

Resource Guide for CHD Startups

Accelerators · Investors · Grant Programs · Support Organizations

This document is a non-comprehensive living reference for early-stage companies working in congenital heart disease (CHD) and related cardiovascular fields. It covers, but does not explicitly recommend or endorse, some of the programs you can apply to, investors active in the space, and grant / non-dilutive funding sources.

Last updated: August 2026.

1. Accelerators & Incubators

The programs below provide structured support (mentorship, clinical access, investor introductions) for cardiovascular and/or CHD startups. Several also offer small non-dilutive stipends or pilot funding.

Cardiovascular-Focused Programs

Octane Mussallem Cardiovascular Accelerator

Launched June 2026. 14-week virtual program for startups in cardiovascular diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and patient care. Offers workshops, executive mentoring, investor-readiness prep, and a pitch at the Cardiovascular Tech Forum in September.

Link: <https://octaneoc.org/cardio-accelerator-2026-announcement/>

Fogarty Innovation — Company Accelerator Program (CAP)

Nonprofit medtech incubator on the campus of El Camino Hospital (Mountain View, CA). Dedicated staff coaches guide companies through clinical, regulatory, and commercialization milestones. Co-hosts the TCT MedTech Innovation Forum annually.

Link: <https://www.fogartyinnovation.org/what-we-do/create/>

HeartX Cardiovascular Accelerator

Powered by HealthTech Arkansas and MedAxiom. Early-stage companies receive \$150,000 investment and guaranteed clinical pilot projects or studies with cardiology practices across the U.S. Three tracks: digital health/software, medical devices, and diagnostics.

Link: <https://hta.health/heartx>

Stanford Biodesign — Invention Accelerator Program

6-month program run in partnership with Fogarty Innovation. Teams refine technology and tackle commercialization challenges with access to Stanford mentors, clinicians, and investor networks. Highly competitive; ideal for university-affiliated innovators.

Link: <https://med.stanford.edu/biodesign/programs.html>

Sofinnova Partners — In-House Need-Driven Medtech Accelerator

Internal accelerator embedded within Sofinnova's European VC platform. Focus on early-stage medtech driven by unmet clinical needs. Occasional cardiovascular portfolio (has invested in CHD-adjacent companies).

Link: <https://www.sofinnovapartners.com>

Funding-Backed Accelerator & Consortium Programs

Additional Ventures / CTIP — Device Innovation Award (up to \$1M)

Additional Ventures (a nonprofit funder singularly focused on single ventricle heart disease and CHD), in partnership with the Consortium for Technology & Innovation in Pediatrics (CTIP), runs a milestone-driven Device Innovation Award of up to \$1M over ~3 years, plus CTIP commercialization support (clinical/technical network, regulatory and business advising). Open to U.S.-based academic institutions and companies.

Link: <https://www.ctipmedtech.org/device-innovation-award>

Alliance for Pediatric Device Innovation (APDI) + Additional Ventures — Pediatric Cardiology Device Grants

APDI (an FDA Pediatric Device Consortium led by Children's National Hospital) partnered with Additional Ventures on a \$300,000 grant pool plus regulatory, reimbursement, and clinical-trial-design support for early-stage pediatric cardiology device development.

Link: <https://innovate4kids.org>

FDA Pediatric Device Consortia (PDC) Grants Program

FDA-funded network of five nonprofit consortia (including CTIP and APDI, above) that supports pediatric-device innovators with regulatory and business advising, IP guidance, prototyping, engineering, testing, grant writing, and clinical-trial planning, plus project-level awards. Each consortium runs its own intake and award cycles.

Link: <https://www.fda.gov/industry/medical-products-rare-diseases-and-conditions/pediatric-device-consortia-grants-program>

Broader Health Innovation Programs Worth Watching

AHA MedTech Innovator — Heart & Brain Health Accelerator Track

Annual competition with a cardiovascular/brain health track (general) and a women's cardiovascular track. Winners gain access to MedTech Innovator's corporate, investor, and provider network plus opportunities to present at AHA conferences.

Link: <https://medtechinnovator.org/mti-aha-track/>

AHA EmPOWERED to Serve Business Accelerator

8-week national program providing nondilutive funding, mentorship, and market validation for purpose-driven health businesses.

Link: <https://www.empoweredtoserve.org/en/business-accelerator-program/national>

Impact1 (Stanford Biodesign)

Monthly, public forum for innovators worldwide developing pediatric or maternal health solutions, open from idea stage through commercialization. Presenters receive feedback from experts spanning medicine, engineering, finance, reimbursement, and

commercialization. Highly relevant for pediatric CHD devices, diagnostics, digital health, and care-delivery solutions.

Link: <https://med.stanford.edu/biodesign/programs/impact1.html>

JLABS (Johnson & Johnson)

No-strings-attached lab space and a broad life-sciences ecosystem. JJDC (J&J's VC arm) actively invests in cardiovascular startups including structural heart. Entry point for companies seeking infrastructure + strategic visibility.

Link: <https://jllabs.jnjinnovation.com>

2. Federal Non-Dilutive Funding

The federal government offers substantial non-dilutive R&D funding relevant to CHD and pediatric cardiovascular device startups. (Foundation- and consortium-run grants with a strong accelerator/advising component — including Additional Ventures, CTIP, APDI, and the FDA Pediatric Device Consortia — are listed in Section 1, since hands-on support is as central to those programs as the funding itself.)

SBIR/STTR — Federal Small Business Innovation Research Grants (NIH/NHLBI)

Non-dilutive federal R&D grants for small businesses developing innovative technology, including cardiovascular and pediatric medical devices. Coordinated by the SBA across 11 agencies; within NIH, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) funds Phase I feasibility awards (up to ~\$323K), Phase II full R&D awards (up to ~\$2.15M), and Phase IIB Strategic Breakthrough awards for late-stage commercialization of small-market devices like those for CHD.

Link:

<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/grants-and-training/funding-opportunities-and-contacts/small-business-program>

3. Active Investors in the Cardiovascular / CHD Space

The list below covers venture capital and private equity firms that we believe invest at least occasionally in the cardiovascular and/or pediatric space, based on internal research compiled Fall 2024 and updated August 2026. We link out to each firm rather than summarize its focus, stage, or check size, since those details change over time and a startup is better served researching them directly.

- **Additional Ventures** — <https://www.additionalventures.org/>
- **Cross-Border Impact Ventures** — <https://www.crossborder.ventures>
- **Springhood Ventures** — <https://www.springhood.com>

- **Broadview Ventures** — <https://broadviewventures.org>
- **BioStar Capital** — <https://www.biostarcapital.com>
- **KCK MedTech** — <https://www.kckmedtech.com>
- **Gilde Healthcare** — <https://gildehealthcare.com>
- **Lightstone Ventures** — <https://www.lightstonevc.com>
- **Longitude Capital** — <https://www.longitudecapital.com>
- **Ally Bridge Group** — <https://ally-bridge.com>
- **Sofinnova Partners** — <https://www.sofinnovapartners.com>
- **Third Rock Ventures** — <https://www.thirdrockventures.com>
- **New Enterprise Associates (NEA)** — <https://www.nea.com>
- **Versant Ventures** — <https://www.versantventures.com>
- **Fountain Healthcare Partners** — <https://www.fh-partners.com>
- **JJDC / JLABS (Johnson & Johnson Innovation)** — <https://jnjinnovation.com>
- **Medtronic Ventures** — <https://www.medtronic.com/us-en/about/ventures.html>
- **Philips Ventures** — <https://www.philips.com/a-w/about/innovation/philips-ventures.html>
- **Deerfield Management** — <https://deerfield.com>
- **Vensana Capital** — <https://www.vensanacap.com>
- **Endeavour Vision** — <https://endeavourvision.com>
- **Accelmed Partners** — <https://accelmed.com>
- **Sante Ventures** — <https://sante.com>
- **SpringRock Ventures** — <https://springrockventures.com>
- **HealthQuest Capital** — <https://www.healthquestcapital.com>
- **Arboretum Ventures** — <https://www.arboretumvc.com>
- **Intuitive Ventures** — <https://ventures.intuitive.com>
- **Ascension Ventures** — <https://ascensionventures.org>
- **AHA Ventures (Go Red for Women Venture Fund)** — <https://www.heart.org/en/aha-ventures>