



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

The Business Development Unit at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) helps businesses navigate resources to help them grow and thrive in DC. We consistently hear from our stakeholders a need for a central location to view resources available to support businesses and individuals interested in entrepreneurship. This document strives to list the non-government organizations and resources in entrepreneurial ecosystem. We included all organizations and resources we are aware of. This document will be updated periodically. The date on the bottom of this page denotes the date of the last update. Please email katie.baskett@dc.gov with any organizations or resources we may have missed.

Table of Contents

High School Age & Below	1
College & Young Adults	2
University Specific Resources	3
Small Business Technical Assistance and Support Centers	3
Access to Capital Resources	4
Other Access to Capital Resources:	5
List of VCs in the DMV Area	6
Cohort-Based Training Programs	6
Groups Supporting Local Entrepreneurs	7
Local Tech Meetups and Support Organizations	8
Local Tech Bootcamps	8
Key Local Startup Events	8
Incubators and Accelerators	9
Artisan/ Maker Spaces	11
Co-Working Spaces	11

High School Age & Below

[Good Projects](#) pairs youth in Ward 7 and 8 with youth in China to work on a social enterprise over the summer. Youth are compensated for their participation in the program through the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program.

[Build](#) ignites the potential of youth in under-resourced communities and equips them for high school, college, and career success through entrepreneurial-based experiential learning.



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

[Learn Serve International](#) equips high school students from diverse backgrounds with the entrepreneurial vision, tenacity, confidence, and leadership skills needed to tackle social challenges at home and abroad.

[Ashoka Changemakers Schools](#) enable students to become changemakers so they can thrive in the modern world and find solutions to our most complex problems through adapting their social entrepreneurship curriculum.

[Brave Heart Entrepreneurial Youth Camp](#) runs year-round enrichment programs designed to promote and encourage early awareness and involvement in entrepreneurship and financial literacy among youth and teens.

[Junior Achievement of Greater Washington](#) provides entrepreneurship education to local high school students through giving them access to mentors and the opportunity to work together and innovate and take part in a Shark-Tank style competition while learning 21st century skills.

[MetroVoice Youth Entrepreneur Program](#) takes youth through an interactive life planning model where each individual in open forum discussions effectively outlines their winning life game plan.

[Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship](#) partners with school districts and trains teachers to engage students from low-income communities as entrepreneurial thinkers using their innovative, hands-on curriculum.

[Black upStart Kidpreneur Bootcamp](#) program for young African-American boys (3rd, 4th, and 5th grade) that teaches them how to learn a living wage through starting a business.

[Future Leaders and Young Entrepreneurs \(FLYE\)](#) offers entrepreneurial training to public school students through athletic programs at schools and communities.

College & Young Adults

[DC Community Carrot](#) helps entrepreneurial opportunity youth (18-24) create businesses of their own through providing mentorship, education, and access to capital.

[Social Impact 360](#) is a mentorship program for college freshmen interested in entrepreneurship. There are chapters at several DC-area schools such as Georgetown, GWU, Howard University, and American University.

[The Strengths Lab](#) brings students across the metropolitan area together to start a business. Students design products around their “why”, receive college credit for a college business leadership course from UDC, coaching from local entrepreneurs, and performance-based pay – all while learning the steps of a start-up by bringing a business of their own to life.



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

University Specific Resources

American University offers a [Masters of Arts in Social Enterprise](#). American also has a Social Innovation fellowship program that is open to all AU Masters students. The fellows participate in a self-assessment, receive information and advice, obtain coaching, participate in experiential learning, and have access to facilities at 1776 and are eligible to take the Social Enterprise individual project practicum.

[Social Enterprise and Nonprofit clinic at Georgetown Law](#)

Offers free corporate and transactional legal services to social enterprises, nonprofit organizations, and select small businesses in Washington, DC

[Entrepreneurship Incubator](#) assists American University students and recent alumni in building successful profit or nonprofit/social ventures that can scale over time. The incubator provided accepted ventures with mentorship, networking opportunities, educational opportunities, access to resources, and space to guide them through the early stages of product, service, and business development.

Georgetown also offers a wide variety of social entrepreneurship courses and related organizations to their students. [Startup Hoyas](#) provides a repository of these efforts.

George Washington University also offers a wide variety of social entrepreneurship training programs and prize competitions. The GWU Innovation Center is an interdisciplinary, human-center, and student-driven innovation center that serves as a hub for students interested in social entrepreneurship and community change. [GW Upstart](#) provides a repository of other entrepreneurship programs at DC.

Howard University is home to the [Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute](#) – founded in 2003 as national repository for information vital to the growth and development of minority business enterprises.

UDC is home to the [Center for Urban Entrepreneurship](#).

Catholic University offers a [Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship](#) through its Metropolitan School of Professional Studies.

Small Business Technical Assistance and Support Centers

[Score DC](#) offers free counseling, low-cost workshops, and free team visits to business locations to conduct business reviews.

[SB Works](#) offers affordable business services, co-working space and experienced consultants for local small business.

[Anacostia Economic Development Corporation Business Center](#) provides free management, technical assistance and affordable training in all phases of business development to DC residents and small businesses.

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 09, 2019



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

[Capitol City CDC](#) is a veteran-based training and service provider offering veterans education, training, certification, and career and entrepreneurial opportunities in order to successfully establish a veteran-owned business.

[Development Corporation of Columbia Heights](#) offers support services and technical assistance designed to expand the capabilities of small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs.

[Emory Beacon of Light, Inc.](#) provides business assistance and technical support to local small businesses.

[Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#) provides small business technical assistance that allows experienced consultants and small business owners to provide one on one counseling and help small businesses improve processes, sales, and marketing strategies.

[DC Small Business Development Center Network](#) works with entrepreneurs in confidential, individualized sessions to help them with a range of business issues including testing a new business proposition, shaping a business plan, investigating funding opportunities, and much more.

[Latino Economic Development Center \(LEDC\)](#) equips aspiring and established entrepreneurs with the skills and tools necessary to run and strengthen a small business. Training and coaching sessions are also offered in Spanish.

[Washington DC Women's Business Center](#) provides training and consultation to assist in the growth of women-owned businesses. They also provide technical assistance to women-owned businesses interested in federal and local government procurement opportunities.

[Ward 7 Business Partnership](#) provides technical assistance to small and medium-sized businesses in Ward 7.

[Washington Area Community Investment Fund](#) provides small business consulting and advisory services in fields such as business law, marketing, real estate, and financing.

[Cohns Culinary & Hospitality Management](#) provides small business technical assistance to DC restaurant entrepreneurs. The technical assistance revolves around business development, design, menu creation, marketing, social media, and more.

[Mission: Entrepreneur](#) inspires, encourages, and supports US Military veterans to start, grow, and scale successful businesses.

Access to Capital Resources

Community Development Financial Institutions

[WACIF](#) is a nonprofit community loan fund dedicated to supporting underserved communities in the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area by providing flexible loans, consulting and training workshops to community-minded entrepreneurs committed to starting and building locally-

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 09, 2019



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

owned small businesses and organizations. Wacif recently launched **the Ascend Capital Accelerator** which was created to address greater economic trends for **entrepreneurs of color and women entrepreneurs to help close the access to capital gap**. Ascend is a hands-on asset-based development program consisting of an interactive workshop series combined with small group matching and wraparound individualized support, with the goal of building human and financial assets for local small businesses.

[City First Enterprises](#) provides financing to entrepreneurs looking to start or grow their business. CFE also supports business owners through targeted advisory services and expertise.

[Latino Economic Development Corporation](#) has a Micro-Lending program that equips entrepreneurs in DC with capital to improve their lives and strengthen the small business community. The program provides business loans between \$5,000 - \$50,000 to qualified start-ups and existing businesses that have difficulty obtaining credit from mainstream financial institutions.

[Partners for Common Good](#) lends to mission-driven organizations that promote economic justice and opportunity. They specifically provide funding for projects that generate tangible benefits to low-income individuals and residents of the surrounding low-income communities. Tangible benefits may include provision of affordable housing, improvement of community facilities, increased availability of quality goods and services in underserved communities, enhanced job opportunities, and/or neighborhood revitalization.

[Capital Impact Partners](#) helps people build communities of opportunity that break barriers to success through focused capital. They deliver strategic financing, social innovation programs, and capacity building that creates social change and delivers financial impact nationwide. Capital Impact partners also [funds worker cooperatives](#).

Other Access to Capital Resources:

[Kiva Zip Program](#) provides crowdfunded loans of up to \$10,000 at 0% interest. When borrowers repay their loan it also helps to build their business credit. This program is advertised through LISC and LEDC but no DC businesses seem to currently be using the program.

[Life Asset](#) is a nonprofit funding entrepreneurs in and around Washington, DC. They provide microloans, training, business opportunities, and even retail space to small businesses that might not find loans anywhere else.

[DC Social Innovation Project](#) identifies invests in, and provides targeted resources – with new ideas – that tackle pressing social issues in Washington DC. They equip local innovation thought leaders with a \$25,000 social capital grant. The grant consists of an up to \$3,000 monetary award, half of which grantees are required to match and tailored comprehensive management pro-bono consulting package for each new grantee which provides strategic know-how, capacity building and organizational guidance valued at \$22,000.



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

[Raffa Social Capital Advisors](#) matches social impact investors with social entrepreneurs who can successfully change the world. Investments of \$500,000.

[Street Entrepreneurs](#) provides training, mentorship, and grants to businesses that are disbursed in three intervals and are matched to milestones.

[Cee Smith Media Group](#) is a creative investment firm that prioritizes LGBT entrepreneurs. They invest in queer-led creative projects, start-ups, and film. They offer grants of up to \$1,500 and investments.

List of VCs in the DMV Area

<https://medium.com/@dannyalmeida/washington-dc-s-venture-capital-community-all-90-of-them-93cdb1d422de>

Cohort-Based Training Programs

[Project 500](#) is a business development program to help diverse businesses scale in terms of revenue, staff and investment retained. The program is free of charge and open to an DC-based business, with preference for entrepreneurs located in Wards 7 and 8. The goal is to recruit 500 businesses and provide them with hands on training, capacity building, mentoring and networking to advance the economic success of their businesses and their communities.

[Ascend 20/20 DC](#) is a program for creating local support ecosystems for neighborhood-based businesses, inner-city businesses, and minority-owned businesses in Washington, DC by linking business schools, business service-providing organizations, and CDFIs. Over the next 3 years, the goal is to support 350 businesses across the 6 cities (DC is one of them) to increase revenue by \$1 billion

[Catholic University ICIC Program](#) is designed to help established small businesses in economically-distressed areas build capacity for sustainable growth in revenue, profitability, and employment. The program features a comprehensive curriculum that combines targeted executive education sessions with local coaches/mentors, and then connects participants with potential capital sources and a broad professional network.

[Aspire for Entrepreneurship](#) is a 6-month business incubator to help returning citizens start their own businesses.

[Walkers Legacy](#) provides the PROSPECTUS program for free to minority women entrepreneurs in DC. PROSPECTUS is an online accelerated business development-training program that utilizes original curriculum, a cohort model and a structured learning environment to aid start-up and established business owners in advancing their business operations. They also run the Moms Who Hustle Program which provides a financial literacy and entrepreneurship curriculum that helps single mothers of color take their finances and business to the next level



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

[Startup Leadership Program](#) is a highly selective, global, world-class training program and lifelong global network for outstanding founders, leaders, and innovators who want to become startup CEOs. Classes are held on evenings or weekends and no equity is taken.

Groups Supporting Local Entrepreneurs

[Black Female Founders](#) is a global membership organization, community, and movement for women-led ventures and female tech leaders throughout the Black Diaspora. #BFF seeks to level the playing field by offering Black female entrepreneurs the information and resources they need to succeed such as networking, business mentoring and access to Venture Capitalists (VCs), Angel Investors and other forms of funding. They also run #BFF Labs, an 8-week pre-accelerator program for aspiring early-stage entrepreneurs (cost \$2,000).

[Black Girl Vision](#) hosts pitch events where admission fees create the vision fund and a woman of color wins the vision fund to advance her business. They are committed to creating ways for women of color to gain access to capital and providing access to training and business coaching.

[Beacon](#) is a community-led campaign to make Washington DC the most influential and supportive city for women entrepreneurs in the United States. They offer programming in addition to grants ranging from \$500 - \$10,000 to support local initiatives for women entrepreneurs.

[Springboard Enterprises](#) is a highly-vetted expert network of innovators, investors and influencers who are dedicated to building high-growth technology-oriented companies led by women. They run accelerators around health innovation and technology and host events and pitch competitions (Dolphin Tank) in DC.

[Vinetta Project](#) is an influential ecosystem supporting high growth female founders in taking their businesses to scale. They run events and pitch competitions in DC.

[United Women in Business](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the professional and personal development of women in the business world. UWIB's mission is to foster success for its members by providing educational programs, mentorship, networking connections, and leadership and growth opportunities.

[Venture DC](#) provides training and support to emerging and established entrepreneurs. They facilitate gatherings of community members, entrepreneurs, and investors in order to showcase entrepreneurs with ideas applicable to Wards 7 and 8, introduce community members to informational, financial, and technological resources and connect partners and investors to the existing innovation opportunity in Southeast DC.

[My Brother's Keeper](#) is an organization dedicated to supporting young men of color. They hosted a pitch competition this June, 2017 focused on identifying viable tech/tech-enabled solutions to reduce violence in our communities that can be scaled throughout the country. \$75,000 in prize money was awarded in addition to one-on-one coaching and skill building and development.

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 09, 2019



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

[Disability StartUP Network](#) is a DC-based network of disabled entrepreneurs working to make entrepreneurship inclusive for those with disabilities.

[Black upSTART](#) teaches aspiring Black entrepreneurs how to start a successful and profitable business through an intense, culturally-relevant 6-day bootcamp.

[Global Empowerment Solutions](#) offers a “Holiday Hustle” program which is a training program that teaches hustlers to turn their passion into a profit in their workroom and the shoppers have the opportunity to buy directly from the creative hustlers who make or source all items including jewelry, clothing, body products and additional unique hand-made products in their showroom.
Makers Program

[MET Community](#) provides free mentorship and training to women who want to be entrepreneurs.

Local Tech Meetups and Support Organizations

Hear Me Code
DC Fem Tech
Tech Noir
Technicolor
Tech Lady Hackathon
Women Who Code
DC Tech Meetup
Code for Progress
Code for DC
Color Coded

Local Tech Bootcamps

General Assembly
Coding Dojo
New York Coding & Design Academy
Thinkful
Launch Academy
Coding Temple
Make School
The Data Incubator
Byte Back (more workforce development)
Per Scholas (more workforce development)
ConnecTech (SBIR support)

Key Local Startup Events

Startup Weekend
Startup Week
Tech Week

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 09, 2019



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

Starting Bloc
MCON
Washington Ideas Fest
Startup Grind
DC Tech Meetup
Startups Ignite
Tech Lady Hackathon

Incubators and Accelerators

General:

[1776](#) is a hub for startups tackling challenges in education, energy, health care, government, and other critical industries. 1776 startups gain access to a global network of connections with established institutions and corporations, influencers, expert mentors, and investors. 1776 also has a seed fund where they make seed-stage investments in startups that combine a massive opportunity for financial success and the potential to transform the industries most important to lives as citizens.

[WorkAround](#) is an acceleration firm which specializes in pre-seed, seed and early stage investments. It makes investments in entrepreneurs operating in the education, healthcare, business, law, finance and commerce sectors. Their typical check size is \$100k to \$200k and they are often the first money going in.

Social Impact Focused:

[Global Development Incubator](#) is focused initiatives that address urgent global problems. GDI launches start-ups focused on social impact, incubates partnerships to spark collective change, and helps lay the foundations for promising organizations to reach their potential. GDI works with partners over 2-3 years to support the achievement of critical step-changes needed to take their ideas, initiatives, and organizations to the next level.

[Halcyon](#) equips early-stage social entrepreneurs with the support they need to transform audacious ideas into scalable and sustainable ventures, and change the world. During an 18-month fellowship, a diverse cohort of fellows receive free residency and workspace, mentorship and leadership, robust support from business consultants, and a living stipend to develop their entrepreneurial vision into a reality. Halcyon also offers a [14-day incubator program](#) designed to turn a vision into a social enterprise.

[Inclusive Innovation Incubator \(In3\)](#) is the District's first community space focused on inclusion, innovation and incubation. The incubator is committed to creating a collaborative environment where under-resourced members have access to the space and services needed to build or grow a successful business.

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 09, 2019



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

[Peace Tech Accelerator](#) - is the first major international peacetechnology program powered by cloud innovation and dedicated to scaling start-ups around the world. The PeaceTech Accelerator provides the mentorship and training needed to scale both for-and not-for profit peacetechnology initiatives rapidly, securely, and cost effectively. The Accelerator is supported by C5 Capital Limited, Amazon Web Services, and [PeaceTech Lab](#).

[Seed Spot](#) is dedicated to supporting all social entrepreneurs creating a product, service, or technology that improves lives or makes the world a better place. They support entrepreneurs by surrounding them with the right access to resources, mentors, business fundamentals, community partners, capital sources, and anything they need to succeed. Seed Spot offers a variety of different programs including a 5-day bootcamp, evening program, and full-time program. All of their programs include access to training, mentorship, and a \$10,000, 0% loan.

[The Hatchery by AARP](#) is an incubator/accelerator for companies working to enhance the quality of life for all as we age. The Hatchery builds their own startup ideas in-house as well as working in partnership with other organizations. The Hatchery provides access to experts, potential customers, and more.

[Tiphub](#) is an eight week accelerator program which fosters and invests in entrepreneurs with ideas that targets the African and African Diaspora market. The firm provides seed funding, strategic mentorship, perks, entrepreneurship-focused business training and directly support start-ups through an expansive network of partner entities, mentors and investors. It supports seed stage tech and social impact ventures.

[Village Capital](#) is an accelerator which creates the space for entrepreneurs to work together across the boundaries of their organizations. The firm conducts programs and provides mentorships to the clients and it invests in companies operating in the agriculture, education, energy, financial inclusion and health sectors.

Government Focused:

[DCode42](#) is an accelerator program for technology programs looking to enter the federal government market. DCode42 works with companies in a variety of industries such as big data, cyber security, and health IT that have the power to change the way the government runs.

[Fed Tech](#) pairs entrepreneurs with inventions from over 17 federal labs to commercialize federally funded research and development projects. The Fed Tech program helps teams validate demands for the technology and build a basic business model within two months.

Food Focused:

DC has 6 different culinary incubators focused on providing food entrepreneurs with the space and services they need to operate and grow their companies.

[Eatsplace](#), [Mess Hall](#), [TasteLab](#), [Tastemakers](#), [Union Kitchen](#) (2)

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 09, 2019



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

Artisan/ Maker Spaces

DC has a variety of spaces to support the local artisan and maker community.

[Capitol One Maker Space @ Oxon Run](#) is a makerspace free for Ward 8 residents. The space features a 3-D printing, a sewing/fabric center, and a space to make furniture.

[Cultural DC](#) has a variety of services to support local artists and makers. These services include subsidized studio space at the Arts Walk at Monroe Street Market, a residency program through Flashpoint, professional development workshops, and a searchable database of arts venues and facilities in DC.

[DC Fashion Incubator](#) supports the local emerging fashion market by identifying and providing business mentoring, seminars and workshops as well as technical design support.

[FabLab](#) provides access to 3-D printers and hosts events and workshops for the community.

[HacDC](#) has meeting rooms and workshops that include soldering stations, electronic measurement and diagnostic tools, a laser engraver, 3D printers, a CNC mill, and a metal lathe.

[MLK Library](#) has 3-D printers for public use. MLK library is currently closed for modernization.

[Union Market Lab 1270](#) supports emerging retailers, makers, creatives and members of the DC creative community in a lively retail, experience, and work space.

Co-Working Spaces

DC has over 70 different co-working spaces that provide flexible space and leasing arrangements for startup companies and freelancers. Some of these co-working spaces focus on specific businesses (ex. women-owned, social impact focused) while others are open to all types of individuals and businesses. See below for the list:

Themed:

[Center for Green Urbanism](#) caters to entrepreneurs and companies that want to create green businesses.

[Hera Hub](#) is a female-focused co-working space where entrepreneurial women can create and collaborate in a professional, productive, spa-like environment.

[Open Gov Hub](#) is a co-working community and a network of organizations promoting transparency, accountability, and civic engagement around the world.

[Writers Room](#) is a space designed to provide a professional, respectful, and quiet environment that fosters literary success.

[The Wing](#) is a co-working and community designed for women.

Last Updated: Wednesday, January 09, 2019



Resources for DC Entrepreneurs

General:

[5- Points Business Incubator](#), [AdvantEdge](#), [Alley](#), [Breather DC](#), [Bureau](#), [Canvas](#), [Carr Workspaces](#), [Cove](#), [District Workspaces](#), [Dupont Business Incubator](#), [Flex Office Space](#), [Industrious](#), [Locale](#), [Logan Exchange](#), [Make Offices](#), [Metro Offices](#), [Mindspace](#), [OSI Offices](#), [Premier Business Centers](#), [Regus Offices](#), [ServCorp](#), [Source Office Suites](#), [Spaces DC](#), [The Hive 2.0](#), [WeWork](#), [The Yard](#).