

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**DATE: March 14, 2023**



## **CHICOSTART Finds Additional Capital Resource for Underserved Small Businesses in the North State**

**Chico, CA - March 14, 2023:** [Chicostart](#) continues to access valuable resources to support the entrepreneurial community, one such resource is [Advantage Capital](#), who works with the New Markets Tax Credit Program to provide flexible business-friendly financing to companies in underserved areas.

Focused on small business and job creation, Advantage Capital uses flexible lending and investment tools so they can fund companies that may not be suitable for typical venture capital or bank loans. The firm provides \$1-10MM investments, in the form of debt or equity, to support business growth and drive job creation. A Chico State Alum is driving a focus to the North State, so if you have a capital need please reach out to [dyoung@advantagecap.com](mailto:dyoung@advantagecap.com) to see if you are qualified and learn more about the program.

“In developing the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem, capital resources are critical. This opportunity with Advantage Capital and their focus on underserved communities is key for the North State. Their flexible capital can be used for working capital, equipment purchases, acquisition and/or improvement of owner-occupied real estate, expansion, ownership transitions, and in some cases,

buyouts and acquisitions. This is exactly what we need more of for our region” stated Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart.

For more about Chicostart’s access to resources, please contact Eva Shepherd-Nicoll at [eva@chicostart.com](mailto:eva@chicostart.com).

In April 2022, 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.

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**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 Advantage Capital:** *Advantage Capital is an Investment Adviser registered with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission. Such registration, however, does not imply a certain level of skill or training. The statements above are from persons other than current clients or investors in funds advised by Advantage Capital. Chicostart is not being compensated, whether in cash or non-cash form, for the statements or opinions expressed herein. There are no known material conflicts of interest on the part of Chicostart or any other third parties associated with Chicostart in making or expressing such statements or opinions resulting from such party's relationship with Advantage Capital.*

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