



ctnext



Expanding Connecticut's Innovation Ecosystem

A Quick Guide

Resources for
entrepreneurs,
startups, and
innovators

Fostering Innovation

The state's catalyst for entrepreneurship, CTNext leverages public and private investment to create and support programs that help fund, advise, connect, and inspire new and early-stage companies.

Welcome to **Connecticut's** Future

Connecticut has embraced a new, dynamic era of inspired entrepreneurialism and innovation. As a result, we're seeing a surge in new business launches, investment from outside the state, and growth in technology-driven industries like bioscience/pharma, IT, digital media and more – industries that create high-quality jobs and a stronger 21st century economy.



4th

Bloomberg ranked CT as the nation's 4th most innovative state in 2019



\$13.5 billion

Connecticut businesses attracted \$13.5 billion in foreign investment in 2017





#1

New Haven ranked as the U.S.'s #1 relocation destination for millennials in 2019 (Nat'l Assn. of Realtors)



4th

Hartford ranks 4th in the nation for % of companies owned by female entrepreneurs

In 2018, 50+ New Haven startups based on Yale intellectual property raised more than \$1B in venture capital and \$11B in public markets

As of 2019, Connecticut has 1,237 startup companies (Angellist.com)



2nd

Connecticut ranks 2nd in bioscience academic investment



100

UConn's Technology Incubation Program has backed more than 100 startup companies and raised \$114 million investment dollars in 2018



Space/Community

The foundation of Connecticut's entrepreneurial ecosystem is its community – the companies and their founders, but also the places where their ideas are born and nurtured, where entrepreneurs work, meet, exchange knowledge and expand on ideas, and where connections are made that will help their businesses grow. **CTNext** supports many of these spaces, directly or through its Innovation Places program.



Accelerators: A program that gives new companies access to resources and knowledge they'll need to grow, including investors, mentors, and other fledgling business founders. These programs typically have a set timeframe and a "cohort" of companies starting out and completing the program simultaneously.



Incubators: Organizations that provide startups with working space along with mentoring, training, and other resources, incubators typically address the needs of companies very early in their development.



Working Spaces: New companies need office, meeting, and/or lab space, and several CT facilities offer an environment in which companies can begin in shared, communal workspaces and move, as they grow, into their own dedicated spaces.



Networking: Much of an ecosystem's vitality relies on the ability of entrepreneurs to interact and bond with each other, sharing their ideas and inspiring new ones. Networking events and organizations enable that to happen easily and frequently.



Stamford

- Comradity ■■■
- Ferguson Library ■■■
- LAUNCH ■
- rippowam.labs ■■
- Serendipity Labs ■■■■
- TechXel ■■■
- Workpoint ■

Bridgeport

- B*Hive ■■■■
- CTech/IncUBator (Univ. of Bridgeport) ■■■■
- Food'NBev Connect ■■
- SEEK ■

Hartford

- 224 Eco Space ■
- HYPE ■■■■
- Innovation Destination Hartford ■■■■
- MakeHartford ■■■■
- Makerspace CT ■■■■
- MetroHartford Alliance ■■■■
- reSET ■■■■
- Serendipity Labs ■■■■
- Think Synergy ■■
- Upward Hartford ■■■■



Storrs / Farmington

- NERAC Venture Incubator ■■■
- UConn/Peter J. Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation ■■
- UConn/Technology Incubation Program (TIP) ■■



Around CT

New Haven

- Collab ■■■■
- District ■■■■
- Greater New Haven Coworking ■
- Health Haven Hub ■■■
- Ives Squared ■
- Launch Haven ■
- newhaven.io ■
- The Refinery ■

BRANFORD

- ABCT/Accelerator for Biosciences in CT ■

DANBURY

- Danbury Hackerspace ■■

DERBY/NEW LONDON/STAMFORD

- Women's Business Development Council ■

FAIRFIELD

- SHU Innovation Space ■■

EAST HARTFORD

- CT Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) ■
- Connecticut Technology Council ■

GUILFORD

- Guilford Coworking ■

HAMDEN

- HEDCO ■■■■
- Whitneyville Cultural Commons ■■

MANCHESTER

- Workspace Manchester ■

MERIDEN

- NESIT ■

MIDDLETOWN

- The MEWS+ ■■

NEW BRITAIN

- CCSU/Institute of Technology & Business Development ■■■

NEW LONDON

- BioCT Innovation Commons ■■■
- Ignite/Thames River ■■■■

NEW MILFORD

- Makery Coworking ■■

NORWALK

- Fairfield County Makers Guild ■
- SONO Spaces ■

NORWICH

- Foundry 66 ■■

WALLINGFORD

- Hubcap Wallingford ■

WEST HARTFORD

- West Hartford Coworking ■■

WESTPORT

- Westport Innovation Hub ■■

REGUS COWORKING SPACES

- Multiple locations including: Berlin, Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, Rocky Hill

Web addresses (URLs) for all organizations are included in the alphabetical directory on pages 14 and 15.

Strengthening Key Industries

Connecticut has focused much of its support for new business development on five key industries: Bioscience, Information Technology, Health and Medical Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, and Financial and Insurance Technology (Fintech and Insurtech). These organizations and programs support emerging companies in those industries. CTNext funds or partners with those organizations/programs in bold.

Biosciences/Lifesciences

ABCT/Accelerator for Biosciences in CT

BioCT

BioCT Innovation Commons

Bioscience Facilities Fund (CT Innovations)

UConn/Technology Incubation Program (TIP)

Yale Center for Biomedical Innovation & Technology

Yale Office of Cooperative Research

IT/Technology

CCAT/Information Technology

CCSU/Institute for Technology & Business Development

CTech/IncUBator (Univ. of Bridgeport)

CTNext/SBIR Assistance

Connecticut Technology Council

Fintech/Insurtech

Hartford InsurTech Hub w. Startupbootcamp (Accelerator)

Nassau Re/Imagine InsurTech Incubator (Accelerator)

UConn School of Business/Financial (Accelerator)

Upward Hartford

Venture Clash

Health/Medicine/MedTech

Bridge Innovations

ConnStep

Health Haven Hub

Hartford MedTech Innovation District

UConn Technology Incubation Program (TIP)

Manufacturing

CCAT/Advanced Manufacturing Center

ConnStep

Naval & Maritime Consortium

Stanley & TechStars Additive

Manufacturing Accelerator

UConn Innovation Partnership Building

UConn/TechPark

Innovation Places

In 2016, CTNext named Hartford/East Hartford, New Haven, New London/Groton, and Stamford as the state's first four Innovation Places. These four hubs are receiving up to \$30 million from the state over a five-year period, the money to be used to leverage at least an equal amount of private funds, and the combined resources to support programs that will inspire entrepreneurs and new business development, particularly in tech-based, high-growth industries that have the greatest potential to create quality jobs and community improvement.



Hartford/East Hartford

Launched Hartford InsurTech Hub, a global business accelerator specifically for new companies with new technologies and business ideas for the insurance sector



New Haven

Established an East Coast branch of Silicon Valley's Holberton School, a two-year software engineering academy

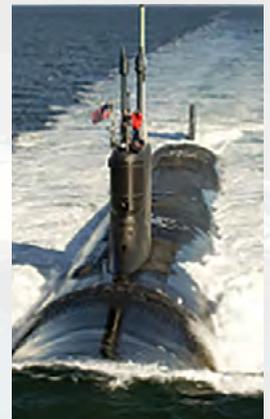
Stamford

Developing accelerators in digital media, data analytics and consumer products (e.g., food & beverage, biofashion)



New London/Groton

The Naval & Maritime Consortium, a network of companies working in the growing national undersea, maritime, and offshore wind supply chains, that collectively addresses challenges and shares solutions



Higher Education

CTNext's Higher Education Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund provides grants to support cooperative partnerships between colleges and universities with at least one of the following areas of strategic focus:

- Providing mentoring support for student and alumni entrepreneurs
- Promoting innovation and technology transfer in our key industries
- Development and retention of tech talent

Successful examples include:

Partnership for Innovation and Education (PIE)

UConn leads a seven-institution partnership that fosters education and innovation in bioscience and helps retain STEM graduates in Connecticut by engaging students in mentored bioscience research.

UConn Technology Commercialization Services

Leveraging current innovation infrastructure at UConn to create a multi-institution partnership (CCSU, SCSU, Univ. of Bridgeport and UConn) that helps commercialize intellectual property, promote entrepreneurship, support startups, and retain STEM graduates in Connecticut.

reSET Student Incubator

Wesleyan University teamed with Hartford-based reSET to develop an incubator where college students could develop their startup ideas through reSET's Professional Mentor Network.

Technology Talent Bridge

CTNext also manages Technology Talent Bridge (TTB), a program that provides grants to support internships for undergraduates in Connecticut's early-stage companies. In 2019, more than 70 companies were able to identify and hire highly skilled interns through TTB.

Talent Development and Retention

Numerous state and local agencies and organizations also offer skills development and education programs to help ensure that Connecticut's workforce is qualified for the jobs created by the growing innovation-based sector.

- CT Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT)
- CT's Community Colleges – multiple workforce development, training, and STEM education programs
- CTNext/Technology Talent Bridge
- Connecticut Technology Council
- CW Resources (for people with disabilities)
- District Innovation and Venture Center
- Holberton School/District
- Infosys Tech and Innovation Hub
- reSET Internship Program
- SAMA Hartford
- Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)
- State of CT Department of Labor
- UConn Stamford Internship Program



Capital/Financial

CTNext offers opportunities for **Direct Funding** assistance

Growth Company Grants – direct grants made to a small number of qualified early-stage companies that have demonstrated the ability to attract investment and have demonstrated high growth potential.

Entrepreneur Innovation Awards (EIA) – the state’s oldest and best-known pitch competition, held 2-3 times a year, awarding grants of \$10,000 to the company (or companies) that show the greatest promise of success.

Entrepreneur Learner’s Permit – a program providing first-time entrepreneurs up to \$1,500 in reimbursements for costs incurred by new information technology, biotechnology, or green technology companies.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) – CTNext and Connecticut Innovations provide assistance to companies applying for SBIR and STTR grants, including conference fees reimbursement and low-cost access to consultants.

Technology Talent Bridge – this internship grant program offers up to \$25,000 to enable small technology businesses to recruit undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students into their organizations.

In 2017, Connecticut ranked fourth among all states in local capital per venture-backed startup.

In the same year, foreign investors tripled their investment in early-stage Connecticut companies, during a period when that number was shrinking nationwide.



Additional Public Capital/ Financing Sources

***Other state, regional or municipal public capital
and financing sources include:***

- Bridgeport Community Capital Fund
- Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF)
- CT Community Investment Corporation (CTCIC)
- CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)
- Connecticut Innovations
- HEDCO
- seCTer/Southeast CT Economic Region
- Westport Innovation Hub
- Waterbury Development Corp.

Getting Smarter/Mentoring



In 2019, CTNext launched a new Mentor Network. This program offers early-stage companies access to more than 30 mentors with extensive experience and knowledge in all aspects of operations, management, and business development.

The Mentor Network roster continues to expand, and our goal is to provide services to a growing number of companies across the state. Companies that are interested in participating must apply and have a product or digital service already launched or in test, a significant value proposition, a large market opportunity, and a strong management team. We encourage companies with those capabilities to apply.

Program mentors work with select entrepreneurs to scale their business by validating their long-term visions, customer acquisition, and capital-raising strategies. Companies have the opportunity to get objective feedback and guidance on growing a company; to grow more knowledgeable about other resources, tools and programming; to become part of a community of like-minded people; and to increase network connections.



Other Mentor Sources

Connecticut has made major strides in increasing access to mentors with expertise in guiding a new company from seed to scalability.

Other mentoring sources include:

DECD Minority Business Initiative (statewide)
HEDCO
NERAC Venture Incubator
New Haven Office of Business Development
reSET (Hartford)
Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) (statewide)

SCORE (offices statewide)
TechXel (Stamford)
University of Connecticut
University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center
Women's Business Development Council (WBDC)

URL Directory

224 Eco Space	the224.org
ABCT/Accelerator for Biosciences in CT	abct.co
Accelerate UConn	accelerate.uconn.edu
Angel Investor Forum	angelinvestorforum.com
B*Hive	bhivebridgeport.com
BioCT	BioCT.org
BioCT Innovation Commons	bioctcommons.org
Bioscience Facilities Fund (CT Innovations)	ctinnovations.com
Blavatnik Fund for Innovation	blavatnik.ocr.yale.edu
Bridge Innovations	bridgeinnovations.com
Bridgeport Community Capital Fund	commcap.org
Bridgeport Innovation Center	bridgeportinnovationcenter.com
CCSU/Institute of Technology & Business Development	ccsu.edu/itbd
Collab	collabnewhaven.org
Community Economic Development Fund/CEDF	cedf.com
Comradity	comradity.com
Connecticut Innovations	ctinnovations.com
Connecticut Technology Council	ct.org
Connecticut's Community Colleges	ct.edu/initiatives/workforce
ConnStep	connstep.org
CT Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT)	ccat.us
CT Community Investment Corporation (CTCIC)	ciclending.com
CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD)	portal.ct.gov/DECD
CTech/IncUBator (Univ. of Bridgeport)	bridgeport.edu/research/entrepreneurship/incubator
CTNext	ctnext.com
CTNext Growth Company Grants	ctnext.com/growth-company-grants
CTNext Technology Talent Bridge	ctnext.com/technology-talent-bridge
CTNext Entrepreneur Innovation Awards	ctnext.com/entrepreneur-innovation-awards
CTNext Mentor Network	ctnext.com/mentoring-network
CTNext SBIR Assistance	ctnext.com/sbir
CW Resources	cwresources.org
Danbury Hackerspace	danburyhackerspace.com
District Innovation and Venture Center/New Haven	districtnhv.com/district-innovation-venture-center
District/New Haven	districtnhv.com
Elm City Innovation Collaborative (Innovation Places New Haven)	elmcityinnovationcollaborative.com
Fairfield County Makers Guild	fcmakers.com
Fairfield University Startup Accelerator & Incubator	fairfield.edu/startup

Ferguson Library	fergusonlibrary.org
Food'NBev Connect	foodnbevct.com
Foundry 66	foundry66.com/en
Greater New Haven Coworking	gnhcc.com
Guilford Coworking	guilfordcoworking.com
Hartford InsurTech Hub	hartfordinsurtechhub.com
Health Haven Hub	healthhavenhub.com
HEDCO	hedcoinc.com
Holberton School of Software Engineering	holbertonschool.com
Hubcap Wallingford	hubcapwallingford.org
HYPE	hypehartford.com
Ignite/Thames River	igniteThamesRiver.org
Infosys Hartford Tech and Innovation Hub	infosys.com/american-innovation/
Innovation Destination Hartford	innovationhartford.com
Innovation Partnership Building at UConn Tech Park	techpark.uconn.edu
Ives Squared	nhfpl.org/ives-squared
LAUNCH	businessfairfield.com
MakeHartford	makehartford.com
Makerspace CT	makerspacect.com
Makery Coworking	makerycoworking.com
MetroHartford Alliance	metrohartford.com
Nassau Re/Imagine InsurTech Incubator	nsre.com
Naval & Maritime Consortium	navalandmaritimeconsortium.com
NERAC Venture Incubator	nerac.com/the-nerac-incubator
NESIT	nesit.org
New Haven Office of Business Development	newhaventct.gov/gov/depts/obd/default.htm
New Haven Small Business Resource Center	newhaventct.gov/gov/depts/obd/small_business.htm
newhaven.io	newhaven.io
Regus Coworking Spaces	regus.com/coworking-space
reSET	resetco.org
reSET Internships Program	resetco.org/resource/internship/
rippowam labs	rippowamlabs.org
SAMA Hartford	samact.org
SCORE	score.org
seCTer/Southeast CT Economic Region	secter.org
SEEK	feedbridgeport.ccg.org/seek
Serendipity Labs	serendipitylabs.com
SHU Innovation Space	sacredheart.edu/aboutshu/newinnovativefacilities/verizonshuinnovationcenter/

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)	ctsfdc.com
SONO Spaces	sonospaces.com
Southern CT State University Biopath Initiative	southernct.edu/stem/biopath
Spark Makerspace	sparkmakerspace.org
SPARK/START Funds, UConn R&D	ovpr.uconn.edu/services/research-development
Stanley & Techstars Additive Manufacturing Accelerator	techstars.com/stanley-program
State of Connecticut Department of Labor	ctdol.state.ct.us
Tech Talent South	techtalentsouth.com
TechXel	techxelstamford.com
Thames River Innovation Place	thamesriverinnovation.org
The MEWS+	middlesexchamber.com/pages/mews
The Refinery	therefineryct.com
ThinkSynergy	thinksynergy.net
Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale	city.yale.edu
UConn Innovation Partnership Building UConn/TechPark	techpark.uconn.edu
UConn School of Business/Financial Accelerator	business.uconn.edu
UConn Stamford Internship Program	careercenter.stamford.uconn.edu/internships
UConn Technology Exchange Portal	innovation.uconn.edu
UConn/Peter J. Werth Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation	entrepreneurship.uconn.edu
UConn/Technology Incubation Program	tip.uconn.edu
University of Hartford Entrepreneurial Center	hartford.edu/ec
University of Hartford Microbusiness Incubator	hartford.edu/academics/schools-colleges/barney/about/centers-and-institutes/upper-albany-main-street.aspx
Upward Hartford	moveupward.city/hartford
VentureClash	ventureclash.com
Waterbury Development Corporation	wdconline.org
West Hartford Coworking	westhartfordcoworking.com
Westport Innovation Hub	westporthub.com
Whitney Cultural Commons	whitneyvilleculturalcommons.org
Women's Business Development Council/WBDC	ctwbdc.org
Workpoint	workpoint-stamford.com
Workspace Manchester	workspacemanchester.com
Yale Center for Biomedical Innovation & Technology	medicine.yale.edu/cbit
Yale Office of Cooperative Research	ocr.yale.edu
Yale/Science Park	scienceparknewhaven.org

Entrepreneur Innovation Awards (EIA).

A “shark-tank” style pitching competition, held 2-3 times per year.

Innovation Places. Planning and implementation grants for expanding entrepreneurship, business development and growth opportunity in four of Connecticut’s major metro areas: Hartford, New Haven, Stamford and Groton/New London.

Partner Grants. Direct funding for organizations with programs and ideas that can help promote entrepreneurial activity and expand innovation.

Growth Company Grants. Competitive grants for high-potential, growing companies that have been incorporated for no more than 10 years.

Higher Education Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative. This program deploys \$2 million each year for projects and initiatives that promote collaboration between colleges and universities for the purpose of increasing entrepreneurship, helping companies innovate, and attracting and retaining tech talent.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Acceleration and Commercialization Consultations. A program to help companies navigate through the complex phases of the federal SBIR/STTR program application process.

Technology Talent Bridge. This internship grant program offers up to \$25,000 to assist small technology businesses in bringing undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral students into their organizations.



www.ctnext.com

For more information about CTNext, Connecticut's innovation ecosystem, and how you can benefit from a free membership, visit www.ctnext.com, or call us at 860/563-5851.