

PRESS RELEASE
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CHICOSTART & PARADISE RIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO LAUNCH "RIDGESTART"



Chico, CA: [Chicostart](https://chicostart.com) and the Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce are proud to announce the launch of the first phase of **RIDGESTART - Powered by Chicostart**. RIDGESTART will serve the diverse business community of Paradise, Magalia and the surrounding Ridge footprint.

RIDGESTART intends to support and enrich the Ridge entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses the valuable resources they need for rebuilding, recovery, and resilience. These resources and services include business education, mentorship, incubation program, opengrants portal, and valuable connections.

"RIDGESTART - Powered by Chicostart, is just the start of our efforts to fill the gaps of equitable access to entrepreneurial resources - starting in our own backyard. The focus of this partnership with the Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce is to

provide turnkey entrepreneurial, small business and mentor services. This will include some of our 24 partner iHub2 relationships as well. We are excited to help this community to rebuild and to have so much support for this partnership!" - stated Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director, Chicostart

Monica Nolan, Executive Director, Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce says, "After the Camp Fire, the PRCoC began offering office space to displaced workers. The pandemic has amplified the necessity to expand this service to address the challenges of our changing workforce. The RIDGESTART partnership will allow us to grow our own economy with direct connection to an array of tools and support right here on the Ridge. The PRCoC is proud to partner with Chicostart to expand access to the commercial opportunities and innovation crucial to community progress."

Chicostart and the Paradise Ridge Chamber look forward to celebrating a Ridgestart Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Summer 2022.

In April, Chicostart was 1 of 10 designees awarded the statewide iHUB2 grant from CalOSBA. Chicostart's iHUB2 designation covers over 20+ counties in Northern California, focusing on building the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem for equitable access to entrepreneurial resources with inclusive ecosystem expansion into our rural and diverse communities. This includes expanding Chicostart's growTECH and entrepreneurial initiative throughout the region.

For media inquiries or to learn more about Ridgestart Powered by Chicostart, please contact Monica Nolan, Executive Director, Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce, ridgestart@paradisechamber.com or Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart, eva@chicostart.com.

About Chicostart: Chicostart supports and enriches Northern California's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem by providing small business, entrepreneurs and startups the resources they need to succeed. Our platform includes shared office amenities, mentoring, workshops, internships, tech talks, student to business projects, entrepreneurial events, satellite office programs, and anything else that helps our core mission of helping startups succeed. As a GO-BIZ iHub for the Far North, the Chicostart ecosystem includes but is not limited to investors, technologists, entrepreneurs, students, educators, local businesses, agencies and mentors. ###