Department of Economic & Community Development

Startups Step Up

Maine DECD is activating Maine's startup and early-stage technology companies in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

In collaboration with Village Capital and the Sorenson Impact Foundation, we are identifying Maine startup companies with a product or service that may help in the response to the COVID-19 disaster in a variety of ways beyond immediate medical needs that are the focus of the MEMA COVID-19 Response Team, including economic disruption and recovery.

Does your startup have a solution that could be adapted to help Mainers or others during the COVID-19 Emergency? Would working directly with the State of Maine help you pay it forward? Would additional investment allow it to be adapted or scaled? We want to know about it. Please use this link to either complete or update a profile in Abaca to be considered a part of the COVID-19 Coalition Startup pipeline - https://my.abaca.app/?a=COVID19.

Working with Village Capital, we are building a list of startup companies actively responding to the COVID-19 crisis, along with a coalition of investors outside Maine who are actively looking for new opportunities. Abaca is the platform we are using to gather your information and share it with investors. It will also allow you to benchmark your investment readiness and find matching sources of capital and other resources. Already have an Abaca account? Log in to your profile, and then go to the link above. The Sorenson Impact Foundation is bringing its impact investor network to the table without geographic boundaries as part of the COVID-19 Coalition.

This national collaboration with Village Capital and the Sorenson Impact Foundation is identifying companies Responding to the crisis (the company is responding directly to issues caused or exacerbated by COVID-19), improving Recovery to the crisis (the venture is positions to support in the recovery of groups directly affected by COVID-19), or improving Resilience to the outbreak (the venture is working on improving the broader infrastructure to improve the region's resilience to outbreaks like COVID-19).

In the coming days, we will continue to compile information and build on this initial effort, but a first critical step is to complete your Abaca profile to be considered for the COVID-19 Coalition startup pipeline.

Questions? Contact Martha Bentley, martha.m.bentley@maine.gov
Technical assistance with Abaca? Contact Sean Siegrist, sean@vilcap.com

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