

VC: Driving Innovation in Iowa

203

Startups received
venture funding
(2019-2023)

\$847M

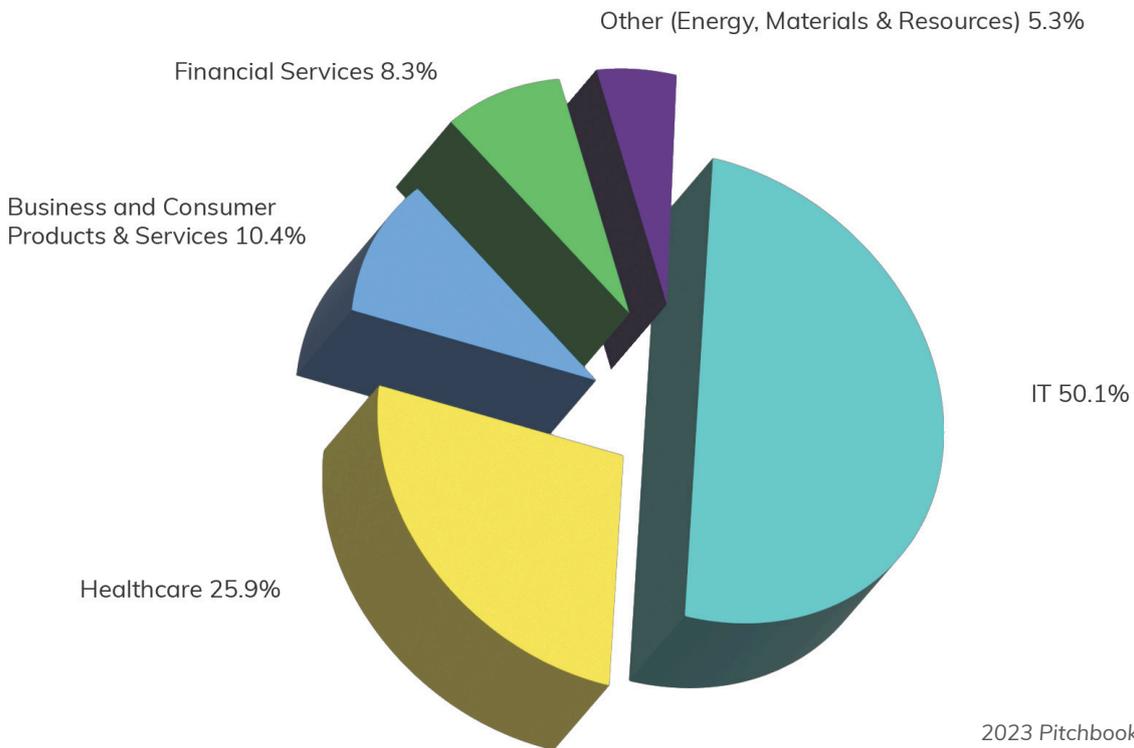
In VC investment
in startups
(2019-2023)

16.1K

People employed
by VC backed
startups in 2022

A broad range of Iowa-based pension funds, university endowments, and nonprofits invest in and benefit from venture. This includes the state's largest pension fund, IPERS, which supports the retirement of 404,000+ members, more than 12% of state residents.

2023 VC Investment by Sector in IA



VCs Funding IA Startups Include:



Ag Ventures Alliance invests in startups in agriculture, AgTech, and farming sectors, particularly in Iowa and Missouri. Based in Mason City, the firm's mission is to accelerate AgTech innovation to help American farming become more resilient and profitable. Ag Ventures Alliance offers entrepreneurs trials with local farmers to test their products, networking with other founders, and experience with a wide range of marketing strategies.



Next Level Ventures is a Des Moines-based investment firm that focuses on fueling economic growth in the Midwest and beyond. This VC supports technology companies across agriculture, finance, and healthcare, helping their companies grow by delivering financial, operational, and networking expertise.

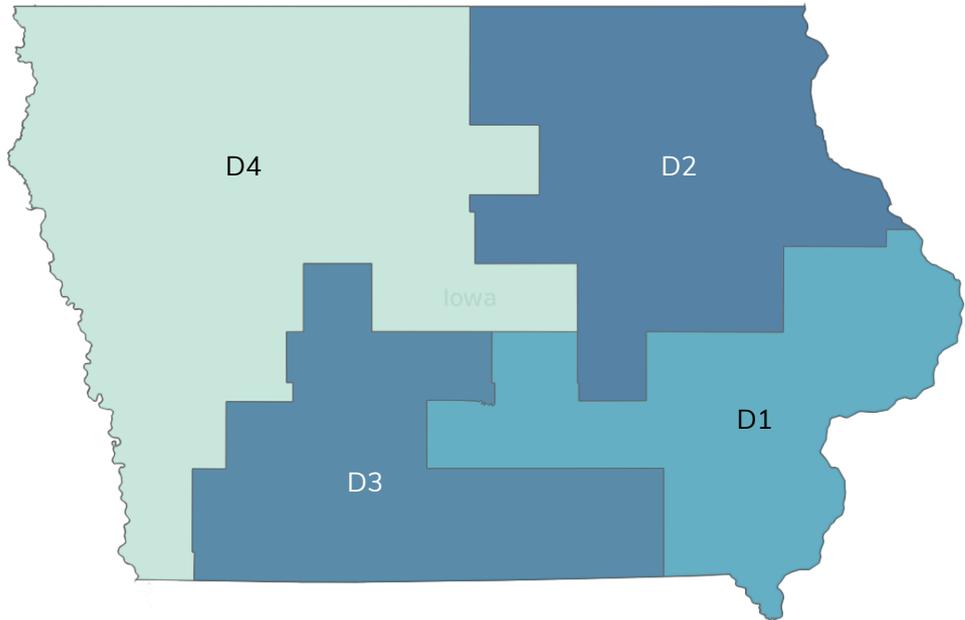


ISA Ventures (ISAV) of Cedar Rapids invests in Iowa-based technology startups across biotechnology, agriculture, and healthcare. ISAV supports entrepreneurs at all stages of business with product development insights, hiring talent, mentorship, and partnership opportunities. The firm requires all companies to maintain primary operations in Iowa.

2023 State Funding Breakdown



District	\$ Received
IA-1	\$49.66M
IA-2	\$65.2M
IA-3	\$61.81M
IA-4	\$25.67M



2023 Pitchbook Data

VC Investment Helps IA's Startups Thrive:



With 67% of new STEM jobs in computing, there's a critical need to prepare children for a tech-driven future. Based in West Des Moines, Coco Coders offers online programming to teach coding to kids aged 6-14. Founded by Elizabeth Tweedale, they've taught over 10,000 children since 2016.



As wind energy continues to grow as a popular renewable energy source, so does the amount of waste created from decommissioned wind turbine blades and manufacturing scraps. Based in Fairfax, REGEN Fibers prevents the industry's waste from ending up in landfills or releasing harmful pollutants, instead using old turbine fibers to increase the strength and durability of concrete and asphalt.



Farms want seeds that perform and provide yield per acre. But independent data on seed performance is difficult to find and to separate from marketing claims. Des-Moines-based AcreShield helps farmers mitigate financial risk and increase their yields with independent, science-based, data-driven insights in order to make the best seed selections.