ChromaDB vs Pinecone

CHROMADB (Local)
- ✓ Runs entirely local
- ✓ Free and open source
- ✓ No API costs
- ✓ Fast for small datasets
- ✗ Less scalable
- ✗ No multi-user support

PINECONE (Cloud)
- ✓ Managed service
- ✓ Massive scale
- ✓ Multi-tenancy built-in
- ✗ needs internet
- ✗ costs $0.25 per 100K vectors
- ✗ Data leaves infrastructure

DECISION:
For MVP: ChromaDB as the backend for RAG pipeline
Re-evaluate in phase 2
Impact: Save ~$50-200/month
Timeline: 3 days vs 2 days
Risk: need migration path later