

PRESS RELEASE
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CHICOSTART BRIDGES NEW IHUB2 PARTNERSHIP WITH FOURTHWAVE ACCELERATOR

CHICO, CA: **Chicostart** is proud to announce **FourthWave** as a new iHUB2 (Go-Biz Innovation Hub) partner. FourthWave, located in the Sacramento region, is a non-profit accelerator for women-led businesses. They dedicate an equal effort to leadership awareness and coaching, the development of sound startup business fundamentals and a preparedness for external funding. **FourthWave** is open to technology companies with at least one female-identified founder. This partnership will be a valuable part of **Chicostart's** reach to those female entrepreneurs underserved in the 20+ regions represented in its iHUB2 designation.

"Partnering with FourthWave gives our North State iHub2 region direct access to their women-owned business accelerator resources that we never had previously. During the pandemic, women-owned businesses experienced the greatest increase in the number of people they employed and wages paid. We value this partnering opportunity to help make our region rise." stated Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart

Cheryl Beninga, Co-Founder, FourthWave says, "All of us at FourthWave are excited to partner with Chicostart and be a part of the iHUB2 ecosystem to accelerate and scale women-led technology companies in the region".

The iHUB2 network is a vital part of Chicostart's efforts to enhance the North State's diversity, equity, inclusion, and connectivity to other centers of innovation and economic game changers across the state. Our iHUB2 designated service area comprises 20+ counties in the North State.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our iHUB2 designation and service areas.

For media inquiries about the Chicostart/FourthWave partnership, or to learn more about [Chicostart](#) services and [growTECH membership](#), please contact Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart at 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.

About FourthWave

FourthWave is a non-profit accelerator for women-led technology businesses. Our inaugural Sacramento program launched in 2017, and in 2020, FourthWave formed a strategic partnership with the Carlsen Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Sacramento State. The FourthWave accelerator program provides founders with mentorship, leadership development and preparation for funding.

FourthWave is committed to changing the narrative around gender equity, and we believe a core part of the story is seen through an economic lens. We know that investing in women is one of the most effective ways to reduce inequality and increase economic growth. FourthWave envisions a world in which women receive 50% of venture capital funding.

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