

## DE Startup Resources:

- ❖ Delaware Prosperity Partnership - statewide economic development non-profit.
  - [www.choosedelaware.com](http://www.choosedelaware.com)
  - Contact: Noah Olson - [nolson@choosedelaware.com](mailto:nolson@choosedelaware.com) & Erica Crell - [ecrell@choosedelaware.com](mailto:ecrell@choosedelaware.com)
- ❖ Horn Entrepreneurship - University of Delaware's Entrepreneurship Program
  - <https://www.udel.edu/research-innovation/horn/>
  - Contact: Linda Walck - [lwalck@udel.edu](mailto:lwalck@udel.edu)
- ❖ Delaware State University/Delaware Center for Enterprise Development
  - <https://business.desu.edu/centers/delaware-center-enterprise-development>
  - The Garage - Innovation and Maker Space - Director: Troy Farmer - [tfarmer@desu.edu](mailto:tfarmer@desu.edu)
- ❖ DESCA - non-profit supporting entrepreneurs in the following industries: chemical, material, agriscience and industrial biology industries.
  - <https://desca.net>
  - Contact: Dora Cheatham – [doracheatham@desca.net](mailto:doracheatham@desca.net)
- ❖ Delaware Small Business Development Center - delivers training programs and free professional consulting services to entrepreneurs and innovators.
  - <https://delawaresbdc.org/>
  - Contact - [Request Advising](#)
- ❖ First Founders Accelerator - non-profit on a mission to lower barriers to entry and increase the likelihood of success in the innovation ecosystem by creating access to educational programming, relevant networks, and funding opportunities.
  - <https://firstfounders.org/>
  - Contact: Garry Johnson III - [garry@firstfounders.org](mailto:garry@firstfounders.org)
- ❖ Delaware Innovation Space - one of the nation's leading and largest incubators and accelerators for startups in the physical sciences. With best-in-class lab space, collaborative office space and virtual programs accessible anywhere in the world, Innovation Space is supporting innovation on a global scale. Innovation Space's programs include:
  - First Fund: a source of funding for companies in need of capital, lab space, and wrap-around support and mentorship - <https://innovationspace.org/the-first-fund>
  - Spark Factory: a free, monthly virtual pitch event that offers mentoring to early-stage founders - <https://innovationspace.org/spark-factory/>
  - Science Inc. virtual accelerator: a virtual, 4-month cohort-based accelerator for early-stage science startups - <https://innovationspace.org/science-inc-accelerator>
  - <https://innovationspace.org>
  - Contact: Marcie Reilly - [marcie@innovationspace.org](mailto:marcie@innovationspace.org)

- ❖ Delaware Division of Small Business – service-focused State agency committed to helping businesses start and grow in Delaware.
  - <https://business.delaware.gov/>
    - EDGE Grants: <https://business.delaware.gov/edge-grants/>
  - Link to County Managers: <https://business.delaware.gov/contact/>
- ❖ Community Navigator Program - Provides technical assistance and one-to-one advising to underrepresented businesses supporting mostly all industries
  - <https://navigatede.org/>
- ❖ Delaware Black Chamber of Commerce
  - <https://debcc.org/>
  - Contact: Ayanna Khan - [email@debcc.org](mailto:email@debcc.org)
- ❖ NSF I-Corps Hub – Northeast Region - The I-Corps program helps researchers explore the potential for their discoveries to become products and services that can benefit society. University of Delaware, and Delaware State University are part of the Northeast Region.
  - <https://icorpsnortheasthub.org/>
- ❖ Delaware Biotechnology Institute (DBI) - promotes research, education, and technology transfer for biotechnology applications to the benefit of the environment, agriculture, and human health. Fosters collaborations between entrepreneurs and academic researchers.
  - <https://www.dbi.udel.edu/>
- ❖ US Small Business Administration (SBA) - Delaware Regional Office - federal agency fully dedicated to small business support.
  - <https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/de/wilmington>
  - Contact - Elyn Herbert - [elyn.herbert@sba.gov](mailto:elyn.herbert@sba.gov)
  - Women’s Business Center: <https://wbeceast.com/>
- ❖ New Castle County Office of Economic Development - initiatives include prioritizing new job creation through entrepreneurship, startup companies, existing small businesses and providing a predictable land use planning process.
  - <https://www.nccde.org/756/Economic-Development>
  - Contact – Christopher Bell - [Christopher.Bell@newcastlede.gov](mailto:Christopher.Bell@newcastlede.gov)
- ❖ New Castle County Chamber of Commerce & Emerging Enterprise Center - local chamber and business incubator and co-working space that provides education and connections to Delaware startups and entrepreneurs.
  - <http://www.ncccc.com/>; <https://eecincubator.com/>
  - Contact: Alysse Bartolotto - [bortolottoa@ncccc.com](mailto:bortolottoa@ncccc.com)
- ❖ Wilmington Alliance - non-profit organization working to build equitable economic mobility for residents, businesses and entrepreneurs in the city of Wilmington.
  - <https://www.wilmingtonalliance.org/>
  - Contact: Renata Kowalczyk - [renata@wilmingtonalliance.org](mailto:renata@wilmingtonalliance.org)

- ❖ Kent Economic Partnership - non-profit organization whose mission is to spur economic development in Central Delaware.
  - <https://www.choosecentraldelaware.com/>
  - Contact - Linda Parkowski- [linda.parkowski@co.kent.de.us](mailto:linda.parkowski@co.kent.de.us)
- ❖ Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce - the essential resource for business to develop in Central Delaware.
  - <https://www.cdcc.net/>
  - Contact: [info@cdcc.net](mailto:info@cdcc.net)
- ❖ Sussex County Office of Economic Development - government agency to promote economic development in Sussex County, one of the fastest growing counties on the East Coast.
  - <https://excitesussex.com/>
  - Contact - Bill Pfaff - [econdev@sussexcountyde.gov](mailto:econdev@sussexcountyde.gov)
- ❖ True Access Capital - CDFI in Delaware that empowers women and minorities who are traditionally underserved by financial institutions.
  - <https://trueaccesscapital.org/>
  - Contact: <https://trueaccesscapital.org/contact/>
- ❖ Venture Cafe Philadelphia - part of the Science Center, VC Philly connects innovators and entrepreneurs with high-impact programming and events.
  - <https://venturecafephiladelphia.org/>
  - Launch Lane Accelerator: <https://sciencecenter.org/programs/launch-lane>
- ❖ SCORE Delaware - nonprofit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and succeed nationwide.
  - <https://delaware.score.org/>
  - Contact: [contact.0042@scorevolunteer.org](mailto:contact.0042@scorevolunteer.org)
- ❖ Your Money 101 - non-profit 501(c)(3) organization focused on providing financial mentoring services to individuals who are 20 to 40 years from retirement.
  - <https://yourmoney101.org/start-here/>
  - Contact: Mark Olazagasti - [molaz@ym101.org](mailto:molaz@ym101.org)
- ❖ StartOut – a nonprofit association dedicated to accelerating the growth of the LGBTQ+ community to drive its economic empowerment, building a world where every LGBTQ+ entrepreneur has equal access to lead, succeed, and shape the workforce of the future.
  - <https://startout.org/>
  - Contact: Daniel Anzueto - [Daniel.anzueto@startout.org](mailto:Daniel.anzueto@startout.org)
- ❖ Independent Business Alliance (IBA) – a nonprofit association dedicated to providing opportunities, access and resources to LGBTQ+ professionals and allies in the Greater Philadelphia area.
  - <https://www.thinkiba.com/>
  - Contact: Zach Wilcha - [zach@thinkiba.com](mailto:zach@thinkiba.com)
- ❖ Chesapeake Ag Innovation Center (CAIC) – The center connects farmers, value-added producers, and CPG companies in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of

Columbia to the resources that they need to start and grow their businesses. We support ventures from the idea stage to the established with the aim of enhancing their business savvy and acumen.

- <https://caic.org>
- Contact: Emiliano Espinosa - [emiliano@caic.org](mailto:emiliano@caic.org)