

KENTUCKY STARTUP PIPELINE



ENTRY POINTS



PRE-SEED FUNDING



ACCELERATE AND SCALE



SEED CAPITAL



TECH RESOURCES



VENTURE CAPITAL



CELEBRATED SUCCESS



ENTRY POINTS

Awesome Inc
Lexington
awesomeinc.org

Exists to create and grow high tech startups by hosting community events, leading technology education courses and offering a shared workspace environment.

Startup Lexington
startuplexington.org

Startup Lex is an entrepreneur focused community made for encouraging growth, education, and giving first. We're non-profit lead and here to help you immerse yourself, and your business, into the Central Kentucky scene.

SBDC
(13 KY locations)
ksbdc.org

Grows Kentucky's economy by cultivating existing companies, nurturing new ventures, fostering the creation of jobs and increasing business profitability. Offers business planning, consulting, training, and resources.

KY Innovation
Network
(13 KY locations)
kyinnovation.com

Creates a network of business leaders and mentors to grow companies through the thirteen offices throughout Kentucky.

Base Here
(4 KY locations)
basehere.com

They are entrepreneurs, creatives, techies, startup founders, side hustlers, remote workers and everything in between. Check out thier member and non-member offerings for coworking, offices and event space.

5 Across
Entrepreneur Pitch
Competition
5across.org

Bi-monthly startup pitch competition for entrepreneurs.

Small Business
Innovation Research
National
sbir.gov

Encourages Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D) that has the potential for commercialization. The Cabinet will match awards received by Kentucky high-tech small businesses and those willing to become Kentucky-based businesses.

Startup Weekend
Lexington & Louisville
startupweekend.org

54-hour events where developers, designers, marketers, product managers and startup enthusiasts come together to share ideas, form teams, build products, and launch startups.

Governor's School
For Entrepreneurs
kentuckygse.com

The Governor's School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) identifies and enables Kentucky high school students to become our Commonwealth's next generation of entrepreneurs.

Innovation &
Commercialization
Center
centralregionicc.com

The Innovation and Commercialization Center's mission is to facilitate the creation, growth, recruitment and retention of scalable companies in Kentucky. Offices are located in Bowling Green, KY and Elizabethtown, KY.

SOAR
soar-ky.org

Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) is a regional nonpartisan nonprofit that champions local projects, programs, and advocacy for the 54 ARC-mandated counties in Eastern Kentucky. Our mandate: To fill the economic gaps left by the decline of the coal industry. Our task: To rally our communities to help us achieve these goals together for the good of all.

Startups@KSTC
Kentucky
startups.kstc.com

Provides pre-seed and seed-stage funding and other resources to Kentucky-based companies with the goal of building successful technology-related companies in KY.

KY Pitch
kypitch.com

The KY Pitch competition is designed to inspire our innovators and entrepreneurs by providing an inclusive platform for our future leaders to develop and pursue their ideas. Students from Kentucky's post-secondary colleges and universities are given an opportunity to pitch their business or idea stage concept to a large audience composed of investors, community leaders, and the public.

Sprocket
sprocketpaducah.com

Sprocket has a mission to turn innovative ideas into great companies by creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Paducah that supports talent, tech enabled companies, and venture capitalists.

Startup Grinds
startupgrind.com

Their mission is to give startups everywhere the education and opportunities they need to build, grow, and scale their companies.

UK OTC
[research.uky.edu/
office-technology-
commercialization](http://research.uky.edu/office-technology-commercialization)

The University of Kentucky's Office of Technology Commercialization's mission is to advance innovation that makes a difference.

Amplify Louisville
amplifylouisville.com

Amplify Louisville is a place for tech-enabled startups and founders to explore ideas, build solutions, launch products, and grow businesses.

Startup Louisville
startuplouisville.com

Startup Louisville is the hub for startups and high-growth companies in the greater Louisville area. Their goal is to be the first stop for anyone interested in connecting with the startup community.

GroWest
[kyinnovation.com/
hubs-growest/](http://kyinnovation.com/hubs-growest/)

GroWest is a coalition of communities committed to growing the digital economy in Western Kentucky. The coalition provides a variety of entrepreneurial services and programs, from early idea stage pre-accelerators to mid-stage startup recruitment and seed funding.

Venture Connectors
ventureconnectors.org

Venture Connectors is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization. It was originally formed in 1995 to bring entrepreneurs and investors together in a professional but relaxed forum.

Blue North
bluenorthky.com

Blue North serves as the "thread" for the Northern Kentucky regional ecosystem by building a close-knit community that provides entrepreneurs with outsized connectivity to mission-critical resources and reduced barriers to opportunity.

Invest 606
invest606.org

Invest 606 is a non-profit with a mission to catalyze business growth in the 606 by connecting entrepreneurs with the resources they need to succeed today and grow tomorrow.

Commerce Lexington
commercelexington.com

Commerce Lexington's goal is to represent our members, creating the environment and opportunity for economic prosperity and quality living in Central Kentucky.

PRE-SEED FUNDING

Cherub Fund
Lexington
cherubfund.org

Provides small amounts of funding to early stage startups; comprised of entrepreneurs, angel investors and supporters of entrepreneurs.

Wild Duck Investments
Lexington
wildduckinvestments.com

Invests time, energy and money into people and their ideas that help the community and make Kentucky and our world a better place to live in.

Keyhorse Capital
keyhorse.vc

Keyhorse Capital is a seed-stage venture capital firm supporting a thriving community of Kentucky-based entrepreneurs willing to build and grow innovative companies.

ACCELERATE AND SCALE

Awesome Fellowship
Lexington
fellowship.awesomeinc.org

Mentor-driven program designed to accelerate high tech startups; provides mentorship and a variety of tech talent for up to 1 year.

Aviara Accelerators
aviaraaccelerators.org

Aviara Accelerators enable women to start and sustain businesses by giving them the resources they need to be successful.

Launch Blue
launchblue.org

Launch Blue's mission is to support promising technology startup founders and university innovators in Kentucky and beyond.

Vogt Awards
[cflouisville.org/commu
nity-support/vogt-awards](http://cflouisville.org/community-support/vogt-awards)

The Community Foundation of Louisville's Vogt Invention & Innovation Awards offers entrepreneurs in the Louisville region a unique and exciting opportunity to take their startups to the next level.

ACCELERATE AND SCALE CONT.

LaunchIT
launchitcorp.com

LaunchIT is a leading provider of next generation software and technology services. They identify, plan, develop, and deploy technology initiatives and solutions that help clients reach their goals!

XLerate Health
Louisville
xleratehealth.com

13-week training course that connects startups to mentors and leading health and wellness companies and offers a \$20,000 stipend for 6% equity stake.

Endeavor
endeavor-ky-in-oh.org

Endeavor selects, mentors, and supports high-growth entrepreneurs in 37 countries and 8 U.S. markets, driving job creation, wealth creation, & inspiration into underserved, growth markets globally. Our office supports Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio entrepreneurs.

SEED CAPITAL

Awesome Fund

The Awesome Fund exists to invest in high potential startups from Kentucky and the Midwest.

Render Capital
render.capital

Render Capital's mission is to establish the greater Louisville region as a national leader in innovation, entrepreneurship and creative capital essential for our collective success.

Bluegrass Angels
Lexington based
bluegrassangels.com

Organization of local angel investors interested in fostering the growth of start-up businesses in Kentucky by investing time, knowledge and money into new, cutting edge, startup companies.

Connetic Ventures
Covington
conneticventures.com

Connetic is an early-stage VC firm that leverages AI & data to change how startups are evaluated and funded.

Kentucky Seed
Capital Fund
Louisville based
kyseedcapital.com

Invests in early-stage Kentucky or Louisville metropolitan-based businesses that specialize in biomedical and health care services, medical device development, and health care information technology.

KY Angel Investors
Kentucky
kyangels.net

Brings new ventures and investors together across KY. Monthly online meetings provide investors access to early-stage deal flow on a statewide basis. Access to investors with a passion for investing in Kentucky's companies of tomorrow.

Commonwealth
Seed Capital
Kentucky
https://ced.ky.gov/Entrepreneurship/Commonwealth_Seed

Invests in early-stage Kentucky business entities focused on commercializing innovative ideas and technologies.

Unbridled Ventures
thinkkentucky.com/
entrepreneurship/funding

Unbridled Ventures fund consists of accomplished angel investors who provide funding and expertise to help entrepreneurs fulfill their American dream.

Keyhorse Capital
keyhorse.vc

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TECH RESOURCES

Awesome Inc U
Lexington
awesomeinc.org/learn

Coding school designed to help people learn how to create software (websites, mobile apps, or video games) through hands-on, in-person classes, online classes, office hours memberships, and on-site training.

TEKY
Eastern Kentucky
interapt.com/teky

A paid training and hiring program that covers the latest programming languages and technologies being used to develop cutting-edge mobile and wearable solutions.

Code Kentucky
codekentucky.org

Code Kentucky is a state-funded workforce program that prepares residents of northern and eastern Kentucky ages 18+ for a quality career in the technology field.

Code Louisville
Louisville
codelouisville.org

Collaboration of employers who want Louisville to be a place of technological innovation; offers free 12-week coding courses & resources to connect developers to employers.

Interapt
interapt.com

Interapt is dedicated to solving tech talent challenges and accelerating growth. They do this by working with organizations to develop innovative technology solutions built by top-performing and diverse teams.

Louisville Institute of
Technology
louisvilleit.org

The Louisville Institute of Technology's mission is to prepare students and apprentices, through intense, immersive practical training, so that they may qualify for and attain employment in high-demand Information Technology technical fields and professions.

VENTURE CAPITAL

Poplar Ventures

Poplar Ventures is a venture capital firm investing in early growth stage companies delivering recurring revenue cloud-based software services. Poplar supports its portfolio companies by leveraging the proven operating experience of its team and advisors.

Airwing Ventures
airwing.vc

Airwing Ventures provides determined entrepreneurs, seeking resources to grow, with the capital and connections to build successful companies and impactful legacies.

Strike Ventures
strike.ventures

Strike focuses on investing in strong coachable teams with technology-driven business models; demonstrable traction – usually \$1M+ in revenue; and structures that allow “win-win” opportunities for everyone involved.

Thornton Capital
thorntoncapital.com

Located in Louisville, Kentucky, focused on long-term, growth investments in real estate, venture capital and private equity.

RSLP
rslpventures.com

RSLP invests in founders and funders with audacious ideas.

Render Capital
render.capital

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Chrysalis Ventures
Louisville based
chrysalisventures.com

Manages one of Mid-America's largest funds for early-stage investments with approx. \$400 mil under management, partnering with entrepreneurs primarily in the Healthcare and Technology sectors.

Keyhorse Capital
keyhorse.vc

Keyhorse Capital is a seed-stage venture capital firm supporting a thriving community of Kentucky-based entrepreneurs willing to build and grow innovative companies.

Lunsford Capital
lunsfordcapital.com

Lunsford Capital's mission is to invest in individuals with great ideas. In addition, Mr. Lunsford believes in providing leadership as companies make their journey to success.