

2025 COHORT



Next Level

Accelerator Program



GREATER
WASHINGTON
PARTNERSHIP

Next Level is funded by





Ndidiamaka Agu

Business: Shuga x Ice

Established: 2024

Headquarters: Maryland

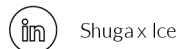
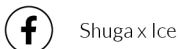
Employees: 6



Business Description: Shuga x Ice is an African-inspired ice cream and frozen dessert brand that brings the bold and diverse flavors of Africa to the U.S. Through handcrafted, small-batch creations, we offer pints, scoops, floats, and sundaes, while fostering community through our signature Conversation Starter Cards. Now, with the launch of Café Shuga, we're expanding into coffee, introducing a curated experience that blends African coffee traditions with our commitment to quality and cultural storytelling. Rooted in our tagline, "Brewed to Overflow," Café Shuga creates a space for connection, creativity, and conversation. Our vision is to redefine how people experience African flavors—one scoop and one cup at a time.

Industry: Frozen Desserts/Manufacturing/CPG

Target Market: Millennial and Gen Z consumers, African and diaspora communities, coffee and dessert lovers, food-conscious consumers. We cater to individuals who appreciate artisanal, handcrafted products and are eager to explore African-inspired cuisine in an approachable way.





Kym Ali

Business: Kym Ali Consulting

Established: 2019

Headquarters: Virginia

Employees: 11



Business Description: Kym Ali Consulting is a premier firm specializing in coaching, employee engagement, workplace wellness, leadership development, organizational development, healthcare artificial intelligence, and information technology for federal agencies and energy companies. As a nurse-led, human-centered firm, we use our proprietary ADPE Framework (Assess, Diagnose, Prescribe, Evaluate) to deliver tailored, measurable solutions. Our expertise has helped organizations increase employee engagement, even through leadership transitions and reorganizations. With 60+ years of experience, training 15,000+ employees, and a 98%+ customer satisfaction rating, we are trusted by agencies like the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Energy, EEOC, and Department of Education and corporations like Meta, Mazda, Pfizer, and Stanford Medical Center. As an SBA-certified SDVOSB, WOSB, SDB, and GSA MAS contract holder, we are committed to transforming workplace cultures through innovation, technology, and leadership excellence.

Industry: Consulting/IT

Target Market: Healthcare and Energy Companies



Kym Ali
Consulting

kymali.com



Ama Asamoah



Emmanuel Larbi

Business: Pattron

Established: 2021

Headquarters: Maryland

Employees: 16



Business Description: Pattron operates within the IT support industry, delivering innovative solutions that transform how IT field support is provided. Our services include: field engineer dispatching; equipment management, including installation, relocation, upgrading, and reconfiguring hardware; IT project management, scoping, and cost estimations; and security systems installation, among other services in IT support.

Industry: Information Technology Services

Target Market: IT managed service providers, data centers, educational institutions, and retail & hospitality chains



@PATTRONTECH



Pattron



@pattrontech



Corie Branch

Business: Clark Building Technologies

Name: Corie Branch

Established: 2022

Headquarters: Maryland

Employees: 54



Business Description: At Clark Building Technologies, we specialize in designing, installing, and servicing a range of technology to meet your needs. Our expertise encompasses security cameras, access control systems, digital signage, audio video and conference room buildouts. Whether you require robust surveillance, secure access management, captivating digital displays, or immersive audiovisual setups, our highly trained technicians are equipped to deliver top-notch solutions. Clark Building Technologies specializes in CCTV, access control, conference room builds, and low voltage cabling.

Industry: Physical security (CCTV and access control)

Target Market: Commercial and government



Clark Computer Services



Clark Building Technologies



@clark_support



@clark_computer_services



Ruchee Chopra

Business: Mizzeto LLC
Established: 2012
Headquarters: Maryland
Employees: 7



Business Description: Mizzeto is a Healthcare IT firm focused on automating and staffing payer operations. We have 3 distinct lines of business: automation, AI data governance, and staffing. With a client-centric approach and extensive expertise in healthcare operations, we deliver cost-effective solutions to our partners. We're proud to be a women & minority owned business.

Industry: IT Healthcare

Target Market: Health Insurance Companies



Mizzeto

mizzeto.com



Bobby Clark

Business: Pyxis Partners

Established: 2020

Headquarters: District of Columbia

Employees: 22



PYXISPARTNERS

Business Description: Pyxis Partners is a public affairs, professional services firm focused on advancing policies and programs that improve health outcomes and strengthen communities. Our core capabilities include community engagement, communications, public policy development and analysis, advocacy and government relations.

Industry: Public Affairs

Target Market: We work with organizations across the U.S. healthcare ecosystem, including public agencies/institutions, think tanks, non-profits and commercial enterprises.





Kizzy Dogan

Business: T&G Commercial Cleaning, LLC

Established: 2023

Headquarters: District of Columbia

Employees: 13



Business Description: Full service woman-owned and operated facility maintenance company serving Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Providing maintenance services to schools, churches, retail, government, local, and commercial properties.

Industry: Janitorial

Target Market: Retail, Construction, Education, Government, Religious, and Property Managers

tandgcommercialcleaning.com



Bhawna Goel

Business: Gunvatta USA
Established: 2021
Headquarters: Maryland
Employees: 9



Business Description: Gunvatta offers a wide range of IT related services primarily focused on the healthcare landscape. We bring together a team of experts in their respective fields such as statistics, data mapping and standardization, EMR visual analytics, business development, etc. We are a functional service provider that specializes in data analysis, reporting and expert resources.

Industry: Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, Information Technology

Target Market: Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, Hospitals



Tracy Hanks

Business: Rymak LLC
Established: 2016
Headquarters: Maryland
Employees: 5



Business Description: Business management consulting services. Historically, we have specialized in providing agile project solutions. Our senior staff boasts over 50 years of corporate experience collectively developing comprehensive integrated program solutions, focusing its efforts in program management; procurement and contracting; acquisitions support; planning and programming.

Industry: Administrative and support services/IT/transportation

Target Market: State, local and federal government



@RymakLLC



ry.mak_llc

rymakllc.com



Ruth LaToison Ifill

Business: Aridai

Established: 2017

Headquarters: District of Columbia

Employees: 4



Business Description: Aridai is a management consulting firm that leverages its expert staff, innovative technology, modern financial operations and equity & inclusion to deliver high-quality management consulting services and solutions. Aridai provides comprehensive professional services to enhance and support your organization's daily operations and bolster the effectiveness of your workforce. We work with clients to provide premier consulting services in management, leadership development, administration, compliance, information technology, and community development. Our mission is to be our client's favorite partner in performance and social impact.

Industry: Consulting services

Target Market: Government





Donnell Johns



Tanda Johns

Business: Veterans Growing America

Established: 2016

Headquarters: Virginia

Employees: 25



Business Description: Veterans Growing America is an organization dedicated to empowering military-connected entrepreneurs by providing opportunities to grow and showcase their businesses. Through its Veteran Marketplace, monthly military mixers, and community-driven events, VGA fosters economic success, social connection, and business education for veterans, active duty service members, military spouses, reservists, dependents, and DoD civilians. The organization operates locations in Woodbridge, VA, and Clarksburg, MD, offering a platform for military entrepreneurs to sell their products, connect with customers, and build sustainable businesses.

Industry: Retail, events, and education

Target Market: Military connected community and supporters



Veterans Growing America



Veterans Growing America



@veteransgrowingamerica



Caroline Johnston

Business: GreenIsland Bakery

Established: 2009

Headquarters: District of Columbia

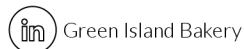
Employees: 9



Business Description: Irish European baked good company specializing in a melt-in-your-mouth shortbread range. Offering consumer packaged goods to Whole Foods and Giant, amongst other stores. We also provide custom packaging for the White House Historical Association and more. As a social enterprise, we provide workshops for trauma survivors and a workforce training program for vulnerable and marginalized women who have experienced gender based violence.

Industry: Food services

Target Market: Retailers and corporate gift programs



greenislandbakery.com



William McAfee

Business: Sustainable Facilities Management Services

Established: 2013

Headquarters: District of Columbia

Employees: 53



Business Description: Sustainable Facilities Management Services (SFMS) is a fully integrated facilities management company that specializes in "Green Building" methodology with a core management team that has over 50 years' experience in facilities management and consulting serving the federal, state, and local governments, as well as the industrial and commercial market place. Our purpose is to contribute to the sustainability of facilities we manage and the quality of life for the people that work there.

Industry: Facilities Management/Energy Efficiency

Target Market: State, Local, Commercial, and Federal Government



Diarra Mckinney

Business: Rosewood Strategies LLC

Established: 2018

Headquarters: District of Columbia

Employees: 4

ROSEWOOD

Business Description: Rosewood is an integrated real estate finance and development company focused on strategic high-impact development opportunities in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast. Rosewood's purpose is to develop unique and dynamic projects that participate in the revitalization of urban neighborhoods. Rosewood creates new and preserves affordable and workforce housing, and we also finance and develop headquarters and program space for non-profit organizations who need real estate guidance.

Our approach is to identify neighborhoods with high potential for revitalization and to implement creative, strategic, long-term investments in economically viable real estate projects. For over a decade, Rosewood and its principals have executed more than 80 real estate transactions, representing over \$1 billion of gross asset value in Washington, DC and surrounding areas.

Industry: Real estate development

Target Market: Nonprofit institutions



rosewood.dev



ROSEWOOD



Ashlee Neverdon

Business: Selfless Life

Established: 2022

Headquarters: Maryland

Employees: 3



Business Description: Selfless Life Home Care is a dedicated home care agency committed to enhancing the quality of life for seniors and individuals with disabilities. We offer compassionate, personalized care services in the comfort of clients' homes, supporting their physical, emotional, and social well-being. Our team of experienced caregivers provides a wide range of services, from personal care and companionship to specialized assistance, ensuring that our clients receive the highest level of care and attention they deserve.

Industry: Healthcare

Target Market: Seniors who require additional assistance at home but want to maintain their independence and quality of life; adults over 18 who need temporary assistance due to surgery, recovery, post-partum care, or other life events; and adults with disabilities or those who lack sufficient support.



Selfless Life



Selfless Life



selflesslife_homecare

selflesslife.org



Connor Nicholson

Jessica Nicholson

Business: Nicholson Strategic Solutions LLC

Established: 2009

Headquarters: Virginia

Employees: 45



Business Description: NSS is a Woman-Owned Small Business Technology Services company specializing in business automation and artificial intelligence solutions. Founded in 2009, NSS has partnered with federal agencies and government contractors with the goal of helping them achieve better business outcomes and optimize their organizations.

We combine deep human expertise with the latest advanced technologies to drive innovation while reducing costs and exceeding customer expectations. Partner with NSS to enhance your digital transformation journey and leverage some of the most advanced technologies that See, Say, Do, and Learn!

Industry: Government Contracting

Target Market: Government Agency (FedCiv or DOD)



NSS

nssfed.com



Chi Perrus

Business: Paragon Construction Group, INC

Established: 2017

Headquarters: Maryland

Employees: 74



Business Description: Paragon Construction Group, Inc. is a BIPOC-owned and led construction firm founded in 2017 and licensed in Maryland and Washington, D.C. The company was formed to provide general contracting, construction management, owner representation, and real estate development advisory services. In addition, Paragon leverages its platform to empower underserved minority subcontractors and individuals to achieve growth and success through project collaboration. The company has a combined 60+ years of knowledge and experience in successfully navigating residential and commercial construction projects in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Industry: Construction

Target Market: Affordable housing developers and municipal agencies (i.e. DCHA, HUD, WMATA, etc.)



Keith Pivonski

Business: Energy Finders, Inc

Established: 2022

Headquarters: Maryland

Employees: 3



ENERGY FINDERS

Business Description: Energy Finders is redefining the future of energy, environment, and land revitalization. Our mission is to transform former quarries, industrial byproducts, and coal combustion residuals (CCRs) into sustainable assets that drive environmental progress and economic growth. Through cutting-edge reclamation, responsible reuse, and next-generation clean energy solutions, we ensure that these materials and sites are repurposed for long-term resilience.

Industry: Energy and environment / beneficial reuse recycling

Target Market: Active quarries, inactive quarries, active utility scale power operators, abandoned former utility scale powerplants and reclamation sites.



Bryant Sanders

Business: BBE Innovation Inc.

Established: 2022

Headquarters: Maryland

Employees: 10



Business Description: We provide design, installation, and maintenance of interior tropical plants for commercial clients, with additional focus on streetscaping. Providing tropical, evergreen, and color rotations for the permanent plantings around office, retail, and commercial buildings. From the beginning, we recognized the need for a contractor who could provide all the plant maintenance needs both inside and out for the DC, VA, and MD corporate and commercial sectors.

Industry: Interior and exterior plantscaping

Target Market: Any commercial or government property that requires/needs plant decor to add something to the space.





Hyacinth Tucker

Business: The Laundry Basket LLC

Established: 2022

Headquarters: Maryland

Employees: 7



Business Description: The Laundry Basket LLC is a premier laundry and dry cleaning service dedicated to providing convenient, high-quality garment care with pickup and delivery options. Our mission is to make laundry effortless for individuals, families, and businesses while promoting sustainability and workforce development. Through strategic partnerships and cutting-edge technology, we streamline operations for laundromats and dry cleaners, empowering them to grow while maintaining exceptional service standards.

Industry: Personal Services

Target Market: Individuals and businesses that require consistent laundry and dry cleaning services. Additionally, we partner with laundromats and dry cleaners that lack pickup and delivery capabilities, offering them a streamlined platform to expand their services. We also cater to organizations such as hotels, short-term rental hosts, healthcare facilities, and workforce programs that need bulk laundry solutions. Our focus includes underserved communities, veterans, and minority entrepreneurs through workforce development and cooperative business models.



Laundrybasketdelivery



Laundry Basket Delivery



@laundrybasketdelivery



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SCAN ME



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