Central Florida Cluster Initiative

Cenfluence℠

Regional Resource Guide



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Regional Resources

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Advent Health Nicholson
Center Daytona State College
Disney Institute
Embry-Riddle University
FloRDA
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Polytechnic
Full Sail University
Game Dev Knights
General Assembly Orlando
Rollins College
Seminole State College Stetson
University
The Dave School
University of Central Florida
University of Florida University
of South Florida Valencia
College

CO-WORKING SPACES

CredoConduit
Guidewell Innovation Center
Headquarters Co-Working
Industrious Co-Working
OMG Labs
Pipeline Co-Working
Venture X Co-Working

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Central Florida DevelopmentCouncil
Downtown Orlando Partnership
Duke Energy Economic Development
Elevate Lake, Lake County EDO
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Florida Economic Development Council
Florida High Tech Corridor
GrowFL
Orlando Economic Partnership
Prospera
Seminole EDC
Space Coast EDC
Space Florida
The Florida Chamber Foundation

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS

4Roots FarmCampus
35Mules Innovation Hub
Ascendus
Black Orlando Tech
Blackstone Launchpad
Central Florida Tech Grove
Embarc Collective
Entrepreneurs Alliance Orlando
Florida UCF Small Business Development Center Florida-
Israel Business Accelerator
Groundswell Startups
Innovate Orlando
National Association of Women Business Owners (Orlando)
National Entrepreneurship Center (NEC)
Rally Social Accelerator
StarterStudio
Synapse
UCF Business Incubation Program
Venture Scale Up
Veterans Entrepreneurship Initiative
weVENTURE

FUNDING + INVESTMENT FIRMS

America'sSeed Fund
Arsenal Growth
Arsenal Healthcare
Black Business Initiative Fund
Calano Funds
Central Florida Foundation
DeepWork Capital

Regional Resources

Florida HighTech Corridor MatchingGrantsResearch Program
Florida Opportunity Fund
Florida Venture Forum
GoVo Partners
Inflexion Partners
Kirenaga
Lake Nona Sports and Health Tech Fund
New World Angels
PS27 Ventures
Seed Funders Orlando
StartUp Nation Ventures
Tavistock
Waterfall Ventures

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

Autonomous Florida
BioFlorida
Central Florida US Green Building Council (USGBC)
Energy Florida
Florida Medical Manufacturers Association
Florida Photonics Cluster
Indienomicon
Manufacturers Association of Central Florida
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy National Center for Simulation
Orlando VR/AR Association
SIM CFL

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

Central Florida International Trade Office
Consular Corps
U.S Commercial Service

MEETUPS

1 Million Cups - Orlando
Downtown Orlando UX (DOUX)
Lean Startup Orlando
Odevs
Orlando IoT
Orlando Lady Developers
Orlando Python User Group
Orlando Unity Developers Group
Startup Grind Orlando
The Guild of Independent Game Developers
Women in Defense - Central Florida Chapter

RESEARCH CENTERS + INNOVATION LABS

BRIDG
Center for Advanced Turbomachinery and Energy Research
Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA at UCF)
Florida Solar Energy Center (UCF)
Institute for Simulation & Training (IST)
Orlando Health Strategic Innovations
Orlando Veteran's Health Care System Innovation Specialists
Siemens Orlando Innovation Center
Space Life Sciences Lab
Verizon 5G Innovation Hub

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

CareerSource Brevard
CareerSource Central Florida
CareerSource Florida

OTHER

Creative Village
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council
FloridaMakes
Greater Orlando Sports Commission
Lake Nona Impact Forum
NASA Tech Transfer Program
Orlando Science Center
Team Orlando
The Orange County Convention Center
Visit Orland

AdventHealth Nicholson Center

https: //www.nicholsoncenter.com

Advent Health Nicholson Center is a 54,000-square-foot advanced medical learning facility is located 25 minutes south of downtown Orlando on the Celebration Health campus. They offer training on 50 Surgical & Clinical Skills Stations (DaVinci, Lap, Open and Ortho)and a multi-specialty, state- of-the-art equipment inventory. Our two team- training Operating Rooms are designed as a mock OR setup to closely emulate real-world experiences.

Academic Institutions

DaytonaState College

https: //www.daytonastate.edu/

Daytona State College, a comprehensive public college, provides access to a range of flexible programs from community enrichment to the baccalaureate degree, emphasizing student success, embracing excellence and diversity, as well as fostering innovation to enhance teaching and learning.

Academic Institutions

Disney Institute

https: //www.disneyinstitute.com

For more than three decades, Disney Institute has been helping to advise and train a variety of professionals, teams, and organizations worldwide based on the business insights and best practices of Disney parks and resorts. Leverage their expertise to enhance your organization's customer experience.

Academic Institutions

Embry-Riddle University

https: //erau.edu/research/industr y-collaboration/research-park

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is a Florida Private Aeronautical university with seven primary fields of study: Applied Science, Aviation, Computers& Technology, Safety/Security/Intelligence, Space, Business, and Engineering. It is the largest accredited university system specializing in aviation and aerospace.

Academic Institutions

F loRDA

https://florda.org

The Florida Research Development Alliance (FloRDA) consists of research development professionals and administrators from Florida universities, colleges and other institutions engaged in research. FloRDA members share best practices and facilitate collaborations with their institution's research faculty in order to foster multi- and interdisciplinary research efforts within the State of Florida.

Academic Institutions

Florida InstituteofTechnology

https://www.fit.edu/

Florida Institute of Technology is a private, coeducational, residential, research-intensive, doctoral-granting university located in the beautiful City of Melbourne on Florida's sunny "Space Coast." Established in 1958, the university comprises four academic colleges: Engineering & Science, Aeronautics, Psychology & Liberal Arts, and Business.

Academic Institutions

Florida Polytechnic

https: //floridapoly.edu/

Located in Lakeland, the heart of Florida's High Tech Corridor, Florida Poly provides cutting-edge degree programs that prepare graduates to take on today's fastest-growing fields. Our mission at Florida Poly is to serve students and industry through excellence in education, discovery, and application of engineering and applied sciences.

Academic Institutions

Full Sail University

https://www.fullsail.edu/

Located in Winter Park, Florida, Full Sail University (a for profit university) offersassociate, bachelor's, and master's degrees designedfor the world of entertainment, media, arts, and technology. Full Sail'screative approach toeducation providesan immersive, fast-paced, and relevant learning experiencethat mirrorsthe workflowand collaboration found throughout today'srapidly evolving industries.

Academic Institutions

GameDev Knights

https: //www.gamedevknights.com/

GDK is UCF's official game development club, welcoming students of all skill levels. With over 1,200 active Discord members, the club offers workshops, game jams, networking events, and hands-on opportunities to develop game development skills. Members can access exclusive tools, resources, and showcases, while connecting with a community whose alumni have pursued careers in AAA, indie, and serious games.

Academic Institutions

General Assembly Orlando

https: //generalassemb.ly/locations/orlando

General Assembly is a pioneer in education and career transformation, specializing in today's most in-demand skills. The leading source for training, staffing, and career transitions, we foster a flourishing community of professionals pursuing careers they love.

Academic Institutions

Rollins College

https://www.rollins.edu/

Rollins College educates students for global citizenship and responsible leadership, empowering graduates to pursue meaningful lives and productive careers. We are committed to the liberal arts ethos and guided by its values and ideals. Our guiding principles are excellence, innovation, and community.

Academic Institutions

SeminoleState College

https: //www.seminolestate.edu/

Seminole State College of Florida is one of the nation's fastest growing colleges. Seminole State College of Florida is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees.

Academic Institutions

Stetson University

https: //www.stetson.edu/

Founded in 1883, Stetson University is a nationally ranked private university with four colleges and schools located across the I-4 corridor in Central Florida.

Academic Institutions

The Dave School

https: //dave.nuc.edu/

The Digital Animation & Visual Effects (DAVE) School was founded on June 8, 2000, by two Industry executives looking to create Career Ready artists with practical animation skills. The DAVE School is located on the backlot of Universal Studios Florida. Their 18,000 square foot facility includes learning and interactive labs, a dedicated Virtual and Real-Time production stage, a Vicon motion capture system, 3D printing and VR/AR labs.

Academic Institutions

University of Central Florida

https://www.ucf.edu/

Founded in 1963 to fuel the region's talent pipeline and support the growing U.S. space program, the University of Central Florida (UCF) is built to make a better future for students and society. It's one of the reasons U.S. News & World Report ranks UCF among the nation's top 20 most innovative colleges, while Forbes, Kiplinger, and The Princeton Review rank them as a best-value university.

Academic Institutions

University of Florida

https://www.ufl.edu/

At the University of Florida, they are a people of purpose. They're committed to challenging convention and themselves. They see things not as they are, but as they could be. And strive for a greater impact: one measured in people helped and lives improved. With facilities in all 67 counties in Florida, working together to help local farmers and economies grow and thrive.

Academic Institutions

University of South Florida

https://www.usf.edu/

The University of South Florida is a public research university with its main campus located in Tampa, Florida; and other campuses in St. Petersburg and Sarasota. It is one of 12 members of the State University System of Florida. A Preeminent Research University located in the heart of Tampa Bay, the University of South Florida is dedicated to empowering students to maximize their potential for lifelong success.

Academic Institutions

Valencia College

https://valenciacollege.edu/

Valencia College has become an innovative leader in higher education with a reputation for student success. Through a welcoming learning environment and a focus on improving student outcomes, they provide an affordable, quality education to all who apply.

Academic Institutions

CREDO Conduit

https: //www.credoconduit.com/

The CREDO Conduit society, is an interdisciplinary society made up of individuals and companies who believe their lives and work get better when they come alongside each other. CREDO Conduit regularly convenes groups around the areas of education, tech, journalism, art, creative services, and civic engagement. We also provide individuals and companies with a membership-based collaborative workspace.

Co-Working Spaces

Guidewell InnovationCenter

https: //guidewellinnovation.com/our-space/

The GuideWell Innovation Center is a 30,000 sq/ft hub that provides state-of-the-art coworking and event venue space for innovators and stakeholders across the health spectrum. Located in Orlando's Lake Nona's Medical City, a prominent health sciences cluster that includes some of the nation's top hospitals, universities, research institutions, and consumer health companies.

Co-Working Spaces

Headquarters Co-Working

https: //www.coworkingatheadquarters.com/

Headquarters Coworking is a coworking space in Kissimmee, perfect for startups, new businesses looking for assistance, employees of larger companies looking for a place to land, and remote workers. Located in the heart of Historic Downtown Kissimmee, the campus houses a community of entrepreneurs looking to make their mark.

Co-Working Spaces

Industrious Orlando

https: //w w w.industriousoffice.com/l /orlando/orlando/ 300-sout h- orange -ave

This stunning workspace is just steps from Church Street Station and Lake Eola Park — putting you in arm's reach of the city's world-class dining and entertainment. Located in the 300 S. Orange Building, our office offers best-in-class services and amenities, lush interiors, and panoramic views of Orlando.

Co-Working Spaces

OMG Labs

https: //www.omglabs.pro/

Orlando Media and Gaming Laboratory (OMG Labs) is a growing Coworking Space located in the heart of Orlando and designed to meet the needs of our community of entrepreneurs and innovators. Our stunning, modern coworking spaces offer a variety of plans for individuals or small businesses. Equipped with a wide range of services and high-speed internet, our offices are the perfect venue for brainstorming, networking and learning.

Co-Working Spaces

Pipeline Co-Working

https: //pipelineworkspaces.com/locations/orlando/

Pipeline is located in the heart of Downtown Orlando, just two blocks from Lake Eola, and surrounded by the dining and shopping of Thornton Park, South Eola and the Central Business District. On-site parking and immediate access to the I-4 and 408 East-West Expressway open your business up to clients from across the region, as well as one of the most diverse and skilled labor pools in the country.

Co-Working Spaces

VentureX Co-Working

https: //venturex.com/locations/downtown-orlando/

Venture X Downtown Orlando offers everything you want in a flexible workspace. Require a dedicated desk or a private office? We have what you need to be the most productive and efficient at work. When you need a break, take advantage of our beautiful community space designed for professionals like you! You and your team will love working here.

Co-Working Spaces

Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and EducationConference

https: //www.iitsec.org/

Held annually in Orlando, I/ITSEC is the world's largest modeling, simulation, and training event. Organized by the National Training & Simulation Association (NTSA), the conference features technical presentations, workshops, exhibits, serious games competitions, and STEM activities. It promotes collaboration across modeling, simulation, training, education, and related industries.

Conference

Central Florida Development Council

https: //www.cfdc.org/

Central Florida Development Council (CFDC) is Polk County's Economic Development Partnership as designated by the Polk County Board of County Commissioners. The organizational pillars of the CFDC are: Promote Polk County as Florida's best place for business, advocate for key business issues, facilitate collaborative partnerships and advance strategic initiatives.

Economic Development Organizations

Downtown Orlando Partnership

https: //www.doporlando.com/

The mission of the Downtown Orlando Partnership is to enhance business and community relationships through collaborative events and initiatives. The mission of the Downtown Orlando Partnership is to serve the interests of our business members and foster their growth.

Economic Development Organizations

Duke Energy Economic Development

https://www.duke-energy.com/partner-with-us/economic-development/florida

Duke's Economic Development team is dedicated to your project's success from start to finish with an early preview of power intensive sites and buildings for specific industries, competitive rates and incentives, sustainable energy solutions, site visits and stakeholder alignment.

Economic Development Organizations

Elevate Lake, LakeCounty EDO

https: //elevatelake.com/

The Lake County Office of Elevate Lake is an office of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners. With a mission to aggressively retain, attract and grow jobs in Lake County, we are relentlessly focused on being the most proactive county in Florida for economic development and business-friendly practices.

Economic Development Organizations

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

https://www.floridajobs.org/

In collaboration with their partners, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity assists the Governor in advancing Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and by administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, citizens, businesses, and communities.

Economic Development Organizations

Florida Economic Development Council

https://www.fedconline.org/

The Florida Economic Development Council is the professional association of economic, workforce, and community developers. These professionals work in Florida's 67 counties, 400+ cities, 24 workforce regions, 28 colleges, 12 universities, as well as utilities, ports, airports, and industrial authorities.

Economic Development Organizations

Florida High Tech Corridor

https: //floridahightech.com/

The Florida High Tech Corridor (The Corridor) is an economic development initiative of three of the country's largest research institutions: University of Central Florida, University of South Florida and University of Florida. Our mission is to grow high tech industry – and the workforce to support it – in a 23-county region spanning the state. We facilitate collaborations between partners in academia, industry and economic development to create communities with unlimited potential.

Economic Development Organizations

GrowFL

https://growfl.com/

GrowFL is dedicated to support and accelerate the growth of second-stage companies throughout Florida, by providing their leaders with focused, efficient, and timely access to resources they deem important. Programs provide connections with other second-stage company leaders, and to professional organizations whose expertise, experience, and products lead to the second-stage company's continued growth.

Economic Development Organizations

Orlando Economic Partnership

https://orlando.org/

The Orlando Economic Partnership is a public-private, not-for-profit economic and community development organization. The Partnership represents seven counties in Central Florida, including the City of Orlando, and hundreds of the region's top private businesses. The Orlando Tech Community is a group of private industry, resource organizations, and public partners.

Economic Development Organizations

Prospera

https://prosperausa.org/

Prospera is an economic development, nonprofit organization specialized in providing bilingual assistance to Hispanic entrepreneurs trying to establish or expand their business. Prospera empowers Hispanic entrepreneurs through training, support and resources so their businesses can grow and prosper.

Economic Development Organizations

Seminole EDC

https: //www.seminolecountyfl.gov/

Seminole County Economic Development is dedicated to supporting local business. The County's Economic Strategy recognizes the importance of business retention. Through utilization of our in-house resources, the County's Economic Development Department is uniquely positioned to help local businesses meet their economic objectives.

Economic Development Organizations

Space Coast EDC

https: //spacecoastedc.org/

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, a community coalition, is the official economic development organization for Brevard County. The Economic Development Commission is committed to helping businesses locate and expand on Florida's Space Coast. The EDC works collaboratively to support companies in their exploration of Florida's Space Coast with the goal of attracting and growing quality businesses.

Economic Development Organizations

Space Florida

https://www.spaceflorida.gov/

Space Florida was created through the State to strengthen Florida's position as a global leader in aerospace research, investment, exploration, and commerce. As Florida's aerospace economic development organization, we are committed to attracting and expanding the next generation of space industry businesses.

Economic Development Organizations

The Florida Chamber Foundation

https: //www.flchamber.com/foundation

The Florida Chamber Foundation leads Florida in future-focused research and continues to be a catalyst for positive change. By 2030, Florida will add five million more residents. Are the roads and bridges ready? Will there be enough clean water, enough energy capacity, and enough infrastructure to guarantee vibrant and sustainable communities throughout the state?

Economic Development Organizations

4Roots Farm Campus

https: //www.4rootsfarm.org/

4Roots is an alliance of community stakeholders investing in a healthy, thriving, sustainable, food system. Our key initiative is the 4Roots Farm Campus which is being developed in the heart of Orlando to serve as a community crossroads where individuals and organizations can work together to build solutions for a better food future.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

35Mules Innovation Hub

https://35mules.com/

35 Mules is the first innovation program backed by a global leader in innovation and powered by the hardest working solutions in energy. 35 mules were part of the unlikely beginnings of Florida Power & Light Company and NextEra Energy, a world leader in wind and solar energy, and battery storage.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Ascendus

https: //www.ascendus.org/

Ascendus, formerly Accion East, empowers low-to moderate-income (LMI) business owners with access to capital and financial education. With economic opportunity, these entrepreneurs – often individuals of color and women – can build assets, better provide for their families, create employment opportunities for their neighbors, and strengthen their communities.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

BlackOrlando Tech

https://blackorlandotech.org/

Black Orlando Tech (BOT) is a non-profit organization committed to accelerating economic advancement through workforce, small business, and socioeconomic development by increasing the awareness, activities, network, and resources for local minorities who pursue careers or entrepreneurship in technology.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Blackstone Launchpad

https: //cel.ucf.edu/launchpad/

The Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars network makes entrepreneurship accessible and relevant for all college students, regardless of their background, starting point, or future plans.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Central Florida Tech Grove

https: //www.centralfloridatechgrove.org/

The Naval Air Warfare Center Training System Division (NAWCTSD) and the University of Central Florida (UCF) Research Foundation have partnered to stand up the Central Florida Tech Grove (CFTechGrove). Tech Grove is a physical and virtual space based in the Central Florida Research Park and designed to help the government and the modeling, simulation, and training and human performance industry collaborate.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Embarc Collective

https: //www.embarccollective.com/

Embarc Collective helps Florida's startup talent build bold, scalable and thriving companies.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Entrepreneurs Alliance Orlando

https: //entrepreneursallianceorlando.com/

The Entrepreneurs Alliance of Orlando (EAO) carries out its mission to build Investment Grade Companies (IGCs) by partnering with promising companies in search of a means to increase their reach and scale. Our team of business professionals provides guidance and mentorship to aspiring CEOs through inspiring events, educational tools and resources, and sharing keys to local success stories.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Florida UCF Small Business Development Center

https: //sbdcorlando.com/

The Florida Small Business Development Center at the University of Central Florida (FSBDC at UCF), is located in the National Entrepreneur Center inside the Orlando Fashion Square Mall and provides business seminars and no-cost one-on-one business consulting for small business owners. The FSBDC at UCF serves an eight-county area that includes Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia counties.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Florida-Israel Business Accelerator

https://www.fiba.io/

The Florida-Israel Business Accelerator (FIBA) is a business development program designed to establish and grow successful, high-growth tech ventures in Florida. We do this by researching and vetting tech startups in six key industries (Health, Tourism/Hospitality/Transport, Urban, Sports and Agriculture).

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Groundswell Startups

https://swellstartups.com/

Groundswell connects high-tech founders with a diverse pool of pro-bono mentors - experts in intellectual property, manufacturing, human resources, product and business development. Mentors in the network dedicate a few hours of support to the network each month and agree not to sell to or take equity in a company as part of a formal mentor agreement.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Innovate Orlando

https://innovateorlando.io/

Innovate Orlando is propelling Central Florida's legacy of engineering breakthroughs into a new era of growth and recognition. From training engineers for the Space Race to pioneering immersive experiences and simulation, this region has always been a proving ground for what's next.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

National Association of Women Business Owners (Orlando)

https: //nawboorlando.org/

NAWBO Orlando supports the economic empowerment and success of women business owners in Central Florida. As a 5-Star Award recipient, the organization strengthens women entrepreneurs through business development, strategic partnerships, advocacy, and initiatives that promote economic growth and influence public policy.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

National Entrepreneurship Center (NEC)

https://nationalec.org/

The National Entrepreneur Center (NEC) is a center dedicated to the development, growth, and success of small businesses. Through a cooperative effort of a diverse group of organizatons, NEC offers access to professional business assistance, quality educational programming, and practical industry expertise.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Rally Social Accelerator

https: //cffound.org/engaging-community/rally/

Rally: The Social Enterprise Accelerator connects entrepreneurs with resources, funding, and mentors to help them build their ideas into self-sustainable ventures that solve pressing community issues. This initiative helps non-profits and for-profits alike in the early stages of product or business development to advance a business model that achieves a double bottom line.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

StarterStudio

https://www.starterstudio.org/

StarterStudio is a 501(c)(3) that works with partners throughout Central Florida to strengthen the tech startup ecosystem and to elevate the region in the eyes of investors, educating them about the advantages of investing locally in tech startup companies. The combination of educational programming, industry-specific and startup-specific mentoring, makes StarterStudio a unique and powerful asset to the economic development of the region.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Synapse

https://synapsefl.com/orlando/

Synapse Florida is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that connects entrepreneurs, investors, and other stakeholders to accelerate success in Florida's thriving economies. Synapse Connect is a platform that connects entrepreneurs, investors, corporations, service providers, governments, and more. Synapse Challenges is a form of crowdsourcing that solves problems within the innovation community.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

UCF Business Incubation Program

https://incubator.ucf.edu/

The UCF Business Incubation Program is an economic development effort designed to help create & sustain jobs in the community and spur economic growth throughout the region. This goal is accomplished by helping early-stage businesses grow to the point where they need to hire employees in order to continue operating and growing.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

Veterans Entrepreneurship Initiative

https://www.vei.center/

Since 2013, the Veterans Entrepreneurship Initiative has helped veterans realize and leverage those skills in an entrepreneurial setting. Whether you're a veteran looking to explore an idea for a potential business or need help scaling your existing company, our mission is to empower and support veteran entrepreneurs through business guidance, education and mentorship.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

weVENTURE

https: //weventure.fit.edu/

weVENTURE offers a wide range of programs and services to support the economic prosperity of the community through the growth of small businesses. They offer a customized business mentoring program called IGNITE 360, business coaching and one-on-one counseling sessions, business education workshops, technical assistance, and networking opportunities.

Entrepreneur Support Organizations

America's SeedFund

https: //sbir.gov

Federal innovation, scientific achievement, and diverse entrepreneurship through small business innovation and research. Through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, America's Seed Fund awards non-dilutive funding to develop your technology and chart a path toward commercialization. The federal government invests in your solution and gives you the freedom to run your business according to your vision.

Funding + Investment Firms

Arsenal Growth

https: //arsenalgrowth.com/

Arsenal makes investments into software businesses with $5 million to $20 million in recurring revenues that target large markets, have world-class teams, and have founders that share our desire to build enduring value. They are attracted to high growth, recurring revenue technology.

Funding + Investment Firms

Arsenal Healthcare

https: //www.arsenalcapital.com/healthcare

At Arsenal Capital (Healthcare), the combination of advances in biomedical science and information technology provides a unique opportunity to build transformative companies. Their approach is rooted in bringing together deep market insights and scientific, clinical, and technological expertise.

Funding + Investment Firms

BlackBusiness Investment Fund

https://bbif.com/

Black Business Initiative Fund (BBIF) is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), private non-profit loan fund that specializes in providing loans and financial technical assistance services to Black, minority & underserved small businesses throughout Florida.

Funding + Investment Firms

Calano Funds

https: //www.calanofunds.com/

Calano invests in people, teams, and founders. They are strategic investors who get hands-on with teams. They happily co-invest with other collaborators. They are previous founders investing in phenomenal teams.

Funding + Investment Firms

Central Florida Foundation

https://cffound.org/

Central Florida Foundation stewards philanthropic dollars on behalf of individuals, families and nonprofits. CFF partners with people who are determined to make a difference in their community. Knowing that true change demands more than dollars and cents, CFF fosters collaboration, fuels ideas, and spearheads the innovation that will transform our region for good.

Funding + Investment Firms

DeepWork Capital

https: //www.deepworkcapital.com/

DeepWork Capital is a venture capital firm investing in early-stage companies. Under-invested markets like Florida and surrounding regions are their specialty. Active engagement enables them to contribute to the success of portfolio companies.

Funding + Investment Firms

Florida High Tech Corridor Matching Grants Research Program

https: //floridahightech.com/

The Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) fosters applied research between the region's high-tech industry partners, and top-rate faculty and student researchers at the University of Central Florida (UCF) and the University of South Florida (USF). The Corridor can provide up to $150,000 in matching funds for applied research projects between local industry partners and university researchers

Funding + Investment Firms

Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research

https: //www.florida-institute.com/

The Florida Institute provides company building services and seed funding through the Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund to promising Florida start-ups that are developing products that improve and save lives and help companies improve their bottom line. The organization's investment decisions are guided through a strong partnership with its Private Fund Manager, Florida Funders.

Funding + Investment Firms

Florida Opportunity Fund

https: //www.deepworkcapital.com/florida-oppor tunity-fund

Launched in 2008, the Florida Opportunity Fund (FOF) provides venture capital to early-stage Florida companies and helps connect entrepreneurs with funding opportunities. Managed by DeepWork Capital, FOF invests in sectors including technology, life sciences, clean energy, aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing. Startups seeking investment can participate in biweekly open-door pitch sessions.

Funding + Investment Firms

Florida VentureForum

https://flventure.org/

The Florida Venture Forum, established in 1984, provides Florida-based companies (and their owners and managers) with unique strategic education and guidance and opportunities to interact with and present to active funds and other equity investors as well as other members of the entrepreneurial and emerging company ecosystem.

Funding + Investment Firms

GoVo Venture Partners

https: //govovp.com/

GoVo invests in early-stage companies, with emphasis on seed round through Series A, where assessing risk and opportunity can be challenging. Deep industry and operational expertise provides a unique capability to select portfolio companies and maximize their growth potential especially for companies doing business with the government.

Funding + Investment Firms

Inflexion Partners

https://www.inflexion.com/

Inflexion Partners works with entrepreneurs to turn visionary ideas into high-growth, sustainable businesses through long-term investing and value creation.

Funding + Investment Firms

Kirenaga

https: //kirenaga.com/

Kirenaga invests in early-stage venture companies that have developed products and are on the verge of initial commercialization, at the stage they call “Post-Technical Validation and Pre-Commercialization.”

Funding + Investment Firms

LakeNonaSportsand Health Tech Fund

https: //www.lakenonafund.com/

We invest in early-stage, innovative startups that are shaping the future of sports and health. The Fund builds on the legacies of two truly unique founders, leAD Sports & Health Tech Partners & Tavistock Group.

Funding + Investment Firms

New World Angels

https: //www.new worldangels.com/

New World Angels is a group of Florida business leaders who provide funding, knowledge, and guidance to entrepreneurs building early stage companies. We seek entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds and cultures. We seek to fund entrepreneurs and products that can create real impact in marketplaces and across our society.

Funding + Investment Firms

PS27 Ventures

https: //www.ps27ventures.com/

PS27 Ventures invests in early-stage startup ideas and businesses, supporting their growth with a broad range of expertise from a team of highly regarded professionals. Bringing selected startups into our accelerator, they work side by side with them to grow their business and help them realize their true potential.

Funding + Investment Firms

Seed Funders Orlando

https: //www.seedfundersorlando.com/

SeedFundersOrlando is a member-owned operating company that invests in pre-revenue Central Florida technology startups selected by members. Members are world-class entrepreneurs with early-stage venture operational experience who have founded, scaled, and exited companies. They believe that smart investments in emerging startup companies will benefit both member portfolios and Central Florida’s innovation economy.

Funding + Investment Firms

StartUp Nation Ventures

https: //sunv.io/

StartUp Nation Ventures are founder-friendly, entrepreneur advocates, they help grow, build, influence, and engage guiding well-vetted, change-making startups through expansion to the U.S. market. Their platform offers strategic, operational, and financial support including alliances with channel partners to drive immediate opportunities for acceleration, execution, and risk reduction.

Funding + Investment Firms

Tavistock

https: //tavistockdevelopment.com/company/tavistock-group/

Tavistock Group is an international private investment organization comprised of a family office, trading operation, and a portfolio of public investments and private companies. These investments are concentrated in nine primary sectors, including: real estate, hospitality, restaurants, sports, energy, retail, biotechnology and life sciences, agriculture, and finance.

Funding + Investment Firms

Waterfall Ventures Investments

https: //water fallventures.investments/

Waterfall Ventures injects worthy tech companies with early-stage capital, strategic mentorship, and valuable connections. Let's be extraordinary, together.

Funding + Investment Firms

Autonomous Florida

https: //autonomous-florida.com/

The Florida Chamber of Commerce's Autonomous Florida program brings together businesses, industry experts, and policymakers to secure Florida's autonomous future. The Florida Chamber's Autonomous Florida is dedicated to focusing and unifying the business community's voice to ensure that Florida becomes the mobility innovation capital of the world.

Industry Associations

BioFlorida

https: //www.bioflorida.com/

BioFlorida is the voice of Florida's life sciences industry, representing 6,700 establishments and research organizations in BioPharma, MedTech, HealthIT and BioAg that collectively employ nearly 94,000 Floridians. Members of the BioFlorida network include emerging and established life science companies, universities, research institutions, hospitals, incubators, economic development agencies, investors and service providers.

Industry Associations

Central Florida US Green Building Council (USGBC)

https: //usgbcflorida.wildapricot.org/Central-F lorida

The diverse US Green Building Council membership in Florida serves as a dedicated community of professionals, advocates and industries. As a nascent industry, we play a leading role in creating jobs, improving education and workforce development; in advancing private and public sector initiatives that champion efficiency in energy, water and beyond; and in catalyzing market forces for better building practices.

Industry Associations

Energy Florida

https: //energyflorida.org/partners/

Energy Florida is an industry-led 501(c)(3) non-profit association building unique energy-related advanced manufacturing and technology demonstration capabilities that support economic development across the state of Florida, the Southeastern US, and the "near abroad" (Latin America and the Caribbean). One of Energy Florida's major areas of focus is advanced turbine technologies and manufacturing processes.

Industry Associations

Florida Medical Manufacturers Association

https: //www.floridamedtech.com/

The Florida Medical Manufacturers Consortium (FMMC) is a statewide association of medical technology firms. The FMMC exists to unite, promote, and grow the Florida medical device industry, and to enhance the business success of its member companies.

Industry Associations

Florida PhotonicsCluster

https://floridaphotonics.org/

The Florida Photonics Cluster is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit corporation. The FPC is dedicated to enhancing the photonics industry through effective collaboration by bringing together the knowledge, expertise, and service that each member company or organization has to offer.

Industry Associations

Indienomicon

https: //www.indienomicon.org/

Indienomicon is Orlando's independent games association. Indienomicon hosts monthly meetups, game jams, and other events to celebrate creativity in games.

Industry Associations

Manufacturers Association of Central Florida

https://macf.biz/

Manufacturers Association of Central Florida's primary objectives focus on networking and education, sale opportunities and lobbying. Companies here in Florida are able to work together, sharing solutions to common problems, as well as developing joint-venture business efforts. Manufacturers find new suppliers or new markets for their products locally instead of using suppliers internationally.

Industry Associations

National Association of Specialty Pharmacy

https://naspnet.org/

National Association of Specialty Pharmacy's patient-centric design provides a comprehensive and coordinated model of care for patients. The medications and expert services that specialty pharmacies provide expedite patient access to care ensure appropriate medication use and achieve superior clinical and cost-effective outcomes.

Industry Associations

National Center for Simulation

https: //www.simulationinformation.com/

The National Center for Simulation (NCS) is a not-for-profit trade association with government, academic, and industry members operating as an open consortium. The vision of NCS is to be the internationally recognized leader in promoting, protecting, and growing the modeling, simulation, and training (MS&T) community.

Industry Associations

Orlando VR/AR Association

https://www.thevrara.com/orlando

The VR/AR Association (VRARA) is an international organization designed to foster collaboration between Members, that accelerates growth, fosters research and education, helps develop industry standards, connects member organizations, and promotes the services of member companies.

Industry Associations

SIM CFL

https: //simcfl.org/

SIM Central Florida is dedicated to shaping and influencing the management and use of information technology throughout the greater Orlando region. The Orlando SIM chapter provides an outstanding opportunity for ongoing networking, meeting and collaboratively exploring best practices, trends and lessons learned. It is ideal for Central Florida's information technology executives, academics and senior business executives with key roles in the use of IT in their organizations.

Industry Associations

Central Florida International Trade Office (CFITO)

https: //cfito.org/

The Central Florida International Trade Office is designed to accelerate the access and activity for companies interested in trade in Central Florida including Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia counties. Metro Orlando is dedicated to strengthening Central Florida's position as a world-class center of international trade, in a region that already hosts the largest number of visitors in the United States.

International Trade Organizations

U.S Commercial Service

https://www.trade.gov/us-commercial-service

The U.S. Commercial Service is the trade promotion arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. Located across the United States and in U.S. Embassies and Consulates in nearly 80 countries, our global network of trade professionals connects U.S. companies with international buyers, providing them with market intelligence, trade counseling, and commercial diplomacy support.

International Trade Organizations

Melrose Center at the Orlando Public Library

https://melrose.ocls.org/

The Melrose Center expands the role of the library as providers of informal learning and technology education. Instructors offer practical training relevant to the spaces, equipment and software available in the Center, allowing community members to be both contributors to and consumers of emerging technologies. The Center offers an array of resources to inspire and support creativity and innovation, as well as substantial educational opportunities to make the most of those resources.

Maker Spaces

1 MillionCups - Orlando

https: //www.1millioncups.com/orlando/

1 Million Cups Orlando is a weekly online event for local entrepreneurs to present their startups to our community in Orlando.

Meetups

Downtown Orlando UX (DOUX)

https://www.meetup.com/downtown-orlando-ux/

The mission of Downtown Orlando UX (DOUX) is to create opportunities for anyone to learn, discuss, and share knowledge about the field of User Experience. We try to create opportunities for our community to learn about tools and techniques for UX Design from each other. Typically our meetups have a presentation paired with a workshop so that we can both learn and then do.

Meetups

LeanStartup Orlando

https://www.meetup.com/lean-startup-practitioners/

The Lean Startup Orlando Meetup Group is not just about startups, it's about innovation methodology across business domains. Lean Startup Orlando is an ambitious group of startup founders, community mentors, entrepreneurial enthusiasts, product developers, and innovation leaders. This meetup serves the Central Florida community as a platform to share experiences, learnings, questions and thoughts about innovation

Meetups

Odevs

https: //orlandodevs.com/

Orlando Devs is a non profit creating education and networking opportunities for software developers in Orlando, Florida.

Meetups

Orlando IoT

https://www.meetup.com/iot-orlando/

Orlando IoT, or the "Internet of Things," is the place for people with a project or product idea they want to have connected to the internet. IoT has a lot of potential for new and exciting devices, with so many hardware and software options out there it can be difficult to get started or know what technology is the right for your project.

Meetups

Orlando Python User Group

https://www.meetup.com/OrlandoPython/

The OrlandoPy(thon) User Group is for users, enthusiasts, and students in Orlando, Florida, interested in the Python computer programming language. We meet monthly to discuss and present emerging issues and interesting projects in Python, practice our skill, and trade stories from the workforce. All skill levels are welcome.

Meetups

Orlando Unity Developers Group

https://www.meetup.com/Orlando-Unity-Developers-Group/

The Orlando Unity Developers Group are professionals, students & hobbyists with an interest in computer games, programming, technical art, software testing/QA, game development, game design, game audio, interactive entertainment, modelling & simulation, VR/AR/MR/XR technologies.

Meetups

Startup Grind Orlando

https://www.startupgrind.com/orlando/

Startup Grind is the world's largest community of startups, founders, innovators, and creators. We bring like-minded yet diverse individuals together to connect, learn, teach, help, build, and belong. We do this daily through our local events, flagship conferences, startup program, partnerships, and online media + content - collectively reaching over 3.5 million individuals worldwide.

Meetups

The Guild of Independent Game Developer

https://www.meetup.com/The-Guild-of-Independent-Game-Developers/

The Guild of Independent Game Developers is for those interested in programming video games and independent game development. They hold lectures on video game programming techniques and promote the development of games by groups of developers. Artists (2D and 3D) as well as Audio engineers who want to get into game development are also welcome.

Meetups

Women in Defense - Central Florida Chapter

https: //cflwid.org/

Women In Defense (WID), A National Security Organization is an affiliate of the National Defense Industrial Association which was established as a non-profit organization in 1985. We are dedicated to providing a network for professional development opportunities here in Florida, sharing of members' experiences and expanding their contacts in the community.

Meetups

Inventors Council of Central Florida

https://www.inventcf.com/

The Inventors Council of Central Florida was formed in the 1950's. In December of 2017 they officially became a Florida corporation, Inventors Council of Central Florida, Inc. In October of 2018 we became a federal 501 (c) They are inventors helping inventors. Members have access to many contacts and services that help to bring their creations to reality.

Non-Profits

WorldOrlando

https://www.worldorlando.org/home

Since 1963, WorldOrlando has connected Central Florida with international leaders through the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The organization facilitates professional exchanges by arranging meetings between visiting leaders and local businesses, government agencies, and community organizations, fostering international partnerships, cultural understanding, and opportunities for global collaboration.

Non-Profits

Central Florida BizLink

https: //cflbizlink.com/

Central Florida BizLink connects entrepreneurs and small business owners to resources throughout Orlando and Central Florida.

On-line Resources

CreativeVillage

https: //creativevillageorlando.com/

Creative Village builds upon the success of Orlando's digital media industry by transforming the former Amway Arena site into a 68-acre mixed-use, transit oriented, urban infill neighborhood in the heart of Downtown Orlando. The vision for Creative Village focuses on developing a true "live, work, learn and play" urban innovation district that supports a synergistic and dynamic mix of uses including higher education.

Other

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

https: //www.ecfrpc.org/

Established in 1962 as an area-wide association of governments, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) is represented by 32 Council Members and a skilled staff that provides technical assistance to governments and organizations within the 8-County East Central Florida region. The ECFRPC covers eight counties in east-central Florida, including Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter and Volusia.

Other

Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council (FSMSDC)

https://fsmsdc.org/

The Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council's main function is to register and certify minority-owned businesses. The process ensures that these businesses are 51% minority-owned and operated in accordance with the guidelines set by the National Minority Supplier Development Council. The FSMSDC is one of 23 regional councils affiliated with the NMSDC.

Other

F loridaMakes

https: //www.floridamakes.com/

FloridaMakes is a service designed to strengthen Florida's high-wage manufacturing sector. FloridaMakes understands the unique needs facing manufacturing firms and delivers customer-centric service, creates partners, and increases access to and successful use of outside resources.

Other

Greater Orlando Sports Commission

https://greaterorlandosports.com/esports/

The Greater Orlando Sports Commission for eSports strategically solicits, creates, and supports sports-related events and businesses that enhance the community's economy. Founded in 1993, eSports has hosted or co-hosted more than 1,450 events in the Greater Orlando area with a total economic impact exceeding $1.9 billion in spending within the community.

Other

IAAPA

https://www.iaapa.org/

IAAPA is the premier trade association representing the diverse and ever-changing attractions industry. For over a century they have connected companies of all sizes, and people of all levels, to provide meaningful experiences for their guests around the world. IAAPA hosts global events and conferences that spread successful ideas and practices.

Other

LakeNona Impact Forum

https://lakenonaimpactforum.org/

The Lake Nona Impact Forum is committed to leading the conversation for building the Wellbeing Ecosystem of the Future, by exploring the intersections of health, wellness, medical and scientific innovation and strategies to optimize human performance.

Other

NASA Tech Transfer Program

https: //technology.nasa.gov/

NASA's Technology Transfer Program ensures that innovations developed for exploration and discovery are broadly available to the public, maximizing the benefit to the nation. Whether you're looking to start a new company, enhance an existing product, or create a new product line, you can gain a competitive edge in the marketplace by putting NASA technology to work for you.

Other

Orlando Science Center

https://www.osc.org/

Orlando Science Center is Central Florida's award-winning, hands-on science museum. For more than 60 years, our exhibits and programming have brought science to life for not just residents of Central Florida, but also visitors from around the world.

Other

Tampa General Hospital

https://www.tgh.org/about-tgh

Tampa General Hospital is a private not-for-profit hospital and one of the most comprehensive medical facilities in West Central Florida serving a dozen counties with a population in excess of 4 million. As one of the largest hospitals in Florida, Tampa General is licensed for 981 beds, and with approximately 15,000 team members and providers, is one of the region's largest employers.

Other

Team Orlando

http: //www.teamorlando.org/

Team Orlando is a unique, collaborative alliance of leading U.S. military organizations working in modeling, simulation and training. The alliance works in partnership and is supported and strengthened by industry and academic organizations that specialize in improving human performance and training through research, development, production, delivery and maintenance of simulation and training systems worldwide.

Other

TechHub Orlando

https://innovateorlando.io/tech-hub-orlando/

Tech Hub Orlando is a downtown event hall and community hub uniting Central Florida's tech, creative, and entrepreneurial leaders to connect and innovate

Other

The Orange County Convention Center

https://www.occc.net/

The award-winning Orange County Convention Center provides approximately $3 billion in economic impact to Central Florida annually. In recent years, the Convention Center has averaged nearly 200 events, including 115 conventions and tradeshows that attract more than 1.5 million attendees to the region each year.

Other

Visit Orlando

https://www.visitorlando.com/

Visit Orlando is The Official Tourism Association® for Orlando, the most visited destination in the United States and Theme Park Capital of the World. A not-for-profit trade association that brands, markets and sells the Orlando destination globally, Visit Orlando represents over 1,100 member companies comprising every segment of Central Florida's tourism community.

Other

BRIDG

https://gobridg.com/

BRIDG is a versatile boutique microelectronics fabrication facility with 200mm (8-inch) wafer fab capabilities. Established in Florida as a not-for-profit, industry-friendly public-private partnership through the support of visionary partners, BRIDG accelerates technology commercialization by providing solutions to bridge technology and capability gaps across multiple fields.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Center for Advanced Turbomachinery and Energy Research

https://cater.cecs.ucf.edu/

A Center for Research & Student Training Focused on Turbomachineries and Associated Technologies for Power Generation, Aviation and Space Propulsion

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA at UCF)

https: //fiea.ucf.edu/

Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy is UCF's nationally ranked Master of Science in Interactive Entertainment. The 16-month master's degree is offered full-time over four semesters and classes are held at the state-of-the-art facility at UCF Downtown, in the heart of downtown Orlando.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Florida SolarEnergyCenter (UCF)

https://energyresearch.ucf.edu/

FSEC Energy Research Center, also known as the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC), is the state's premier energy research center. Created by the Florida Legislature in 1975 to test and certify solar systems, FSEC is administered by the University of Central Florida. As a result of FSEC's extensive research capabilities increasing throughout the years, Florida Solar Energy Center slowly outgrew its solar name.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Institute for Simulation & Training (IST)

https://www.ist.ucf.edu/

Founded in 1982, the Institute for Simulation & Training (IST) is an internationally-recognized interdisciplinary research institute within the School of Modeling, Simulation and Training (SMST) at the University of Central Florida that conducts basic and applied research in the art and science of modeling, simulation, and training.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Orlando Health Strategic Innovations

https://www.orlandohealth.com/campaigns/strategic-innovations

Orlando Health Strategic Innovations inspires, cultivates and accelerates innovation across the healthcare system. With the rapid changes in healthcare they continue to enhance both the healthcare they provide and the tools they use to deliver that care.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Orlando Veteran's Health Care System Innovation Specialists

https://www.va.gov/INNOVATIONECOSYSTEM/views/solutions/greenhouse-initiative.html

VHA Innovators Network's (iNET) mission is to empower employees to become intrapreneurs; identify frontline challenges and design the solutions to solve them, utilizing human centered design and lean principles. The Orlando VHA System has two InnoVAtion Specialists onsite to evaluate potential collaborations.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Siemens Orlando Innovation Center

https://www.siemens-energy.com/global/en/offerings/services/innovation-center-solutions.html

The Siemens Energy Orlando Innovation Center offers a unique pairing of design with manufacturing, implementing robotics, rapid prototyping, scanning, digital tools and on-site metal additive manufacturing.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Space Life Sciences Lab

https://www.spaceflorida.gov/facilities/space-life-sciences-lab/

Space Florida, in partnership with NASA and the State of Florida, constructed and updated the Space Life Sciences Laboratory (SLSL) to meet the needs of the new customer base. They offer centralized services, core equipment, and payload processing capabilities along with excellent research and test laboratories.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

Verizon 5G Innovation Hub

https://www.5ginnovationlakenona.com/

To help enable innovators, including startups, universities, large enterprises, and the public sector, discover new 5G applications, a dedicated development and collaboration space known as the Verizon 5G Innovation Hub sits in Lake Nona.

Research Centers + Innovation Labs

CareerSource Brevard

https: //careersourcebrevard.com/

CareerSource Brevard is a regional public/private partnership and part of a statewide network of 24 regions, known as CareerSource Florida. CareerSource Brevard administers The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Welfare Transition programs in Brevard County as well as grants and other employment support activities, advised by a Board of Directors comprised of leaders of the community.

Workforce Development Programs

CareerSource Central Florida

https://www.careersourcecentralflorida.com/

CareerSource Central Florida curates local talent for high-demand industries, meeting local business needs and cultivating growth and prosperity for the Central Florida community. Whether through job placement, training and certification programs, or higher education, we partner with Central Florida businesses, colleges, and universities to meet industry needs and connect career seekers to local opportunities.

Workforce Development Programs

CareerSource Florida

https: //careersourceflorida.com/

CareerSource Florida is the state's workforce policy and investment board, connecting businesses with talent, training, and workforce development resources. Through its statewide network of workforce partners, it supports business growth and employee development. Programs such as Quick Response Training and Incumbent Worker Training provide grants to help Florida companies train new hires, upskill existing employees, and strengthen their workforce.

Workforce Development Programs