



Resources for Startups

Expert guidance and mentoring

South Sound/Tacoma SCORE is a team of nationally Certified Mentors who provide free professional counseling and workshops to aspiring entrepreneur and small business owners in Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Grays Harbor and South King counties.

<https://tacoma.score.org/>

SBDC - The Washington Small Business Development Center is a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Washington State University and other Washington Institutions of higher education and economic development organizations. Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, it provide free professional guidance to start or grow a business. Local offices are in Puyallup.

<https://wsbdc.org>

Incubators

RAIN – Located at 2304 Jefferson Avenue, Tacoma, the Readiness Acceleration and Innovation Network provides startup support and student lab training for companies in biotech, food science and life science.

<https://www.rainincubator.org/>

Tacoma Maritime Innovation Incubator – Operating at various locations, virtually and at the Center for Urban Waters, TMII offers mentorship, free work space, networking and access to end users and funders through the Washington Maritime Blue coalition. Companies working on the logistics, clean water, and alternative energy initiatives in the maritime and marine sectors are targeted however entry is considered for all companies innovating with water-related products or services.

Contact: Nate@maritimeblue.org

Spaceworks Tacoma – operating in various formats, provides a robust and varied approach to success for entrepreneurs in the creative and maker sectors. Spaceworks provides incubator

support, co-working, the Artspace mural and installation program, a Black Business Accelerator, as well as special projects for creatives.

<https://spaceworkstacoma.com>

William Factory Incubator, on-line and located at Tacoma Community College, provides mentoring, seminars, a robust regional network and pitch events for local entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs in all industries are welcomed.

<https://williamfactory.com>

VIBE (Veterans Incubator for Better Entrepreneurship)

VIBE supports students at University of Washington Tacoma who are veterans with education, mentorship and support to leaders of viable businesses.

<https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/veterans-incubator-better-entrepreneurship/about>

Networks

Startup 253 is Tacoma's home for the startup community. It brings together entrepreneurial leaders, venture capital, corporations and local government to advance the South Sound region to become the best home for innovation and creative new companies.

<https://startup253.com>

New Tech Tacoma is a sister organization to New Tech Northwest and offers bi-monthly meetups for entrepreneurs, angel funders, tech employers and interested members of the public.

<https://www.meetup.com/NewTechTacoma/>

Local venture funds: *(many venture funds invest in Pacific NW companies – do your research as funding may not have to be local and many funds target certain types or stages of company. Due to the number of funds available, we are only listing funds geographically located in Tacoma.)*

Tacoma Venture Fund – champions early stage companies generating scalable innovations, disruptive ideas, job creation and community impact with an emphasis on South Sound entrepreneurs.

<https://tacomaventurefund.com>

Flexible offices and co-working space

<https://SurgeCoworking.com>

<https://thepioneercollective.com>

<https://tractionspace.com>

<https://UnionClubTacoma.com>

<https://worksphere.space>