



STATE OF DC TECH 2026

*DC's Investments and Resources
for a Growing Tech Sector*

October 2026





As the nation's capital, Washington, DC has a unique role that no other city in the country can claim. We are where the professional ecosystem is built for national and global impact, where technology is designed and deployed to improve governance, and where innovation shapes policy and policy shapes innovation.

This report captures the state of the tech market in DC, as well as the momentum of our technology and innovation ecosystem, which is growing faster, diversifying more broadly, and reaching further into every corner of our city. Diversifying DC's economy and jobs base depends on the growth of our tech sectors and we are harnessing all of its opportunities. The District is not just a place where decisions about technology are made, we are a city where the tech industry can grow and thrive.



— **Nina Albert**

Deputy Mayor for Planning
and Economic Development

OVERVIEW

Washington, DC is not only the nation's capital and center of American politics and policy, but also among the nation's most dynamic technology economies – home to a highly educated workforce, a growing base of startups, growth-stage companies and venture capital investment, and a policy environment at the intersection of innovation and regulation. Under Mayor Bowser's leadership, DC's economic strategy to diversify and grow its technology, innovation, sports, entertainment, and other high-growth sectors is well underway.

Greater Washington region is one of the strongest-performing regional economies in the country, home to more than 50 Fortune 1000 companies and 11 R1 research institutions, with venture capital activity trailing only San Francisco, Boston, and New York nationally. High-growth sectors, including technology, life sciences, aerospace and defense tech, still make up just 7% of the region's jobs today, less than half the share held by peer hubs like the Bay Area or Seattle. That gap is opportunity, and DC intends to capture it across the board: cybersecurity, AI, govtech, life sciences, and defense technology sit squarely within DC's competitive strengths.

Federal demand for technology is not theoretical. The Department of Defense alone spent \$7.9 billion with DC-based contractors in 2025, and DC's cyber, AI, and dual-use companies compete daily for technology work. Add DC's proximity to the agencies that influence and consume regulated technologies, the institutions that fund life sciences research, and the policymakers who set the terms for every one of these sectors nationally, and DC's advantage compounds. DC's opportunity is to convert more of that demand into companies, jobs, and capital that stay inside the District itself, not just the region around it.

As of 2025, DC is home to roughly 51,000 tech jobs projected to grow by 7.9% through 2028 (55,000), within an ecosystem of over 15,000 companies active across artificial intelligence (AI), cloud, and other emerging technology sectors. In 2024, tech companies signed over 700,000 square feet of office space in DC, more than double the volume from 2023.

PRIORITY SECTORS & FOUNDATIONAL ENABLERS

KNOWLEDGE HUB

World class talent and research assets

GLOBAL GATEWAY

Bridging U.S. to international community

HOME OF THE FEDS

Proximity to regulators & legislators

INCLUSIVE INNOVATION

Leading city for BIPOC entrepreneurs



Cybersecurity



Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning



Financial Technology



Life Sciences and Medtech



Defense and Dual Use Technologies



Climate and Mobility Technologies

Leading venture capital firms like Andreessen Horowitz and The Westly Group have opened DC offices, drawn by the city's proximity to the institutions shaping the future of technology policy and the growing tech ecosystem. Major companies like OpenAI, SpaceX, NVIDIA, Netflix, and CoreWeave have signed new leases or expanded their footprints in the District. Through programs like the Vitality Fund, DC Venture Capital Fund, and the Technology Ecosystem Fund, DC is cultivating tech companies by providing incentives to grow and stay in the District.

DC's ambition is straightforward: to be the startup hub of this region, not just the place where decisions about tech policy get made.

KEY FIGURES AT A GLANCE

7.9%



Tech jobs in DC, projected to grow by 7.9% through 2028¹

\$861M



\$861M Venture capital raised in DC in 2025²

KEY INDUSTRIES: DC'S TECH SUBSECTORS

DC-Based Companies by Priority Sector



Cybersecurity

Virtru

GROWTH-STAGE

DNSFilter

GROWTH-STAGE

GreyNoise

STARTUP

Sublime Security

GROWTH-STAGE

Hydden

STARTUP



Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Afiniti

ESTABLISHED (PRIVATE)

Emerald AI

STARTUP

Lola Vision Systems

STARTUP

Sorcero

GROWTH-STAGE

Incorpify

GROWTH-STAGE



Financial Technology

Fundrise

GROWTH-STAGE

Upside

GROWTH-STAGE

Binkey

STARTUP

MPOWER
Financing

GROWTH-STAGE



Life Sciences and MedTech

Children's National

INSTITUTION

Babyscripts

GROWTH-STAGE

Otolith Labs

STARTUP

Biolojic Design

GROWTH-STAGE



Defense and Dual Use Technologies

Rebellion Defense **GROWTH-STAGE**

Quorum **GROWTH-STAGE**

Hydosat **GROWTH-STAGE**

Rhea Space Activity **STARTUP**

Orbital Sentry **STARTUP**

Magma Space **STARTUP**



Climate and Mobility Technologies

Arcadia **GROWTH-STAGE**

Inspiration Mobility **GROWTH-STAGE**

SparkMeter **STARTUP**

SparkFund **GROWTH-STAGE**

Buckstop Industries **STARTUP**

Stage Key:

Stage reflects each company's most advanced equity round in PitchBook data, October 2026.

- STARTUP:** Pre-Seed through Series A.
- GROWTH-STAGE:** Series B or later.
- ESTABLISHED (PRIVATE):** Mature, privately held company.
- INSTITUTION:** Hospital or university.



DC'S TECH SUBSECTORS

CYBERSECURITY

41% PROJECTED GROWTH OF DC'S CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE THROUGH 2028, FAR OUTPACING NATIONAL AVERAGES

DC is home to one of the largest cybersecurity labor markets in the country, a direct outgrowth of decades of federal security infrastructure and private sector investment. DC's cyber advantage isn't just proximity, it's headquarters. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the federal government's operational lead on cyber defense, is based in DC, along with the FBI's Cyber Division, which leads national investigation of cyber-crime and intrusions, and the State Department's Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, which sets U.S. cyber policy abroad. Companies building in DC operate in the same city as the agencies that defend, prosecute, and set the rules for the digital economy.

The District's cyber workforce is projected to grow 41% by 2028, far outpacing national averages.³ Of the 60,000 open cybersecurity positions across the region, 15,000 sit within the District itself. This is a real, current demand upon which DC can deliver a homegrown pipeline. Programs like the Advanced Technical Centers' cybersecurity pathways are already doing exactly that, giving DC residents a direct route into one of the region's highest-paying, fastest-growing fields.





ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING

#4 NATIONAL RANKING FOR AI TECH TALENT – #13 GLOBALLY

AI is reshaping DC's tech identity faster than any other sector, with AI representing 71% of capital flow in Q1 2025.⁴ DC ranks #4 nationally and #13 globally for AI tech talent.⁵ Companies built on AI-driven tools are increasingly choosing DC for its talent pool as well as its proximity to federal agencies, regulators, and policymakers that shape how AI is adopted and governed across the country. The District is also the fastest-growing destination for elite software engineers in the country, with a 41% year-over-year increase in AI-skilled candidates, according to Karat's 2025 hiring report. Surging demand has made DC a magnet for talent from the country's established tech centers, with the majority of out-of-market candidates interviewing for DC roles having relocated from San Francisco, Seattle, or New York. DC-based firms are working across AI security, data analytics, public sector applications, and defense-adjacent AI systems.

³ CyberSeek / Lightcast, 2026

⁴ PitchBook, 2025

⁵ CBRE / LinkedIn Talent Insights, Jan. 2025



FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY

\$500M IN FEDERAL CONTRACTS TO DC FINTECH AND REGTECH COMPANIES OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS

DC's financial technology (fintech) sector is small but growing quickly as business leaders recognize the importance of the city's proximity to the people who write the rules, something no other market can offer. The Federal Reserve, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and the U.S. Department of the Treasury are all headquartered here. For a company building payments infrastructure, lending products, or compliance tools, that is not a soft advantage. It means faster access to guidance, a front-row seat to policy before it becomes law, and the ability to build products with regulators in the room instead of guessing at their intent from three time zones away.

That is why DC classifies fintech as an "invest to grow" priority alongside AI and cybersecurity within its technology sector. The opportunity is not DC competing with New York or San Francisco on volume of capital transactions. It's DC being the place where regulated technology gets built correctly the first time, because the regulators are down the street.

LIFE SCIENCES AND MEDTECH

\$206M IN NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH FUNDING AWARDED TO DC INSTITUTIONS IN FY2025⁶

DC sits at the center of the country's life sciences policy and research infrastructure. The National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are all headquartered in the region, creating unmatched demand for health technology platforms built to operate alongside them. Children's National Hospital's Research Innovation Campus anchors a growing life sciences cluster within the District itself, specializing in cell and gene therapeutics discovery and biotech policy-facing ventures.

DC institutions, led by George Washington University, Georgetown University, Howard University, and Children's National Medical Center attracted \$206 million in NIH research funding in FY 2025, supporting an estimated \$406 million in local economic activity.

The region overall raised \$426 million in life sciences venture capital in 2025, with roughly \$2 million of that landing inside the District itself, a small starting point relative to the institutional strength already in place. The District has already proven with its 5 R1 research institutions that capacity is not the issue. DC's opportunity now is in closing the commercialization gap and converting institutional proximity into more of that regional capital landing inside the District, rather than settling for a supporting role in a market that the District is positioned to anchor.

⁶ CBRE, Global Life Sciences Atlas: Washington, DC-Baltimore Market Profile, April 2025

DEFENSE AND DUAL USE TECHNOLOGIES

\$7.9B SPENT BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ON
DC-BASED CONTRACTORS⁷

Defense tech tenants doubled their DC leasing in 2025. National defense tech venture capital reached \$3 billion across 102 deals in 2024, an 11% increase year-over-year.⁸ On the venture side, DC-based companies closed 3 of the region's 19 defense tech deals in 2025, evidence that DC's dealmaking presence in the sector is growing even as capital concentrates elsewhere in the region. DC's defense tech base increasingly overlaps with aerospace and space, and the District's own venture capital fund has backed that momentum directly, investing in Orbital Sentry, a DC-based satellite Earth observation company serving both defense and commercial markets. A defense or space company building here can move from prototype to policy conversation to purchase order without leaving the District.

CLIMATE AND MOBILITY TECHNOLOGIES

#4 GREENEST U.S. CITY, A PROVING GROUND FOR
CLIMATE AND MOBILITY TECH

Climate tech and mobility tech are two of the fastest-growing sectors nationally, driven largely by national policy and capital trends rather than any single city. What DC offers within that growth is a distinct landing spot for both. On the climate side, proximity to organizations like Resources for the Future, the World Resources Institute, and other global climate institutions creates a pipeline few other cities can match. The District's own venture capital fund has backed that pipeline directly, investing in businesses like Buckstop, a DC-based circular economy company recovering critical minerals from electronics. Beyond individual companies, the District ranks among the top 10 U.S. cities for both total and per capita installed solar capacity, according to the most recent Shining Cities report (data through 2022).⁹ More recently, WalletHub's 2026 analysis of the 100 largest U.S. cities ranked DC fourth-greenest overall.¹⁰

The region's multi-modal transit network and early adoption of bike and scooter sharing make DC a natural test bed for new mobility solutions, including the Southwest BID's Mobility Innovation District, which pilots community-focused mobility solutions that serve as a replicable model for urban transportation nationwide.

⁷ USA Spending: District of Columbia, 2025

⁸ Crunchbase News, Defense Tech Funding Growth, 2024 Year in Review

⁹ Environment America, Shining Cities 2022

¹⁰ WalletHub, 2026

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF DISRUPTION

DAY 5
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WASHINGTON, D.C.

RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND
INTERNATIONAL
TRADE CENTER



DCSTW 25
DC STARTUP & TECH WEEK

10 YEARS OF
INNOVATIVE DISRUPTION

Date 10/24/2025

Pay to the
order of

NOWY

\$1,500.00

One Thousand Five Hundred

DCSTW
DC STARTUP & TECH WEEK

to Early stage
pitch winner

DC Start up and Tech Week

DCSTW 20 24 2025

Sponsored by:  MARYLAND
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center

WHO'S HERE

Tech and defense tech companies signed over 700,000 square feet of office space in DC in 2024, more than double that of 2023.¹¹ Global leaders are making long-term bets on this city.

COMPANY	SECTOR	DC FOOTPRINT
Amazon / AWS	Cloud / GovTech	Federal policy + AWS public sector
Apple	Consumer Tech / AI / Policy	Government affairs + corporate functions
Fundrise	FinTech / Real Estate Tech	DC Headquarters
Google	Cloud / AI / Policy	DC office + policy / public sector
Last Energy	Climate / Nuclear Tech	DC Headquarters + government affairs
Mapbox	Geospatial / Software	DC office / headquarters presence
Microsoft	Cloud / Enterprise	Government affairs + public sector
Netflix	Media / Entertainment Tech	Downtown DC office + entertainment
Palantir	Data / GovTech	Federal + defense + government
Rebellion Defense	Defense Tech / AI	DC Headquarters + defense / federal
TikTok	Social Media / Policy	Public policy + government affairs
Virtru	Cybersecurity	DC Headquarters

¹¹JLL Research, 2024

INVESTMENT MOMENTUM

FUNDING AND CAPITAL SUPPORTING GROWTH OF DC TECH

DC's investment landscape combines surging private capital with national VC firms opening DC offices and District-backed programs designed to close equity gaps for underrepresented founders. The District is strengthening the venture capital ecosystem by using public investment to expand access to capital, attract investors, and build a stronger pipeline of high-growth companies in the District.

Private Capital Momentum¹²

\$861M

Venture capital raised in the District in 2025



DC's share of the region's total AI venture capital in 2025, up from a smaller share in prior years

25%

\$5.4B

DMV region venture capital raised in 2025, the broader backdrop DC is capturing a growing share of



HOMEGROWN INVESTORS

DC's investment community includes a strong base of homegrown investors who are committed to bolstering the landscape and workforce.

Halcyon

Impact accelerator and fund, with 600+ founders since 2014. Focused on serving impact-driven entrepreneurs with ventures in Climate, Health, and EquityTech.

Revolution's Rise of the Rest Seed Fund

Launched by AOL co-founder Steve Case, with DC as a centerpiece of its thesis that the next generation of companies will be built outside of Silicon Valley.

New Majority Ventures

Founded by Melissa Bradley, focused on founders of color, women, and members of the LGBTQ+ community to equip them with capital, expertise, and networks to create high-growth businesses.



NEW MAJORITY VENTURES

In December 2024, 1863 Ventures, one of DC's most impactful organizations for founders of color, women, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, relaunched as New Majority Ventures under founder Melissa Bradley. Founded originally in 2015 at Georgetown University to support entrepreneurs in Southeast DC, the organization has spent a decade building inclusive founder support at scale.

The new structure as New Majority Ventures shifts toward ecosystem partnership, sharing its tested curriculum with accelerators, incubators, and universities so that more organizations can apply the same approach to help New Majority founders grow, create jobs, and build wealth. The mission – create \$100 billion in new wealth by and for New Majority founders.

5,000+ Founders supported to date

2,000+ Jobs created by alumni

96%+ Business survival rate among program alumni



Melissa Bradley, Founder
New Majority Ventures





KEY FUNDING MILESTONES

Investments by the District of Columbia



**2021-
2024**



\$4.2M IN LOCAL FUNDING

DMPED funded 39 businesses through three rounds of the Inclusive Innovation Equity Impact Fund (IIEIF).



2025



\$2.4M TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM FUND

DMPED launched the Technology Ecosystem Fund to support incubators, accelerators, and community organizations citywide.



2025



\$52M VENTURE FUND

DMPED and K Street Capital selected Hustle Fund and Lytical Ventures as Round 1 fund managers.

K STREET CAPITAL

Founded in 2012, K Street Capital is a DC-based venture capital firm built on three pillars: (1) a large early-stage investor syndicate, (2) a professionally managed seed-stage fund, (3) and a fund-of-funds managed in partnership with DMPED. Under Managing Partner Paige Soya, the firm backs exceptional founders focused on early-stage tech in the high-growth regulated markets of healthtech, fintech, cybersecurity, climate tech, and AI.

With more than 42% of its portfolio led by women or founders of color, K Street Capital is a model for inclusive, high-performing venture capital in DC. In December 2025, K Street Capital and the District announced the selection of Hustle Fund and Lytical Ventures as inaugural fund managers for the \$52M DC Venture Capital Program, a partnership supported by U.S. Treasury State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) funding.

\$65M

Assets under management

75+

Companies across the
K Street Capital platform

42%

Portfolio companies led by
women or founders of color



K-STREET
CAPITAL

DISTRICT-SUPPORTED FUNDS AND PROGRAMS

Alongside private investment, the District government has built an expanding toolkit of programs designed to support founders at every stage, with a particular emphasis on closing equity gaps for underrepresented entrepreneurs.

DC VENTURE CAPITAL PROGRAM

\$52M

FUND-OF-FUNDS PROGRAM SIZE

The **DC Venture Capital Program** (dmped.dc.gov/page/dc-venture-capital-program) targets equity investments in early-stage, DC-based tech companies with priority on underrepresented founders. Backed by \$26 million in funding from U.S. Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), the program requires a 1:1 private-sector match, effectively doubling the total funding available to DC startups to a minimum of \$52 million. The first round of fund managers for the program were selected in December 2025: Hustle Fund and Lytical Ventures. The program targets pre-seed through Series A companies.

TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM FUND

The District's newest initiative, the **Technology Ecosystem Fund** (dmped.dc.gov/page/TEF), supports the organizations, infrastructure, and programs that help DC-based tech companies start, scale, and succeed by creating new business incubators and accelerators. The program is a direct investment into DC's innovation economy.

By investing in the full ecosystem rather than individual companies alone, the District is building durable infrastructure that will sustain DC's growth as a national tech hub for decades to come.

VITALITY FUND

870

NEW JOBS
COMMITTED BY
COMPANIES

486

JOBS RETAINED

\$3.01M

IN FISCAL IMPACT

\$35.1M

PRIVATE CAPITAL
INVESTMENTS
MADE

The **Vitality Fund** (dmped.dc.gov/page/vitalityfund) launched in 2022 and provides multi-year, performance-based grants to established companies relocating to or expanding in Washington, DC. Grants incentivize job creation, capital investment, and long-term occupancy of commercial office space, with priority given to companies in high-growth sectors including technology, life sciences, and consulting, and a focus on revitalizing Downtown.

GROWTH FUND

In its first year, the Growth Fund supported:

98

NEW JOBS COMMITTED BY
SUPPORTED COMPANIES

16K

SQ FT OF COMMERCIAL
OFFICE SPACE OCCUPIED

\$1.6M

IN FISCAL IMPACT

The **Growth Fund** (dmped.dc.gov/page/growthfund) applies that same performance-based model to smaller, earlier-stage companies. Where the Vitality Fund targets established employers with at least 15,000 square feet of office space, the Growth Fund supports startups and small businesses with as few as five employees, encouraging them to plant roots in DC as they scale rather than looking elsewhere for their next stage of growth.



ACCELERATORS, INCUBATORS, AND ECOSYSTEM BUILDERS

THE ECOSYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS FOUNDERS

DC has a growing network of accelerators, incubators, and innovation hubs — many with a specific focus on underrepresented founders, GovTech, and dual-use technology. Together, they form one of the most specialized founder support ecosystems in the country.

HALCYON

Climate, Health, EquityTech

Accelerator · 600+ founders since 2014 · No equity taken · ~\$100K avg. fund investment · 4-6 month fellowship with stipend, legal support, and coaching

DCODE ACCELERATE

GovTech / Federal Market Entry

Accelerator · Rolling cohort · Nexus platform for direct federal agency access · Advisory on pricing, contracting, and go-to-market for commercial tech entering government

FEDTECH

Deep Tech / Federal Lab Commercialization

Accelerator · 8-24 week programs · Pairs founders with tech from DoD, NASA, and 17+ federal labs

CIVSTART

State and Local GovTech

Accelerator · Only program exclusively focused on state and local government market · Cohort-based, virtual · Connects startups with government buyers

MACH37

Cybersecurity, AI, Quantum

Accelerator · 12-week program · Mentorship from former intelligence and military cyber professionals · 40+ companies supported

TECHSTARS FUTURE OF LONGEVITY

AgeTech / Longevity

Accelerator · 13-week intensive in partnership with Pivotal Ventures · Access to Techstars global mentor and investor network · DC-based cohort

FOUNDERSBOOST DC

All Tech Sectors — Pre-seed

Accelerator · 80%+ under-represented founders · 600+ startups over 8 years · No equity, no fees · Alumni raised \$400M+

VILLAGE CAPITAL

Fintech, AgTech, EdTech, Health

Accelerator · Peer-selected cohort model · Focus on underserved markets · Investment from VilCap Investments · Global programs with DC base

PLUG AND PLAY DC

GovTech, Defense, Public Safety

Accelerator · Launched November 2025 with Consortium Management Group · First Plug and Play location in DC · Connects startups with federal agencies

FOUNDER INSTITUTE DC

All Tech Sectors — Idea Stage

Accelerator · 4-month program
· Validate, Launch, and Growth tracks · Global network of 7,800+ alumni · 10 companies graduated in Fall 2024

2GETHER INTERNATIONAL

Disability-Focused Founders

Accelerator · Exclusively for founders with disabilities · 70+ startups · Alumni raised \$50M+ across 15 countries · SBA-supported, Global Accelerator Network (GAN) member

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

WARD INFINITY Health, Environment, Community

Accelerator · 16-week equity-free program · \$12K grant per team · Focus on community-rooted ventures solving critical health and environmental challenges · JHU faculty coaches · Additional \$25K in pitch competition awards

DREAMBLOC

All Sectors — Growth Stage

Founder Development · Dream Wealth Camp mastermind intensive · Workshops on digital transformation, financing, and investment relations

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT INCUBATOR

Social Impact / Global Development

Incubator · 2–3 year partnerships · Helps launch startups and scale organizations addressing urgent global challenges · Global investor and institutional connections

HATCHERY BY AARP

AgeTech / Longevity

Incubator · Builds and incubates startup ideas in-house · Also supports external founders · Access to AARP's network of experts and potential customers

GEORGETOWN ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCUBATOR

All Tech Sectors

University Incubator · Workspace, mentorship, expert coaching, and networking · Open to Georgetown students and recent alumni at early stage

AU ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCUBATOR

All Sectors — Social Enterprise

University Incubator · American University program · Mentorship, workspace, and resources for students and recent alumni · Social enterprise emphasis

HOWARD UNIVERSITY INNOVATION HUB

STEM, Deep Tech, Social Enterprise

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Incubator · Access to Howard's R1 research infrastructure · Connected to HBCU founder networks and Google Tech Exchange alumni · University-based

PUBLIC VALUE LAB

Civic Tech, Public Interest

Incubator · Phase 0 incubation for mission-driven professionals · 3-month cohort · Supports co-ops, nonprofits, and hybrid models · No pitch required to apply

STATION DC

Defense, National Security, AI

Innovation Hub · 13,000+ sq ft at Union Market · Membership club with policy briefings · Over 50 mentors supporting founders and the DC tech ecosystem · Operated by Capital Factory

DC TECH & VENTURE COALITION (DCTAV)

Community, Advocacy, Capital Access

A coalition of DC tech executives, founders, investors, and ecosystem leaders united around making DC one of the country's leading hubs for technology, innovation, and new ventures

TECH TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

10 Major universities based in DC¹³

45 Universities with satellite campuses in DC¹⁴

64.2% of DC residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher, far outpacing national averages of 35%¹⁵

Education and Talent Pipelines

UNIVERSITIES

Universities like Howard University, Georgetown University, American University, George Washington University, and the University of the District of Columbia anchor DC's technology talent pipeline. Through strong programs in the computer sciences, ethics and AI, cybersecurity, and other fields, DC universities are producing the next generation of the region's tech workforce.

APPRENTICESHIPS

BuildWithin operates one of the first tech apprenticeship programs registered with DC's Department of Employment Services (DOES), backed by \$1.2 million in public investment through the Capital Workforce Innovation Consortium. Their model combines a month-long intensive, a 3-month internship, and a full apprenticeship placement, with a focus on DC residents and underrepresented workers. DOES, through the Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment Program, also matches students interested in technology to employers in the tech field.

K-12 PIPELINE

DC has made meaningful investment in expanding computer science access in public schools through partnerships with organizations like Code.org and Project Lead the Way, a nonprofit that provides a career-ready curriculum in tech and engineering. Schools like McKinley Technology High School and Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School have a STEM focus that prepares students for careers in tech.

¹³ The Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, 2026

¹⁴ Washington, DC, A University District, WDCEP, 2026

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau Quickfacts, 2020-2024

PREPARING DC'S NEXT GENERATION FOR HIGH-GROWTH CAREERS

DC is investing in specialized facilities and programs designed to grow its next generation of tech talent from within. The Advanced Technical Centers (ATCs) are open-enrollment hubs offering high school students across all eight wards dual-credit pathways in cybersecurity and healthcare. Since launching in 2022, enrollment has grown from 96 students to 370 in 2025-26, drawing participants from 25 public schools. For the 2026-27 school year, nearly 1,000 students applied to attend one of the two ATC campuses, reflecting surging citywide demand.

In the first three years of the program, 400 students earned a combined 4,700 college credits, saving families approximately \$3 million in tuition. Students also earn industry-recognized credentials in cybersecurity and healthcare, with Trinity Washington University offering all ATC graduates a \$15,000 annual scholarship. The cybersecurity pathway is developed in partnership with the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer, building a direct pipeline of homegrown tech talent into the city's workforce.

Complementing the ATCs, programs like Capitol City Robotics bring hands-on STEM education to students across all eight wards, reaching participants from 69 schools and earning a record 56 awards in the 2024-25 school year, including national drone championships and multiple DC robotics titles. These programs reflect DC's commitment to building a homegrown tech pipeline that connects classroom learning to in-demand careers.



STATION DC

Launched in July 2024 by Capital Factory, Station DC is a hub for defense technology, national security, and frontier tech innovation in Washington, DC. Founded by the late Joshua Baer, Station DC brings together founders, investors, and government leaders to accelerate cross-sector collaboration and dual-use innovation.

Since its launch, Station DC has grown to more than 700 members, opened its headquarters in Union Market, and hosted 300+ events with nearly 5,000 attendees across all eight wards of the District. Station DC offers daily programming, founder and investor education, industry roundtables, and hands-on AI workshops, supported by a network of 50+ mentors. Its internship program, currently serving 15 students, helps develop the next generation of talent while advancing entrepreneurship, workforce development, and investment across the District.

Building on Baer's vision of bridging technology and policy, Station DC occupies a unique position at the intersection of innovation, national security, and government adoption. By connecting the people and institutions shaping these sectors, it helps emerging technologies advance from development to real-world application.

KEY FACTS

13,000+ sq ft
workspace in the
Union Market District

300+
events hosted
since launch

**Operated by
Capital Factory**
with over 700 members
across the DMV



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

DC's tech ecosystem is growing rapidly, but three key areas require sustained attention and investment to fulfill the city's potential as a nationally competitive technology hub.

1

NATIONAL VISIBILITY AND PERCEPTION

DC's tech ecosystem consistently punches above its weight but remains under-recognized nationally. Building a stronger, unified DC tech brand starts with emphasizing DC's unique advantage as home to the federal government, giving the District a natural platform to scale government-adjacent technologies that no other city can claim. The companies, capital, and talent are here. The story needs to be told more loudly.

2

A SHIFTING FEDERAL TALENT POOL

The federal workforce is in transition, and that shift is reshaping DC's talent landscape. Thousands of experienced tech professionals are moving from federal roles into the private sector, representing a significant talent pool for DC's growing startup ecosystem. The District is positioned to capture that talent by building clear pipelines and offering the resources founders need to bring that expertise on board.

3

GROWTH STAGE CAPITAL GAP

While early-stage and late-stage capital is improving, DC's Series B and Series C ecosystem remains thinner than peer cities. Closing this gap through public-private partnership and attracting more national growth-stage venture capital is critical to keeping DC's best companies rooted in the city and scaling here.

DC STARTUP AND TECH WEEK

DC Startup and Tech Week is the District's flagship annual event for the technology and entrepreneurship community. Founded in 2015 as DC Startup Week by co-founders Rachel Koretsky and Chida Sadayappan, the program has grown into a week-long fall convening that unites founders at every stage, investors, corporate partners, government leaders, and ecosystem builders for programming that spans the full range of DC's innovation economy.

Unlike single-venue conferences, DC Startup and Tech Week is distributed across several venues by design. Events are hosted at accelerators, co-working spaces, university campuses, and community centers across all eight wards, making participation accessible regardless of where a founder is located in the city. The format reflects a core belief that DC's tech ecosystem belongs to the whole city. For a founder who is new to DC, or a national investor considering opening a DC office, or a federal employee thinking about a transition to the private sector, DC Startup and Tech Week provides a concentrated, accessible way to understand what is happening in the city.



Rachel Koretsky, Co-Founder of DC Startup and Tech Week and Founder & CEO of Upace

Chida Sadayappan, Co-Founder of DC Startup and Tech Week & Senior Vice President of Portfolio Operations at Platinum Equity

TECHSGIVING SUMMIT

Techsgiving was formed in Washington, DC in 2018 by co-founders Ayo Duyile, Femi Adebayo, and Nafisa Rawji as a single-day event to raise funds for local K-12 tech supplies. In 2020, the organization hosted its first annual summit virtually for over 800 attendees, shifting its focus to community building and career development for students and professionals in response to the changing tech landscape. Today, 51% of its community of over 40,000 members has landed a new tech role or promotion since joining. The annual summit drew 7,000 citywide participants in 2024, generating an estimated \$4.1 million in total economic impact, with attendees representing more than 500 cities and 20 countries.

The summit's workforce focus is central to its design. Across four tracks covering Career Mobility, Government Consulting and Contracting, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and Non-Technical Roles in Tech, attendees access technical workshops, career guidance, interview preparation, mentor and mentee matching, and a hiring fair with industry partners. Cybersecurity is the top job vertical among attendees, followed by project management, product management, data analytics, and software engineering, reflecting the in-demand roles DC employers are actively working to fill.

Techsgiving also supports the next generation of DC founders through an annual pitch competition open to HBCU alumni founders, in partnership with Howard University and PNC's Center for Entrepreneurship, and a Small Business Marketplace connecting DC entrepreneurs with thousands of attendees.

Femi Adebayo, Nafisa Rawji, and Ayo Duyile,
Co-Founders of the Techsgiving Summit



40,000+ community members

7,000+ citywide participants (2024)

\$4.1M estimated economic impact (2024)

51% of members landed a new tech role or promotion since joining the network

ADDITIONAL TECH EVENTS ACROSS DC

AI and Emerging Technology

- **NVIDIA GTC Washington DC**
nvidia.com/gtc/dc (October)
- **Google Public Sector Summit**
cloud.google.com/public-sector
(October)
- **AI+ Expo** expo.scsp.ai (May)
- **AI for Defense Summit**
ai.dsigroup.org (September)

Cloud and Enterprise Technology

- **AWS Summit Washington DC**
aws.amazon.com/events/summits/washington-dc (June/July)
- **Salesforce World Tour DC**
salesforce.com/events/world-tour/dc
(Spring)
- **Red Hat Summit: Connect Washington DC**
redhat.com/en/summit/connect (Fall)
- **IBM Think Gov**
ibm.com/events/think/on-tour (Annual)

Cybersecurity

- **Billington CyberSecurity Summit**
billingtoncybersummit.com
(September)
- **CrowdStrike Fal.Con Gov**
crowdstrike.com/en-us/events (March)

Federal IT and GovTech

- **FedTalks (FedScoop)**
fedtalks.upgather.com (Annual)
- **MeriTalk Events**
meritalk.com/events (Various)
- **ACT-IAC Events** actiac.org (Various)
- **Washington DC Digital Government Summit** events.govtech.com (Annual)

Blockchain and Digital Assets

- **DC Blockchain Week / DC Blockchain Summit**
dcblockchainsummit.com (March)
- **Black Blockchain Summit**
blackblockchainsummit.com
(September)

Fintech and Finance

- **DC Fintech Week**
dcfintechweek.org (October)

Climate and Sustainability Tech

- **DC Climate Week**
dcclimateweek.com (April/May)



**DC IS NO LONGER
JUST A MARKET TO
MONITOR. IT'S A
MARKET TO BE IN.**

— **Katherine Boyle,**
General Partner of
Andreessen Horowitz





STATE OF DC TECH 2026
