



# Accelerating Support for Startups in the United States

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States is home to many accelerators, as well as organizations that support startups in establishing operations around the country. SelectUSA often works with foreign-owned startups wanting to enter the U.S. market through participation in an accelerator program. While there are different datasets that attempt to track the locations of startups and accelerators, the rapid cycle of startups makes this an ever-changing landscape that accelerators both respond to and promote.

This report uses quantitative and qualitative analysis to examine the current accelerator landscape in the United States. For the purpose of this analysis, accelerators are differentiated from incubators and other soft-landing programs if they operate in short-term cohorts; provide financial support through investment; select companies through a competitive process on a cyclical basis; provide educational seminars; offer intense mentorship opportunities; and deliver these services at a specific location.

The analysis also considers additional data on other organizations that support startups, as well as a broad picture of the current startup landscape in the United States. The goal of this research brief is to both analyze the current accelerator landscape and examine how it can continue to complement other support organizations to meet the needs of future startups.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Accelerators

The U.S. accelerator landscape is diverse in both its geographic distribution and its industry focuses. The majority of accelerators identified in this report are generalist in industry, but this categorization belies the variety of startups on which they focus their support. Additionally, this report identifies ten broad industries that are supported by U.S. accelerators.

### Additional Organizations Supporting Startups

In addition to accelerators, this report also analyzes data on organizations that support startups, including service providers, local initiatives, and incubators. While these organizations may not have the same detailed and programmatic structure of accelerators, they complement the support of accelerators with additional resources, funding, and services. The data cover almost an equal number of accelerators and organizations supporting startups.

### Startups

Startups continue to contribute to the U.S. economy across the country in both metropolitan and micropolitan areas. This report identifies startups in 50 states and territories and across eleven industries, indicating a large market for accelerators.

U.S. ACCELERATOR LANDSCAPE	
<b>150 Accelerators</b> →	The United States is home to at least 150 unique accelerators: 141 identified by StartupBlink and an additional nine identified by the SelectUSA State EDO Survey.
<b>31 States and Territories</b> →	These accelerators operate around the country in 29 states and two territories.
<b>44 Metro Areas</b> →	There are 44 metropolitan areas around the United States with at least one accelerator: 38 identified by StartupBlink and an additional six identified by the SelectUSA State EDO Survey.
<b>10 Industries</b> →	StartupBlink places accelerators into 10 distinct industries, and all 10 are represented in the United States.



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## INTRODUCTION

The United States has hundreds of accelerators and support organizations such as incubators and service providers that complement thousands of startups. The diversity and wide geographic distribution of these accelerators and support organizations require an updated landscape analysis of their locations and areas of focus for potential startups.

This report was inspired by the findings of the SelectUSA research brief [Small but Mighty: Cases of Small Business Foreign Direct Investment](#)<sup>1</sup> that identified support from accelerators, incubators, and university programs as key factors facilitating the decision by foreign-owned small businesses to invest in the United States. For two of the five businesses interviewed in the report, accelerators provided initial assistance to the companies entering the U.S. market by establishing business credibility, helping with fundraising, and networking with potential partners. This paper provides an overview of U.S. accelerators and other support organizations to serve as a potential resource for startups looking to expand or establish business operations in the United States.

Inclusion of an entity in this report does not constitute an endorsement of the entity or of its products, services, or technology by SelectUSA or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

It should be noted that this report is for informational purposes only, does not constitute legal advice, and is in no way advisory.

SelectUSA operates under the principle of geographic neutrality, which means we do not recommend any U.S. location over another.

## METHODOLOGY

This report uses data from StartupBlink, a research center that compiles and verifies information on accelerators, support organizations, and startups around the world. StartupBlink gathers data from partners such as CrunchBase, SEMrush, Meetup, Findexable, and Coworker and works with local and state governments and economic development organizations (EDO) and SelectUSA to confirm the information. These data were downloaded on August 11, 2021.

StartupBlink recognizes its global ecosystem dataset as a representative sample of 10 to 15 percent of total accelerator, support organization, and startup entities. Due to the working relationships that StartupBlink has with local EDO partners in the United States, certain areas are more robust than others. In 2021, these local partners included:

- City of Denver
- Minnesota Department of Economic Development
- World Business Chicago
- Maryland Department of Commerce
- Invest Puerto Rico
- Alliance for Southern California Innovation

SelectUSA cleaned and cross-referenced StartupBlink's data pertaining to accelerators, support organizations, and startups with publicly available information. SelectUSA used organizations' own websites to confirm their locations and classified them according to StartupBlink's industry categories. Those without a particular industry focus were assigned to a "General" category. Using descriptions in StartupBlink's dataset and the organizations' own websites, accelerators were also categorized if they had a particular mission, specialization in technology ("tech") sectors, university affiliation, or focus on companies with owners from underrepresented groups.

The data were joined with metropolitan and micropolitan area shapefiles (2020) from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), representing 384 metropolitan statistical areas and 543 micropolitan statistical areas to determine area limits.

Complementary data are also included from a survey of state and territory EDOs conducted by SelectUSA in May 2022 (the SelectUSA State EDO Survey). Twenty-eight states and territories responded to the question: "Would you like to provide information on any major accelerators or incubators in your state that accept foreign business investors?" These data provide specific examples that both match and expand the data from StartupBlink.



## REVIEW OF EXISTING ACCELERATOR RESEARCH

A significant amount of existing academic literature on accelerators utilizes the definition developed by Susan Cohen in “What Do Accelerators Do? Insights from Incubators and Angels” (2013):<sup>ii</sup> that accelerators are financial, educational, and structural supports for early-stage businesses. Cohen states that to separate an accelerator from an incubator or other soft-landing program, accelerators must:

- Operate in short-term cohorts typically around three months in duration;
- Financially support startups through a business or non-profit investment;
- Have a competitive and cyclical selection process;
- Deliver education through seminars;
- Provide intense mentorship, either by the organization or other entities; and
- Provide these services at a specific location.

While the definition of accelerators has since been expanded to differentiate accelerators from incubators, angel investors, and hybrid support models,<sup>iii iv v</sup> Cohen’s original definition remains the standard definition in much of the existing literature.

Cohen also highlights a trend that we see in the analysis of the StartupBlink dataset: while the majority of accelerator programs accept startups from any industry or affiliation, there are many instances of accelerators focusing on specific industries or community affiliations, such as women-owned or university-affiliated.

One study by Ian Hathaway at Brookings provides a historical analysis of U.S. accelerator growth from the first established accelerator, Y Combinator, in 2005, to the 172 accelerators he identifies in 2015. He notes that three main geographic regions of the United States contain around 40 percent of all accelerators and almost two-thirds of deals funded by accelerators from 2005 to 2015: San Francisco, California; Boston, Massachusetts; and New York, New York.<sup>vi</sup>

Peter Roberts and Saraubh Lall further classify accelerators into three different types:

- Private seed accelerators (e.g., Y Combinator), which often target mature ventures in sectors with high expected profits (such as high tech) and offer programming and small seed capital for equity stakes in the participants’ ventures;
- Corporate accelerators, which target innovative products and services for new entrepreneurial talent; and
- Impact-oriented accelerators, which are interested in growing startup activity with the goal of economic and ecosystem development.<sup>vii</sup>

This report includes all three types of accelerators and particularly highlights the emergence of impact-oriented accelerators from the StartupBlink database.

## ANALYSIS INTRODUCTION

StartupBlink identifies 141 accelerators, 146 support organizations, and 2,971 startups across the United States. Together, these entities are located in 51 states and territories, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and 187 metropolitan and micropolitan areas. Additionally, in SelectUSA’s May 2022 survey, state EDOs voluntarily provided information on 11 accelerators and 44 support organizations, including 12 incubators and eight state government resource organizations.

Together, the StartupBlink dataset provides a general picture of accelerators and other support organizations to startups that is supplemented with additional examples voluntarily provided by state EDOs. While these data are not exhaustive, they provide a lens to examine the diversity of the accelerator and startup ecosystem in the United States.

### ACCELERATORS

Figure A (page 9) illustrates the locations of the 141 accelerators from the StartupBlink dataset by metropolitan statistical area. The three metropolitan areas with the most accelerators are Baltimore, Maryland (24 accelerators); Denver, Colorado (18 accelerators); and San Francisco, California (16 accelerators). These areas contain over 40 percent of the total U.S. accelerators identified by StartupBlink. Overall, these 141 accelerators are in a total of 38 metropolitan areas and 27 states and territories in the United States.



This section examines the accelerators in this landscape analysis and analyzes categorical trends such as industry focus; an emphasis on social impact; a concentration on specific regions, founders, or business structures; or a university affiliation. Many accelerators fall into multiple categories.

#### Industry Focus

Since Cohen and Hochberg (2014) first identified the increased variety of industry-focused accelerators, this report observes a similar trend. Figure 1 summarizes the number of accelerators by industry. While over 60 percent of the accelerators identified by StartupBlink do not have an industry focus, the remaining accelerators cover a broad range of industries, with the top three including energy and environment (15 accelerators), health (11 accelerators), and ecommerce and retail industry (eight accelerators). One explanation for the high number of accelerators in the energy and environment industry is that Cleantech Open, a not-for-profit organization, runs seven separate regional accelerators listed in StartupBlink.

**Figure 1: Number of Accelerators by Industry**

Industry	Number of Accelerators
General	85
Energy & Environment	15
Health	11
Ecommerce & Retail	8
Software and Data	5
Fintech	4
Hardware & Internet of Things (IoT)	4
Social & Leisure	3
Education	2
Foodtech	2
Transportation	2

Source: StartupBlink, Author's Own Calculations

Additionally, 66 accelerators, both generalist and in specific industries, mention an emphasis on helping technology companies in their name or description. Of these accelerators, 34 have an industry focus, including 13 in the energy and environment industry and six in the health industry. They also include such specific industries as agriculture technology (agtech), biology technology (biotech), clean energy technology (cleantech), education technology (edtech), financial technology (fintech), and government technology (govtech).

#### Mission Driven

Nine accelerators across all industries have impact or social change language (such as “social impact,” “sustainability,” etc.) as part of their name or mission statement. Most of these accelerators work with companies in all industries, while one focuses on the energy and environment industry.

#### Supporting Local Communities and Founders

An additional trend identified by Cohen and Hochberg (2014) that continues in the findings is that 26 of the 141 startups restrict their applications to enterprises from specific international markets, located in local communities, or with affiliations. Of these startups, seven accelerators are regionally focused, with an explicit requirement that enterprises and participants operate in the local geographic area.

#### Foreign-Owned Startups

StartupBlink also identifies six accelerators as having a particular focus on foreign-owned businesses.

Two of these organizations still require the companies to have an existing presence in the local area. The first one is the Denver Global Landing Pad in Denver, Colorado, which combines a focus on small foreign-owned enterprises from any source market with an emphasis on connecting with opportunities within the local Denver business community. The Spain Tech Center, based in San Francisco, California, also focuses on connecting companies with the local community, but its emphasis is on Spanish-owned technology and innovation companies.

One example of a nationally focused accelerator that supports companies from a specific source market is ICONYC labs, a New York, New York-based accelerator that works with Israeli companies. Another

example is the German Accelerator, a program run by

#### SAMPLE ACCELERATORS FOCUSED ON FOREIGN-OWNED STARTUPS

##### Companies from All Source Markets:

Denver Global Landing Pad (Denver, Colorado)

**Israeli Companies:** ICONYC Labs (New York, New York)

**Spanish Companies:** The Spain Tech Center (San Francisco, California)

**German Companies:** German Accelerator (San Francisco, California; Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York)



German Entrepreneurship GmbH and supported by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy that helps German-owned companies enter and grow in the U.S. market. This program has three separate accelerator offices across the United States that cover the entire U.S. market: German Accelerator New York (New York), German Accelerator San Francisco (California), and German Accelerator Life Sciences (the Boston, Massachusetts campus).

#### *Business Structure*

Some accelerators also limit admissions to certain enterprise types and customers. For example, two accelerators focus specifically on nonprofits; one accelerator only accepts ventures that serve state and federal government clients; and one accelerator works with companies that only conduct business-to-business work.

#### *Underrepresented Ownership*

Another focus of accelerators is the community affiliation of the founder(s). One accelerator supports enterprises with Black leadership; two accelerators support enterprises with female leaders; and one accelerator supports Latino and underrepresented entrepreneurs.

#### *University-Run Accelerators*

There are also many university-run accelerators across the United States, with varying industry and admission requirements. Out of 13 university-run accelerators, only four limit admissions to students; the rest are open to the larger community. These programs often include advantages such as facility access (such as two university accelerators that have wet labs); particular support services; and networking opportunities. While nine of these accelerators are generalist, other university accelerators focus their resources on niche programs in areas such as govtech, social innovation, and biotech.

StartupBlink's data on accelerators that are either run by or affiliated with universities are especially comprehensive in the Baltimore, Maryland region. Ten university accelerators are listed in Baltimore, while only three university accelerators are listed elsewhere. Eight of the Baltimore university accelerators are associated with the University System of Maryland, and two are run by Johns Hopkins University. Other university accelerators include Oregon State University's Advantage Accelerator in Corvallis, Oregon; the

University of Hawaii's XLR8UH in Honolulu, Hawaii; and San Diego State University's Zahn Innovation Center in San Diego, California.

#### *SelectUSA State EDO Survey Data*

In the SelectUSA survey of state and territory EDOs, twelve accelerators were identified, nine of which were not identified in the StartupBlink dataset.

Three accelerators named in the survey are local branches of Plug and Play Tech Center, a network of accelerators with a headquarters in Sunnyvale, California. While StartupBlink identified its headquarters, the EDO survey highlighted three additional Plug and Play Tech Centers, each with an industry focus: one in Detroit, Michigan, which focuses on the mobility industry; one in Benton, Arkansas, which focuses on supply chain and logistics; and one in Topeka, Kansas, which focuses on animal health. A fourth interstate accelerator, gener8tor in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was identified by the EDO Survey, while its Madison, Wisconsin, branch was identified by StartupBlink.

These four interstate accelerators are in states that are not represented by accelerators in the StartupBlink dataset, but the rest of the survey indicates this must not be interpreted as an absence of a local startup ecosystem. Instead, each of these four states have other accelerators or support organizations/initiatives for startups listed in the survey. For example, the Plug and Play Tech Center in Topeka, Kansas, is part of the larger ASTRA Innovation Center and District, a general support organization listed on the survey. The University of Kansas Innovation Park in Lawrence, Kansas, and Wichita State University's Innovation Campus in Wichita, Kansas, are also identified on the survey as university-run support organizations for startups. In Michigan, the survey identifies the SmartZone initiative, which has so far created 20 startup ecosystems around the state that include proximity to technology-based companies, researchers, and business accelerators.

Four local accelerators from the survey follow the trend of industry focuses, also highlighted by StartupBlink's dataset. These accelerators are found around the country and span four industries: Creative Startups (Santa Fe, New Mexico), which focuses on the virtual creative economy; the FIS Fintech Accelerator (Little



Rock, Arkansas); the Global Insurance Accelerator (Des Moines, Iowa); and the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator (Seattle, Washington).

### SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

StartupBlink identifies 146 organizations that support startups across the United States. Figure B (page 10) provides a map of these organizations across the United States. Similar to accelerators, all of the support organizations listed are located within metropolitan areas. These organizations span 23 states and 31 metro areas. The three metro areas with the most organizations are Chicago, Illinois (25 organizations); San Francisco, California (18 organizations); and Baltimore, Maryland (14 organizations).

Figure 2 provides a count of these organizations by category: academic and educational institutions, service providers, event organizers, government initiatives, startup foundations, startup platforms, and other. The three most prevalent categories as defined by StartupBlink are other, companies supporting startups, and academic and educational institutions.

**Figure 2: Number of Support Organizations for Startups by Category**

Category	Number of Organizations
Other	62
Service Providers	35
Academic & Educational Institutions	21
Event Organizers	11
Startup Platforms	8
Startup Foundations	7
Government Initiatives	2

Source: StartupBlink, Author's Own Calculations

The other category includes everything from a non-profit food and beverage incubator in Chicago, Illinois, to a business-to-business matching organization in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and from a startup evaluation company in the Detroit, Michigan metro area, to a computer society nonprofit in the Washington, District of Columbia (DC) area. The organizations in this category have a wide range of missions, functions, organizational structures, and geographies. They represent 20 states and territories and include companies, non-profit organizations, and associations.

The 35 service providers are companies that support startups through services that include marketing,

product design, advisory services, and networking. These service providers are also geographically diverse, located in 14 states and territories.

StartupBlink identifies 21 support organizations in the academic and educational institutions category, which includes ten organizations affiliated with accredited universities and 11 organizations affiliated with independent educational institutions. Unlike accelerators, these university-affiliated organizations support startups through classes, networking, and other forms of assistance, but without the rigidity of the accelerator structure. The three metropolitan areas with the most organizations supporting startups (Chicago, San Francisco, and Baltimore) are also the three metropolitan areas with the most identified academic and educational institutions.

StartupBlink identifies two specific regional clusters for organizations affiliated with universities: five of these organizations are in Chicago, Illinois (two with the University of Illinois System; one with Northeastern Illinois University; one with Loyola University; and one with DePaul University), and three of these organizations are located in Baltimore, Maryland (one through Johns Hopkins and two through the University System of Maryland). Additionally, one is located in the Washington, DC metro area (affiliated with the University System of Maryland and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, under the Department of Commerce), and one is in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (affiliated with the University of Idaho).

Separate from the university-affiliated organizations, the 11 independent educational institutions that support startups are found around the United States, including the top three metropolitan areas overall, as well as the regions of Austin, Texas; Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York; and Washington, DC.

### SelectUSA State EDO Survey Data

The SelectUSA State EDO Survey highlighted 44 support organizations for startups that can be roughly divided into three categories: 12 incubators, nine state initiatives and resources, and 23 general support organizations and programs. Of these support organizations and initiatives, 12 are run by universities, nine are run by state governments, and 43 of the 44 are not included in the StartupBlink dataset.





While most of the university-run support organizations were not listed with specific industry focuses, the Austin Technology Incubator (ATI) offers specialized incubators in industries such as the circular economy, energy, food and agtech, healthcare, mobility, and water.

Overall, six university-run support organizations listed are incubators, while the other six are general support organizations. These organizations focus on general support, such as the Dartmouth Regional Technology Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire; the University of Missouri at Kansas City Innovation Center in Kansas City, Missouri; and the University of South Florida CONNECT in Tampa, Florida.

While many of the support organizations provide collaborative workspaces for startups, four of these organizations specifically advertised lab space: the Delaware Innovation Space (general support for science-based startups in Wilmington, Delaware); Wichita State University’s Innovation Campus; the Dartmouth Regional Technology Center; and the Virginia Bio+Tech Center (a life sciences incubator in Richmond, Virginia).

The greatest limitation in categorizing the support organizations in both the StartupBlink dataset and the SelectUSA State EDO Survey is the overlapping of services provided. Centers, incubators, and government initiatives often offer similar resources and opportunities, and their differences are often related to who is providing those services and the availability of resources such as networking, seed money, mentorship, and business services.

**STARTUPS: ALIGNMENT WITH ACCELERATORS?**

There are over 10 times as many startups as accelerators and organizations supporting startups across the United States. StartupBlink identifies 2,971 startups across 48 states, two territories, 166 metropolitan areas, 17 micropolitan areas, and 11 industries in the United States. Of these locations, there are 21 metropolitan areas that are identified as having both accelerators and support organizations in addition to startups. An additional 13 metropolitan areas have at least one accelerator and startup, and an additional nine metropolitan areas have at least one support organization and startup. Overall, the presence of both startups and a combination of accelerators and support organizations indicate an identifiable startup ecosystem

in 43 ecosystems. Figure C (page 11) provides a map of the count of startups in metropolitan areas across the United States. The New York, New York metropolitan area has the most startups with 422, followed by 382 in the San Francisco, California metropolitan area and 211 in the Chicago, Illinois metropolitan area.

Figure 3 lists the number of startups by industry. The three most represented industries are software and data, health, and hardware and IoT.

**Figure 6: Number of Startups by Industry**

Industry	Number of Startups
Software and Data	1,187
Health	321
Hardware & IoT	276
Marketing & Sales	249
Ecommerce & Retail	242
Social & Leisure	240
Fintech	162
Education	93
Transportation	68
Energy & Environment	67
Foodtech	66

Source: StartupBlink, Author’s Own Calculations

Almost 40 percent of identified startups are in the software and data industry, which includes subindustries such as apps, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data analytics, and virtual or augmented reality. These software and data startups are located across 47 states and territories, with the most startups in this industry in the metropolitan areas of New York, New York (172); San Francisco, California (167); and Los Angeles, California (78). While there were only five accelerators that focused specifically on the software and data industry, accelerators attempt to match this demand with 47 percent of accelerators mentioning a focus on technology.

The top locations for the second largest industry by number of startups, the health industry, are two metropolitan areas in the Midwest: Chicago, Illinois and Madison, Wisconsin, both with 45 identified startups. The largest subindustries for startups within the health industry are health care (105 startups), medtech (90 startups), and biotechnology (66 startups), but this category also includes subindustries such as fitness, pharmaceuticals, and assisted living.



Next, Northern California has two metropolitan areas with the highest number of startups in the hardware and IoT industry: San Francisco, California (38 startups) and San Jose, California (36 startups). The largest number of these startups are in the hardware subindustry (166 startups), followed by the consumer electronics subindustry (30 startups) and the other hardware and IoT subindustry (27 startups).

While the marketing and sales industry is the fourth largest industry represented by startups, and marketing and sales are some of the common services that accelerators provide to startups, no accelerators have an industry specialization in marketing and sales. The three metro areas with the most startups in the marketing and sales industry are New York, New York; San Francisco, California; and Los Angeles, California. The largest subindustries within this industry are digital marketing (75 startups), advertising technology (“adtech”) (59 startups), and other marketing and sales (44 startups).

## TRENDS

### FOCUSED ACCELERATORS

The majority of accelerators have traditionally been industry generalists, and this continues to be the case, with 60 percent of accelerators identified in this report accepting startups from any industry. As of 2021, however, many accelerators specialize in technology sectors, including generalist accelerators. In this analysis, 47 percent of accelerators identified by StartupBlink have a focus on technology-driven startups. This report also identifies 10 industries represented by dedicated accelerators, indicating increased specialization in a diverse array of industries. This often both complements the local area’s industry strengths and differentiates the accelerators from other programs. This is a trend also seen in the resources and general support organizations provided by state and territory EDOs, which often highlight established and growing industry clusters.

Additionally, the addition of admissions requirements that focus on different structures or affiliations of the startups applying to accelerators shows a movement towards attracting distinctive startup audiences. These include accelerators that solely support foreign-owned startups; mission-driven organizations; nonprofits; women-owned startups; and minority-owned startups.

### SUPPORT FROM UNIVERSITIES

This report identifies two paths that startups can follow to receive support from universities: university-affiliated accelerators and universities as support organizations for startups. While the data in this report are focused on clusters of universities within a few major metropolitan statistical areas, these university accelerators provide niche industry focuses, such as social innovation, biotechnology, and government technology (govtech). Four of these accelerators limit admissions to students, postdocs, or faculty, while the other nine have open admission. In addition to the university accelerators, university-affiliated organizations also support startups through networking, resources, and additional support, but they do not have the structure of an accelerator program.

### GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

The innovation ecosystem in the United States is spread across the country, with 51 states and territories represented by accelerators, organizations supporting startups, and startups. While 40 percent of accelerators identified by StartupBlink are in three metropolitan areas (Baltimore, Maryland; Denver, Colorado; and San Francisco, California), the other 60 percent cover other 35 metropolitan areas. Almost 40 percent of support organizations are also in the top three metropolitan areas (Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; and Baltimore, Maryland), but the other organizations are spread across 28 other metropolitan areas.

Startups are even less concentrated, with 34 percent in the top three metropolitan areas (New York, New York; San Francisco, California; and Chicago, Illinois), and the other startups in 163 metropolitan areas and 17 micropolitan areas.

## NEXT STEPS FOR RESEARCH

While this report provides a landscape analysis of aggregated trends among U.S. accelerators, an area that can be expanded upon is further research and analysis on best practices for specialized accelerators, specifically accelerators or other startup support organizations affiliated with universities. Due to their geographic diversity and unique resources, a more in-depth analysis of university-run accelerators and support organizations could show their prevalence, best practices for



supporting startups, and how they engage in the broader startup ecosystem.

Additionally, the data show startups thriving in areas without accelerators or support systems. It would be valuable to understand how startups decided to locate in a given location and what an effective support system looks like for them, especially in micropolitan statistical areas or rural areas. Do they already have a network of support that is not captured by the classic ecosystem analysis, or are these support systems also overlooked in larger ecosystems as well?

Another area of potential research would be a comparison of locally-run accelerators to accelerators with multiple branches around the country, both in terms of interaction with the local community and results for the participating companies. While the data from StartupBlink and the SelectUSA State EDO survey do not indicate these multi-state accelerators constitute a majority of U.S. accelerators, a historical analysis of funding, resources, and community support for local and national accelerators could also illuminate future trends and best practices for building and maintaining accelerators and participating startups.

Finally, the next area for SelectUSA research on accelerators will focus on the unique best practices, challenges, and opportunities for foreign-owned startups in U.S. accelerator programs.

## CONCLUSION

The United States continues to be home to a startup ecosystem that is geographically diverse and develops a multitude of industries through accelerators and other support organizations that can provide additional services, funding, and mentoring opportunities. Understanding the landscape of accelerators and other support organizations in the United States can illuminate trends and areas of importance in both the startup and the funder communities, such as industry-specific development needs; a network of startups owned by similar founders; or assistance in creating social impact. This analysis is also useful for companies outside the United States that need extra funding support, mentorship, and networking to commercialize and become successful in the U.S. market.

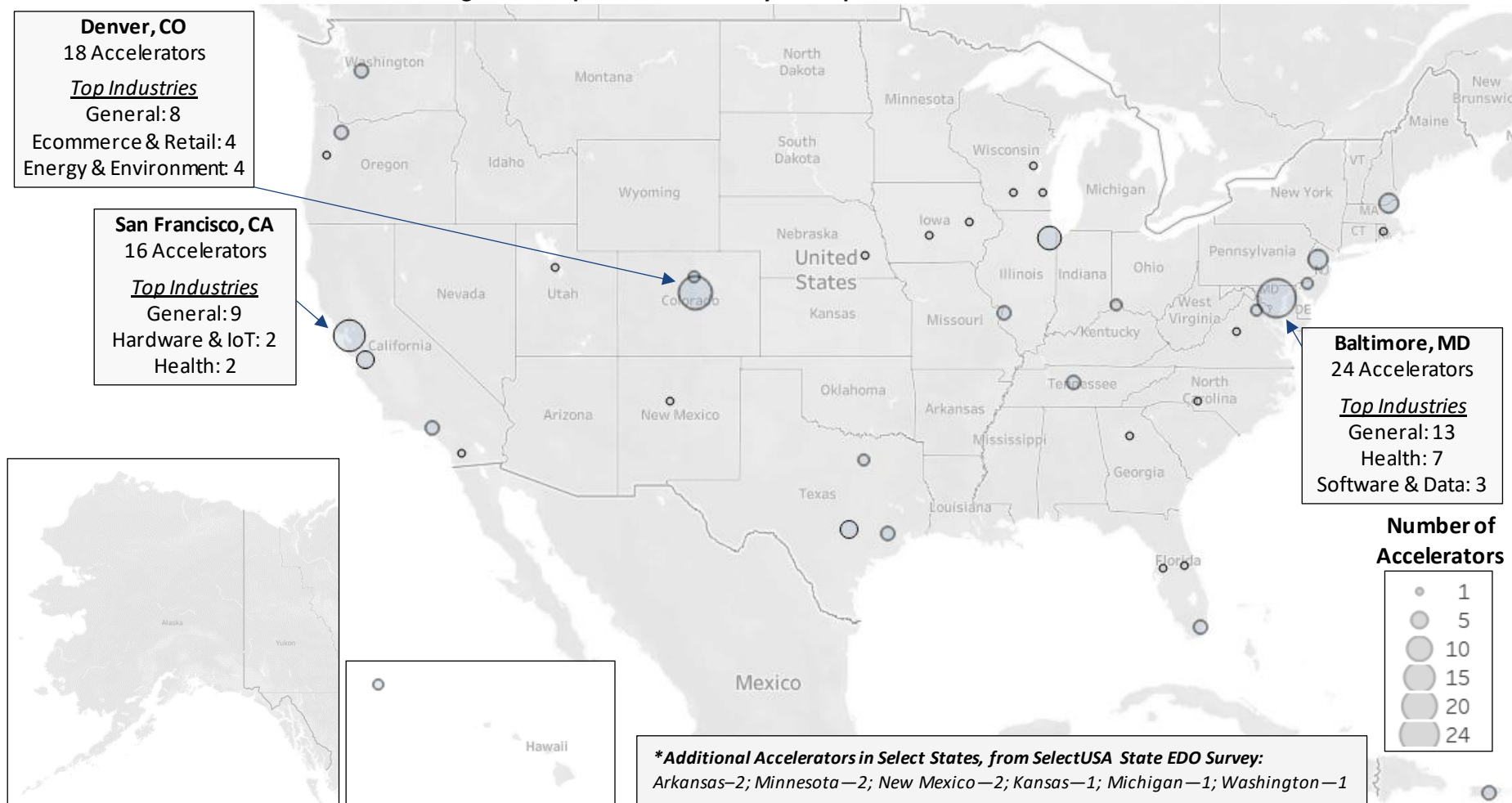
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## APPENDIX: MAPS

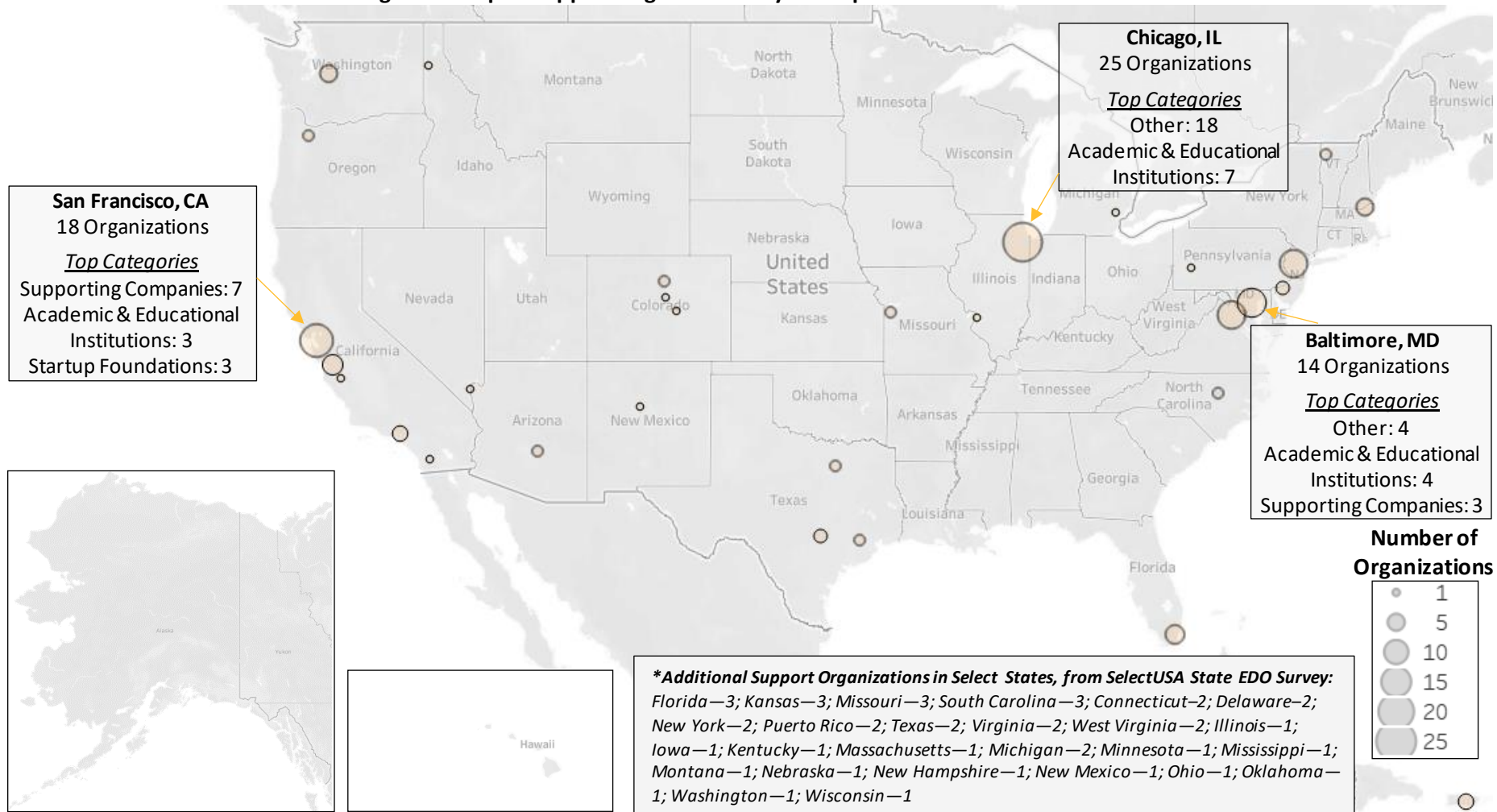
Figure A: Map of Accelerators by Metropolitan Statistical Area



Source: StartupBlink, Author's Own Calculations



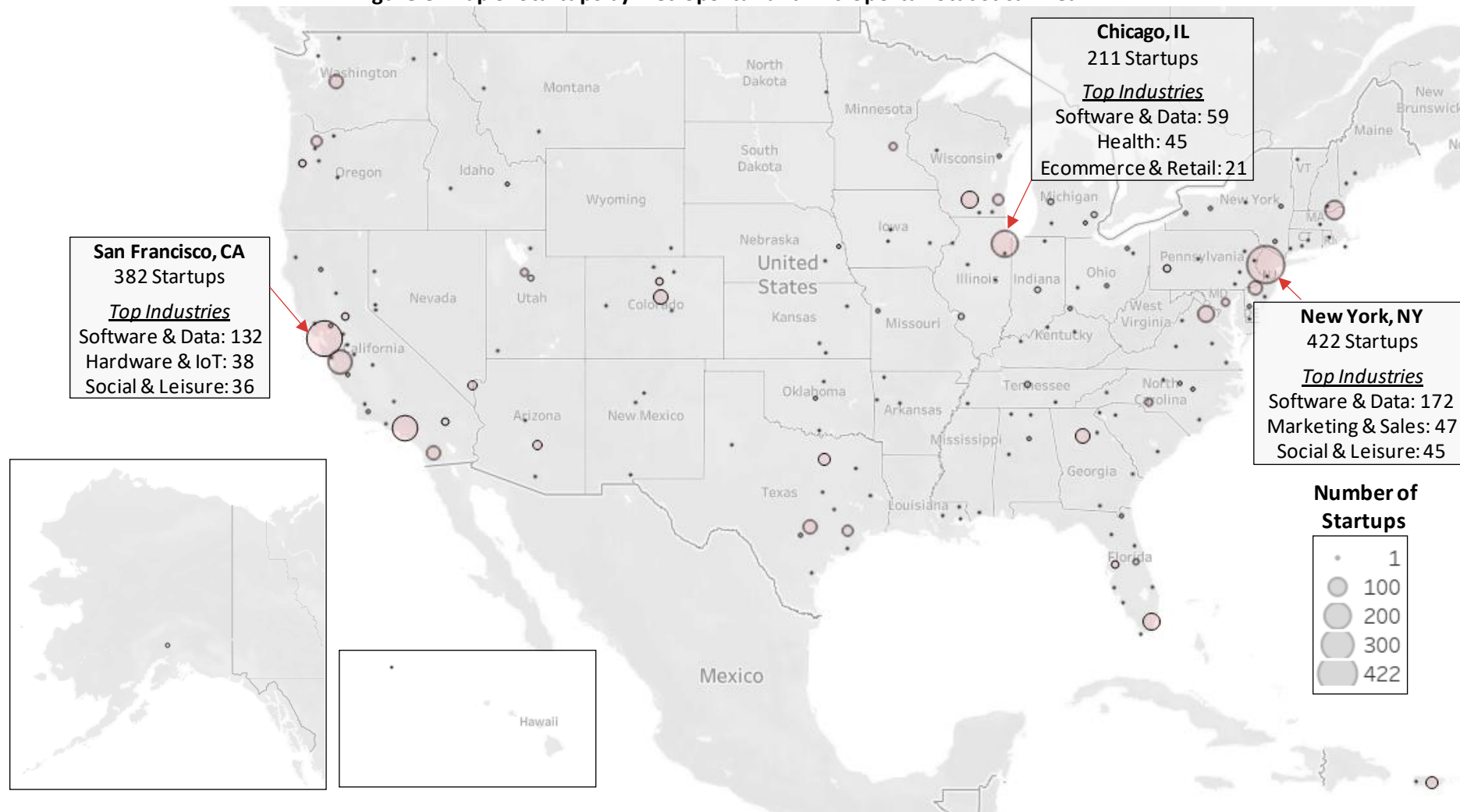
**Figure B: Map of Support Organizations by Metropolitan Statistical Area**



Source: StartupBlink, Author's Own Calculations



**Figure C: Map of Startups by Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area**



Source: StartupBlink, Author's Own Calculations

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## ABOUT SELECTUSA

SelectUSA is a U.S. government-wide initiative housed in the International Trade Administration at the United States Department of Commerce. Our mission is to facilitate job-creating business investment into the United States and raise awareness of the critical role that economic development plays in the U.S. economy.



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### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

SelectUSA Investment Research

[SelectUSAData@trade.gov](mailto:SelectUSAData@trade.gov)

[www.SelectUSA.gov](http://www.SelectUSA.gov)

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