hr for code compliance), safety trainer (\$500/session).

Month	Role	Salary	Priority	Source	Onboarding Time
Oct 2024	Operations Coordinator	\$45,000	High	Craigslist	2 weeks
Nov 2024	Field Technician (x4)	\$22/hr	Critical	Indeed	1 week
Mar 2025	Sales Contractor	\$25/hr + 5% commission	Medium	Upwork	3 days

9. Financial Plan

Key assumptions: 15 new customers/week peak season (Dec), 42% Google Ads conversion, \$117 COGS per job (35% revenue), 58.5% close rate on estimates. Monthly churn: 8.3% (10% annualized). Growth drivers: 22% referral rate, 18% commercial expansion in Year 2, 15% price increase in Year 3. Fixed costs: \$13,483/month (78% of OpEx).

Revenue model: 82% from residential installations (1,050 jobs Year 1), 13% from add-ons (\$149 smart controllers, 42% attach rate), 5% from commercial. Growth via 3 property management contracts (200 homes) in Year 2 generating \$60,000 revenue. Variable costs scale at 35% of revenue (materials/labor).

Cost structure: 78% fixed costs (salaries, insurance, warehouse), 22% variable (materials, payment processing). Salaries grow 15% Year 2 with operations coordinator hire. Marketing scales to 6.9% of revenue by Year 3 (vs 10.3% Year 1).

Funding: \$105,000 total - \$65,000 SBA loan (7(a) at 8.5% interest, 10-year term), \$40,000 founder equity. Covers \$103,310 startup costs + \$1,690 buffer. Funds 14 months runway to March 2025, covering pre-season costs through January takedown revenue.

Cost Item	Cost	Notes
Legal/CO filing	\$500	Colorado SOS fee
Legal/Formation agreement	\$250	Attorney fee
Licensed/Permit license	\$750	CO registration
Equipment vans (20% down)	\$48,000	\$24k each, financed
Equipment ladders/lifts	\$3,200	2x 28' ladders, roof ladder
Technology development	\$3,500	WordPress + SEO

	Initial Inventory	LED strands (50,000 ft)	\$12,000	\$0.30/ft bulk rate
	Initial Inventory	Smart controllers (200 units)	\$9,000	\$45/unit wholesale
	Marketing Launch	Pre-season ads	\$8,000	Oct-Nov Google/FB
	Working Capital	3 months OpEx reserve	\$40,449	\$13,483 x 3
	Insurance	Liability + Workers' Comp	\$5,600	\$467/month
	Professional Fees	Accounting setup	\$1,200	QuickBooks configuration
	Branding	Vehicle wraps	\$2,500	2 vans
	Training	OSHA certification	\$800	4 technicians
	Contingency	10% buffer	\$10,331	On total costs
	Total		\$103,310	

C	Type	Monthly Cost	Annual Cost	Notes
	Salaries	\$7,083	\$85,000	Founders \$5k/month draw
	Marketing	\$3,000	\$36,000	7.1% of revenue

Vehicle	Fixed	\$1,500	\$18,000	\$1,200 lease + \$300 fuel
Warehouse	Fixed	\$650	\$7,800	Aurora lease
Insurance	Fixed	\$467	\$5,600	Liability + Workers' Comp
Software	Fixed	\$200	\$2,400	HoneyBoo QuickBooks Suite
Materials	Variable	\$11,667	\$140,000	\$117/job x 100 jobs/mo
Payment Processing	Variable	\$1,050	\$12,600	3% of revenue
Maintenance	Fixed	\$250	\$3,000	Equipment repairs
Administrative	Fixed	\$333	\$4,000	Bank fees, contracts
Loan Payment	Fixed	\$795	\$9,540	SBA 7(a) \$65k at 8.5%
Fixed Total		\$10,985	\$131,820	
Variable Total		\$15,717	\$188,600	
Combined Total		\$26,702	\$320,420	

Line Item	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	Year 1
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$42,000	\$126,000	\$182,000	\$350,000
COGS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,700	\$44,100	\$63,700	\$122,500

Cash Out (Debt)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$66	\$66	\$66
Total Cash Out	\$32,133	\$9,733	\$9,733	\$9,733	\$9,733	\$9,733	\$9,733	\$9,733	\$9,733	\$21,400	\$36,100	\$45,900
Net Cash Flow	\$7,867	-\$9,733	-\$9,733	-\$9,733	-\$9,733	-\$9,733	-\$9,733	-\$9,733	-\$9,733	-\$400	\$26,900	\$45,100
Ending Cash	\$72,867	\$63,134	\$53,401	\$43,668	\$33,935	\$24,202	\$14,469	\$4,736	\$-5,000	\$-21,000	\$5,900	\$51,000

Metric	Y1	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y3 Total
Revenue	\$350,000	\$125,000	\$150,000	\$175,000	\$200,000	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$275,000	\$300,000	\$850,000
COGS	\$122,500	\$43,750	\$52,500	\$61,250	\$70,000	\$78,750	\$87,500	\$96,250	\$105,000	\$297,500
Gross Profit	\$227,500	\$81,250	\$97,500	\$113,750	\$130,000	\$146,250	\$162,500	\$178,750	\$195,000	\$552,500
OpEx	\$161,800	\$45,575	\$45,575	\$50,575	\$58,575	\$60,950	\$60,950	\$65,950	\$75,950	\$243,800
EBITDA	\$65,700	\$35,675	\$51,925	\$63,175	\$71,425	\$85,300	\$101,550	\$112,800	\$119,050	\$308,700
Net Income	\$45,079	\$24,616	\$35,828	\$43,591	\$49,283	\$58,857	\$70,069	\$77,827	\$82,144	\$213,673
Ending Cash	\$51,000	\$75,616	\$111,444	\$155,035	\$204,318	\$263,175	\$333,244	\$411,071	\$493,215	\$493,215

Metric	Value	Calculation
Monthly Fixed Costs	\$13,483	Salaries \$7,083 + Rent \$650 + Software \$200 + Insurance \$467 + Admin \$333 + Loan \$795 + Depreciation \$400
Variable Cost per Service	\$117	Materials \$105 + Payment processing \$12 (3% of \$333)
Price per Service	\$333	Weighted average of 1,050 jobs
Contribution Margin per Unit	\$216	\$333 - \$117
Contribution Margin %	65%	\$216 / \$333

Break-Even Units per Month	62	\$13,483 / \$216
Break-Even Revenue per Month	\$20,646	62 units x \$333
Expected Break-Even Month	January 2025	Month 4 (Dec revenue covers Oct-Nov-Dec costs)
Safety Margin	39%	(105 jobs - 62) / 105

Metric	Y1	Y2	Y3	Industry Benchmark
Gross Margin %	65%	65%	65%	60-70% (home services)
Operating Margin %	18.8%	31.0%	36.3%	15-25%
Net Profit Margin %	12.9%	33.9%	25.1%	8-15%
Current Ratio	1.8	2.4	3.1	1.5+
CAC Payback	1.7 months	1.3 months	1.1 months	6-18 months
LTV:CAC	10.2x	13.1x	15.8x	3x+
Monthly Burn (Y1)	\$10,133	-	-	-
Runway (Y1)	6.4 months	-	-	-

10. Risk Analysis

Top risks: 1) Weather delays (probability 4/5, impact 3/5) - December snowstorms reduce install capacity by 30%. 2) LED supply chain disruption (probability 3/5, impact 4/5) - Chinese factory delays increase material costs 25%. 3) Competitor price war (probability 2/5, impact 4/5) - BrightLights cuts prices 15%. 4) Liability claim (probability 2/5, impact 5/5) - \$50k+ property damage claim.

Mitigation: Weather - buffer 15% scheduling capacity (adds \$4,500 labor cost). Supply chain - dual sourcing (ChristmasLightsEtc.com backup) and August inventory purchase. Price war - loyalty discounts (10% for rebooking). Liability - \$1M insurance (\$2,400/year) and pre-job photo documentation.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Risk Score	Mitigation Strategy	Contingency Plan	Owner
Weather delays	4	3	12	Buffer 15% capacity; real-time rescheduling	Offer \$50 discount for January install	Chen
LED supply shortage	3	4	12	Order 120% inventory by Aug; dual suppliers	Use backup supplier at 10% cost premium	Taylor
Competitor price cut	2	4	8	Value messaging; loyalty discounts	Introduce \$249 "Essential" package	Taylor
Liability claim	2	5	10	\$1M insurance; crew training	Legal reserve fund (1% revenue)	Chen
Cash flow shortfall	3	4	12	50% deposits; off-season prep	\$20k line of credit	Taylor
Technician injury	2	5	10	OSHA training; workers' comp	Backup crew on retainer	Chen
Reputation damage	3	3	9	100% satisfaction guarantee	PR crisis plan; \$5k response budget	Taylor
Economic downturn	2	3	6	Target high-income ZIP codes	Offer payment plans (0% interest)	Taylor

11. Implementation Timeline

Critical path: Secure SBA loan by Nov 1 (vehicle financing), achieve 150 bookings by Dec 15 (cash flow breakeven), sign first property management contract by Mar 31 (Year 2 foundation). Dependencies: Warehouse lease must precede inventory purchase; Google Ads require website completion.

Month	Milestone	Deliverables	Resources Needed	Success Metric	Owner
Oct 2024	SBA loan closing	Financing docs, collateral	\$65k loan approval	Loan funded by 10/31	Taylor
Nov 2024	Vehicle procurement	2 branded cargo vans	\$48k down payment	Vehicles operational 11/15	Chen
Nov 2024	Inventory purchase	50,000 ft LED, 200 controllers	\$21k inventory budget	100% stock by 11/30	Chen
Dec 2024	Peak season launch	150+ installations	4 technicians, 2 crews	\$75k revenue by 12/25	Chen
Jan 2025	Takedown completion	100% storage processing	Warehouse capacity	\$75k revenue, 0 damage claims	Chen
Feb 2025	Loyalty program launch	10% rebooking discount	Email template, CRM setup	27% repeat bookings	Taylor
Mar 2025	First commercial contract	Greystar agreement	Proposal, pricing model	\$15k contract signed	Taylor
Apr 2025	Off-season marketing	2025 lead pipeline	\$250/mo SEO budget	50 leads generated	Taylor
May 2025	Team expansion	Operations coordinator hire	\$45k salary budget	Role filled by 5/15	Taylor
Aug 2025	Year 2 inventory	60,000 ft LED purchase	\$15k inventory budget	Stocked by 8/31	Chen
Oct 2025	Year 2 launch	200+ bookings	Expanded crew capacity	\$125k revenue Month 1	Chen
Dec 2025	Profitability	\$220k net income	Full Year 2 operations	33.9% net margin	Taylor