



CHICOSART ANNOUNCES NEW RESOURCES AMIDST COVID-19

Chicostart is pleased to announce they have access to more financial tools for startups and small businesses by being a part of the NorCal SBDC Finance Center. NorCal SBDC Finance Center is headquartered in Humboldt, CA. Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director at Chicostart, is also a Regional Advisor for the NorCal SBDC Finance Center. As such, this allows access and support for 36 counties in Northern California. This designation increases consistency with financial institutions, lenders, and economic development corporations for startups and small businesses.

"Having this NorCal SBDC Finance Center designation really enables more direct financial assistance for the NorCal region and for our community," says Shepherd-Nicoll. "We are so grateful for this, especially in the time of COVID-19 and the direct access to disaster program assistance that is also available directly to our region."

The resources the center has provided the Chico community speaks for itself.

"When I heard that Chicostart had SBDC Finance Center resources, we contacted them right away," says Chuck Nadeau, CEO of MCFiber Solutions. "This gave us access to program info, tools, and lenders to help our small business get the financial support it needs during this pandemic. We feel like we can take a small sigh of relief during this challenging time."

Chicostart has been able to aid local businesses, including B Street Public house, located in the heart of downtown Chico.

“We, like so many other businesses, were left to figure out this new world we are in now,” says Will Brady, CEO of Mad Raven and owner of B Street Public House. “We were floundering and having no luck finding aid. Chicostart pointed us in the right direction and got us in touch with the right people. We have since through their guidance, secured funding to ensure we will be here after this all passes. Without them, it is fair to say my three businesses could have easily shuttered,” The Banshee, and Bills’ Town Lounge restaurants.

About Chicostart:

Chicostart supports Northern California’s entrepreneurs by providing startup businesses the ecosystem resources they need to succeed. In the past 5 years, over 80 startups and 135 jobs have been created. The organization launched at the end of 2013 to nurture the entrepreneurial community and jumpstart industry-to-industry economic development. Chicostart supports economic development for the entire entrepreneurial community in the North State through being a delegate for GoBIZ, SBDC and being a Global Entrepreneur Network chapter a StartupGrind chapter; accelerator candidates at NIST, Tech Future Group and OCEANS, and initiatives with CSUChico, Butte College, UCDavis, Blue Tech Valley, CleanStart, TheVINE, and AgStart as well as our commitment to growTECH, bringing capital investment resources and participation across multiple industry partnerships and 1 Million Cups Chico.