

Round 2 Grant Awards



**Detroit
Startup
Fund**

The Detroit Startup Fund is designed to help grow Detroit's innovation economy by supporting high-potential, venture-backable technology startups based in the city.

Thirteen \$15,000 Seed grants have been awarded to support early-stage companies. Three \$50,000 Scale grants have been awarded to companies that have demonstrated market traction and are actively raising additional private capital.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

- Mayor Mary Sheffield
- City of Detroit
- DEGC

\$50,000 Scale Recipients

Constrat AI

Justin Turk, CEO

Information Technology and Software

Constrat is a Detroit-based construction fintech company building an AI-powered operating platform for trade contractors - Centralizing job cost, accounting, and ops data to deliver bonding, profitability insight and stronger capital positioning.

HAAS Alert

Hussein Zaarour, VP of Business Development - Connected Vehicles

Automotive Services and Mobility

HAAS Alert is the leader in connected vehicle and vehicle-to-everything (V2X) safety technology. The company operates the industry's most comprehensive digital alerting platform, connecting millions of vehicles with critical real-time hazard info.



Contact Our Team | startupfund@degc.org

Total Analysis

Darrell Marshall, CEO

Healthcare and Medical Services

Total Analysis helps food processors and healthcare providers prevent infectious disease outbreaks through rapid, on-site testing tools. Total Analysis delivers results in minutes, with no limitations on particular pathogens.

\$15,000 Seed Recipients

Bhadala

Farai Gundan, Founder & CEO

Information Technology and Software

Bhadala is a Detroit-based mobility startup building MyRide Wallet. MyRide Wallet unifies public transit payments into one digital wallet with transferable fare subsidies. We expand job access, reduce payment friction, & strengthen regional mobility.

Ciyfr Inc.

Madala Mathurin, Founder & CEO

Healthcare and Medical Services

Ciyfr is an AI-powered workforce intelligence platform that helps health systems predict nurse fatigue, turnover risk, and financial loss before they happen.

EdLoop

Christopher Waston, Founder

Information Technology and Software

EdLoop is a K-12 feedback platform that helps teachers share timely narrative feedback with students and families and gives school leaders real-time visibility into classroom instruction across their building. EdLoop saves teachers 5+ hours per week.



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Electric Outdoors

Josef Hjelmaker CEO
Energy and Utilities

Electric Outdoors builds modular, off-grid field infrastructure that integrates clean energy systems and AI-powered software into a single platform. The system is designed to scale across outdoor recreation, government, and enterprise use cases.

Penny Pickup

Meaghan Kennedy Chief Strategy Officer
Transportation and Logistics

Penny Pickup is a SaaS micromobility logistics platform enabling zero-emission transport across urban districts. Its marketplace connects movement demand with micromobility vehicles, reducing costs and replacing inefficient truck based movement.

POGO

Arabia Simeon Founder, CEO
Information Technology and Software

POGO reimagines civic engagement for Gen Z and Millennials. Our Tinder-inspired web app activates the new electorate to build a weekly civic habit while powering real-time insights campaigns, orgs, and governments use to reach and understand them.

Reyz

Tamika Mayes, Founder
Manufacturing and Fabrication

Reyz is a Detroit-based advanced textile technology company commercializing engineered knit apparel and products. Our first commercial product is a comfort bra for daily wear and recovery. Designed in Detroit, made in the USA.



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Roundhere.io

Matthew Burnett, CEO

Professional and Business Services

RoundHere.io is a digital platform that connects entrepreneurs, service providers, coworking spaces, enterprises, and ecosystem partners in one place. It helps founders discover events, experts, grants, funding opportunities, and educational resource.

Shophand

Margarita Barry Founder, CEO

Information Technology and Software

Shophand is a Detroit-based platform bridging the digital divide by equipping under-resourced small businesses with AI & human Shophand “employees,” smart tools, and capital access while creating pathways into AI-enabled careers for future Shophands.

Spanish SWAG

Jessica Feliz, Owner & Lead Educator

Childcare and Education Services

Jessie Feliz Learning Center provides culturally responsive learning programs for youth. Its flagship curriculum, Spanish SWAG, delivers interactive, multisensory Spanish instruction that helps schools and after-school programs address world language

Round 1 Scale Recipients - \$50,000

CircNova

AI-Driven circRNA Design

JustAir

Comprehensive air quality management software

Motmot

Robotic system-wide, water main inspection



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Round 1 Seed Recipients - \$15,000

Boone Productions

Dats Law Games

Goodpluck

Fluoroscreen

Lectric Boil

Neuomo

R.U.S.H

Spelling Safari

Stock Pal

Thermoverse

