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ChicoSTART Receives Round 1 Notice of Intent as an Accelerate California Innovation Hub Designee

June 20, 2023 - Chico, CA: [ChicoSTART](https://www.chicostart.com) announces that they have been awarded a grant for the renewal of the *Accelerate California Inclusive Innovation Hub*. ChicoSTART is currently one of 7 CA GO-Biz iHubs awarded this designation in round one, representing 20+ counties by the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA).

“The Accelerate CA program will expand our initial work in developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem, getting resources to rural communities and really in supporting the whole north far north in key industry sectors with a strong outreach focus on diverse founders, including women and people of color, and in underserved geographics and regions. Entrepreneurship is the engine of economic empowerment and we exist to help remove the barriers and this empowers us to continue this work.” - **Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart.**

CalOSBA's Program goals include:

- Build an equitable and inclusive innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in underserved regions of the state **focused on diversity, equity and inclusion.**

- **Drive inclusive economic growth** and increase opportunities for emerging industries focused on the growth of green industries and health sector jobs.
- **Close the private investment gaps** when it comes to raising seed capital for research and development for diverse founders by leveraging the Accelerate CA ecosystem which will include strategic investment partners.
- **Grow the number of small businesses and innovation startups** using technology as a tool to solve industry problems in a specific region.
- Help accelerate an inclusive and just **transition to clean energy and renewable energy, clean technology, and clean agriculture** with a focus on diverse founders.
- **Build a strong infrastructure** for the commercialization of new and innovative products in the state of California developed by diverse founders.
- **Increase the number of social enterprises in the small business and startup ecosystem** focused on producing positive environmental and social impacts and bringing the most innovative solutions to scale.

Interested in learning more about ChicoSTART entrepreneurial resources, programs or the Accelerated Inclusive Innovation Hub? Contact Eva Shepherd-Nicoll at eva@chicostart.com.

In April 2022, Chicostart was 1 of 10 designees awarded the statewide iHUB2 grant from CalOSBA. Chicostart's iHUB2 designation covers over 20+ counties in Northern California, focusing on building the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem for equitable access to entrepreneurial resources with inclusive ecosystem expansion into our rural and diverse communities. This renewal, Chicostart is 1 of 7 initial designees and includes expanding Chicostart's growTECH and entrepreneurial initiative throughout the region.

About Chicostart: Chicostart supports and enriches Northern California's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem by providing small business, entrepreneurs and startups the resources they need to succeed. Our platform includes shared office amenities, mentoring, workshops, internships, tech talks, student to business projects, entrepreneurial events, satellite office programs, and anything else that helps our core mission of helping startups succeed. As a GO-BIZ iHub for the Far North, the Chicostart ecosystem includes but is not limited to investors, technologists, entrepreneurs, students, educators, local businesses, agencies and mentors.

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