



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

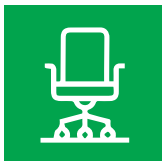
The foundation of Connecticut's entrepreneurial ecosystem is its community – the companies and their founders, but also the places where their ideas are born and nurtured, where entrepreneurs work, meet, exchange knowledge and expand on ideas, and where connections are made that will help their businesses 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.

A person in a white shirt is sitting at a desk, writing in a spiral notebook. The desk is cluttered with various documents, including a line graph showing an upward trend, a bar chart, and a document titled 'NOTES'. The background is a green gradient.

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 |

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| 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/ |

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| 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.