



# The Growth Accelerator Fund Competition

Empowering America's Future with a Cutting-Edge Approach

## Program Overview

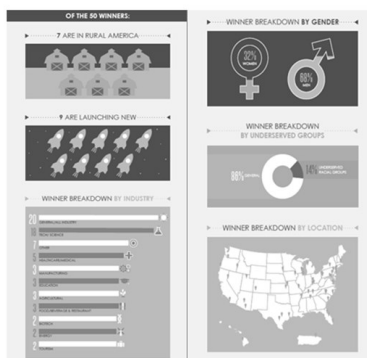
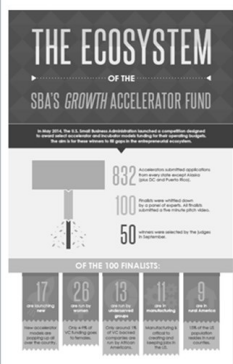
The Growth Accelerator Fund Competition was launched in 2014 with \$2.5 million in appropriated funds. The first year of the competition presented an opportunity for the SBA to engage with and support organizations whose sole purpose is to help start-ups grow, become commercially viable and have a real and sustained economic impact. To this end, we awarded \$2.5 million to 50 winners from a pool of more than 800 applications and celebrated their prizes at a White House Fly-In in Fall 2014. In 2015, SBA awarded \$4.4 million to accelerators in order to continue building the support structure needed to help start-ups become commercially viable and create jobs more quickly. The winners of this cutting-edge approach became part of the overall resource partner network, reaching a constituency that we were not effectively reaching before. Lastly, SBA used a portion of these funds as part of the multi-agency POWER initiative as well as have \$50,000 matching prizes available to entities which serve American Indian, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian populations.

The goal of the competition is to get an extra infusion of capital to qualified accelerators and the burgeoning ecosystem in which they play, which, in turn, provides resources to boost the startup and entrepreneurship communities around them. Through the widespread outreach of this challenge, we were able to reach entrepreneurial ecosystems in all 50 states and provide 88, \$50,000 awards

### GROWTH ACCELERATOR FUND 2015 QUICK FACTS

Winners, since inception:

- 14,158 jobs created or sustained
- Startups served: 3,437
- Capital raised by startups: \$850.5M
- Accelerators Funded by Friends/Family/Angels or Alternative Sources: 60%
- Startup Acceptance Rate: 25%



across 39 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico in the second year. Importantly, we were also able to reach some of the most overlooked areas for startups given there was an explicit focus on giving awards to accelerators that support: the underserved, women, the maker community and geographic regions which traditionally have limited access to capital. According to the National Venture Capital Association, the areas receiving the most venture capital funding have been consistent for the past 5 years. As of 2014, they are San Francisco, San Jose, New York, Boston and Los Angeles. Equally concentrated is where the venture capital money is managed. CA, MA, NY, and TX represented 74% of venture capital investment and those same states' companies receive a disproportionate amount of venture capital investment.

## 2016: Growth Accelerator Fund - Process and Application

### Phase I

Application timeline: May 2-June 3

June 6: First round judges receive: One pager, judging criteria, description of scoring system, list of applicants, access to login and view applications, and spreadsheet to record scores and notes

June 6: Primary judges begin review of applicant pool for a list of finalists

### Phase II

July 1: Finalists are notified

July 11: Pitch videos are submitted by finalists

July 18: Final round judges receive: One pager, judging criteria, description of scoring system, list of applicants, access to login and view applications, and spreadsheet to record scores and notes

### Phase III

July 29: Final round judges submit spreadsheet of scores and notes for compilation

August 5: Announcement of winners

\*Awards are distributed to winners prior to September 30

Learn How to Participate at [www.sba.gov/accelerators](http://www.sba.gov/accelerators) or e-mail [accelerators@sba.gov](mailto:accelerators@sba.gov)

#### Programmatic Oversight:

SBA serves as the coordinating agency and directs the accelerators' implementation and quarterly reporting of the \$50,000 award

#### Policy Directives:

Fulfills SBA's obligation to provide assistance to women-owned and underrepresented communities

#### Centralized Platform:

A convenient portal to help start-ups and accelerators locate awards from the SBA