

Resources to grow your company in Montgomery County, Maryland

Accelerating Innovation, Opportunities, and Growth fueling by Coach, Capital, and Connect

Business Innovation Centers

[Business Incubator Space and Innovation Programs - Business Center - Montgomery County, Maryland](#)

Germantown Innovation Center 20271 Goldenrod Ln 2nd Floor Germantown, MD 20876 Primary focus: Life Sciences	Rockville Innovation Center 155 Gibbs Street, 4th Floor Rockville, MD 20850 Primary focus: MedTech and other High-Tech	Silver Spring Innovation Center 8070 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910 Focus: All industries - office space
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Grant opportunities:

1. **Montgomery County's Job Creation Fund**

Offers up to \$500,000 in grant funding, companies creating a minimum of five jobs paying \$100,000 or more in the Life Science; Technology; National nonprofit, Foundations, and Trade Associations; Corporate Headquarters; Clean Tech, or Hospitality sectors can be reimbursed \$10,000 for each new eligible job and \$12,000 per job for companies in disadvantaged areas.

https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=46036

https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=44890

2. **Montgomery County Technology Innovation and Founder Fund**

\$10M grant program for early-stage Technology Innovation companies and business founders based in the county. This program offers up to \$200,000 for technology commercialization projects and up to \$100,000 for founders developing products or services in targeted industries or manufacturing. Apply by January 31, 2025.

<https://www.fedtech.io/accelerators/mcg>

3. **Montgomery County Biotechnology Investor Incentive Tax Credit (BIITC)**

Provides supplemental grants to investors in Montgomery County biotechnology companies who are approved for tax credits through the Maryland BIITC program.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/business/doing-business-in-mc/funding-incentives-details.html>

4. **Montgomery County Economic Development Fund (EDF)**

Offers financial assistance to companies with plans for significant capital investment and job growth, focusing on high-tech and manufacturing businesses.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/business/doing-business-in-mc/funding-incentives-details.html>

6. **Montgomery County International Soft-Landing Grants (Maryland Global Gateway Program)**

Provides up to \$10,000 to international companies opening their first office or lab in the U.S. or East Coast, to help offset initial business registration and other costs.

<https://commerce.maryland.gov/softlanding>

8. **Montgomery County Move Grant**

Provides grants to businesses relocating to Montgomery County with a first commercial lease in the County, up to \$12 per square foot for up to 10,000 square feet.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/business/programs/move-grant.html>

9. **Montgomery County New Jobs Tax Credit**

Offers a tax credit to companies that increase their space by 5,000+ sq. ft. and hire 25+ new employees, providing a 26-52% tax credit.

<https://www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/Solutions.aspx?SolutionId=1-2IGQD3>

10. Montgomery County SBIR Matching Grants (Phase 0, 1, or 2)

Provides matching grants for companies in biotechnology, medicine, or life sciences that have received an SBIR/STTR award to further their research and development.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/business/SBIR-STTR/#:~:text=SBIR%2FSTTR%20Phase%201%20%2D%20Up,1%20prior%20Phase%202%20award.>

Maryland Resources

1. Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS)

Helps companies seeking funding that use for facilities and expertise within Maryland's public universities, with support up to \$90,000.

<https://www.mips.umd.edu/>

2. Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF)

Provides grants up to \$400,000 for companies involved in various STEM disciplines with significant commercialization potential.

<https://www.mscref.org/>

3. Maryland Venture Fund

Offers \$500 to \$5M in investment to companies with proprietary technology and a competitive advantage in the market.

<https://www.tedcomd.com/funding/venture-funds>

4. TEDCO Maryland Seed Funds

Provides \$100,000 to \$500,000 in seed funding through convertible debt and equity instruments to qualified early-stage companies. 51% own or operate at Maryland.

<https://www.tedcomd.com/funding/seed-funds>

5. Maryland Innovation Incentive Tax Credit.

Investors in Montgomery County companies conducting R&D in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, agriculture, AI, blue tech, cybersecurity, education, energy, and sustainability, fintech, life sciences, quantum, sensor and robotics may qualify to receive up to \$250K in tax credits for 33% of their eligible investment.

<https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/programs-for-businesses/job-creation-tax-credit>

US Resources

1. U.S. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

Supports companies engaged in R&D with potential for commercialization, offering grants from \$100,000 to \$2M.

<https://www.sbir.gov/>

Contacting the Montgomery County Business Center or their email at BusinessCenter@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov for further details.

FAQs for International Companies Looking to Set Up in Montgomery County, MD

General Information

Q1: What are the benefits of starting up in Maryland through Montgomery County?

We provide coaching, capital, and connections, along with access to innovation resources. Montgomery County is centrally located, highly educated, and diverse, with a strong talent pool and a large number of residents with international ties.

Q2: How many states can I represent if I have a startup in your county regarding applying for grants?

You can represent as a startup incubated in Montgomery County. You can sell to all states but will likely qualify only for Maryland grants, which are often tied to job growth in the granting jurisdiction.

Q3: Can I use interns and collaborate with universities for resources?

Yes, you can post and work with institutions directly. We can connect you once you are here.

Q4: What are the VISA benefits?

We can refer you to immigration attorneys for detailed answers.

Setting Up and Registration

Q5: Can you help us set up an office in Montgomery County? (RIC, GIC, SSIC)

Yes, our Business Innovation Centers provide support. Explore our Business Incubator Space and Innovation Programs here. Our team, including Gene, Alicia, and Richard, is ready to assist you. Alicia will help with the Global Gateway Grant.

Q6: I have an office in California. Can I project it as a division in Montgomery County, or do I need to re-register?

You need to register in Maryland. The Global Gateway Grant will reimburse your setup expenses for a US HQ or East Coast office at our incubator.

Q7: Is it necessary to start an S-corp, or can we go with DBA initially?

Discuss this with an attorney, as it can impact your eligibility for various grants.

Q8: MoU with Maryland University or nearby, wanting to have 5-6 interns from various departments

Many employers are seeking interns. We can connect you with the Career Centers at universities to learn more about opportunities and expectations related to hiring interns.

Facilities and Resources

Q9: What are the capital or funding available to support companies from startup to scaleup in Montgomery County, Maryland?

See the resources to grow your company and grant opportunities below.

Q10: What kind of association will we have?

You'll be a potential tenant in a County-owned Innovation Center, receiving resource referrals and assistance, open to all Montgomery County entrepreneurs.

Q11: What options/facilities can I get through your organization (internships, grants, infrastructure, marketing, etc.)?

We offer resources to grow your company, including support for internships, grants, infrastructure, and marketing.

Q12: What are the benefits for startups regarding operational and capital cost savings?

Innovation centers offer flexible leases (minimum of 1 year) with access to meeting rooms, kitchens, networking, and programming resources. Our lease price is competitive and includes additional benefits.

Q13: How can I approach funding to help commercialize my technology if I already have a product developed and want to market through Montgomery County?

Most funding focuses on R&D and product development. The Global Gateway grant may be available for go-to-market strategies if the majority of the company is based in Montgomery County.

Q14: Need help with funding for interns.

Programs are available periodically through the state and WorkSource Montgomery, but availability can vary.

Q15: Need CPA and attorney suggestions to assist with taxes.

You need to hire your own CPA and attorney. We can share connections and recommend firms through peer recommendations.

Q16: Plan to start setting up the company on January 20, 2025, and apply for the Global Gateway grant.

The next Global Gateway grant deadline is November 30, 2025. Alicia can help with more details and set up a call or meeting.

Q17: Is it okay to have a bank account in another state?

Yes, you can.

Support and Networking

Q18: Will I get support from an attorney and CPA assistance through you? If so, what cost?

We don't provide these services pro bono but can refer you to experts who offer free initial consultations. Prices vary among firms.

Q19: Will there be any benefits from venture capital mentioned on your website if we go through you?

Venture capitalists look for well-developed businesses with proprietary technology, market strategies, and big market potential. State and local grants follow similar criteria and require companies to be 51% located and/or owned locally.

Q20: How are the labor laws, and can you help us during the initial stages?

Startups in Montgomery County must comply with various labor laws. Visit the Montgomery County Business Center website or the Office of Labor Relations for detailed information.

Q21: Initial lead on farming company and healthcare institute.

We can suggest, but you need to organize the meeting. We will introduce you to the relevant heads of departments.

Q22: How long can the company stay in an incubator?

Normally 1-2 years, exiting once they grow larger.

Q23: Interested in the University of Maryland. Can I meet staff at the office and get a list of contacts?

You can meet our staff members. For contacts beyond local founders, UMD, IHC, and other organizations in Montgomery County, our staff can provide publicly available information.

Q24: Can I meet with 2-3 startup founders to understand the environment?

We are happy to introduce you to the founders at our incubation center. You can join our regular events, such as "Meet with Your Peer" and "Lunch and Learn," held at our three incubation centers. These events are open to the public.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND

TOP BIOTECH & ADVANCED TECH CLUSTER IN THE U.S.



INNOVATION

- **#3 Biohealth hub in the U.S.** (including leaders in cell and gene therapy, vaccines, oncology diagnostics, medical devices)
- **30+ U.S. federal labs**, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE).
- **Many nonprofit research agencies** (e.g., Henry Jackson Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Foundation)
- **University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing (UM-IHC)** (Population health, precision medicine, AI, Bioinformatics)
- **New AI Innovation Center**



LOCATION

- **Adjacent to the U.S. capital — Washington, D.C.** (near 175+ embassies from around the world, three international airports, major highway and rail lines, and two ports)
- **A nonstop or half day's flight or drive** to the U.S. market and most of the world.
- **Plenty of space** — Innovation/Incubator, Office, Wet Lab, Advanced Tech and Biomanufacturing.
- **More affordable commercial & housing space** than California, Boston, New York City.
- **Grant \$ to support U.S. market entry** or expansion to the East Coast (including Soft Landing and Lab/Coworking/Office Space).



TALENT

- **#3 Life Sciences research talent pool** in the U.S. (including leaders in cell and gene therapy, vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, medical devices, and more.)
- **#4 overall tech talent pool** in the U.S. (supporting robotics, cyber, cleantech, medtech, advanced tech, hospitality tech, satellite tech, CHiPs, IoT, and other technology companies)
- **Nine top-ranked University System of Maryland universities** on one campus.
- **#1 ranked 2-year college** in Maryland (with mock cGMP, cell therapy manufacturing, clinical trials project management, cyber war room, IT, and other training)
- **Top-ranked K-12 U.S. school system** and numerous renowned universities in addition to the University System of Maryland within an hour drive (e.g., Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, George Washington, and Howard Universities; and Virginia Tech).



QUALITY OF LIFE

- **Largest jurisdiction in Maryland** (\$7.1B County budget)
- **Diverse and welcoming community** (home to 4 of the top 10 most diverse cities in the U.S.)
- **Abundant cultural resources and services.**
- **Award-winning recreation and parks facilities.**
- **Short drive to mountains** in Western Maryland and to Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean.
- **One third of County land** preserved in Agricultural Reserve.



www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov



www.thinkmoco.com
 MCEDC operates as a 501(c)(3)
 nonprofit public-private partnership
 funded by Montgomery County, Maryland

RESOURCES TO GROW YOUR COMPANY

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BIOTECHNOLOGY INVESTOR INCENTIVE TAX CREDIT (BIITC)

Investors in Montgomery County biotechnology companies who are approved to receive tax credits for 33% of their eligible investment up to \$250,000 from the Maryland BIITC program automatically receive an additional supplemental grant (amounts vary annually) from the County.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Companies with plans for significant capital investment and/or job growth may qualify for a conditional loans from the County and/or State to support land/building acquisition or construction/machinery/equipment costs through the County's EDF and Maryland's Economic Development Assistance Authority.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INNOVATION GRANTS

Small, high growth companies can apply for grants up to \$100,000 each (\$500,000 total) to support qualified activities that help progress products or services from concept toward commercialization.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERNATIONAL SOFT-LANDING GRANTS (MARYLAND GLOBAL GATEWAY PROGRAM)

International companies opening their first office, lab or coworking space in the U.S. or first East Coast operation can receive up to \$10,000 to reimburse their initial business registration, rent and other costs related to locating in Montgomery County innovation space.

MARYLAND INNOVATION INCENTIVE TAX CREDIT

Investors in Montgomery County companies conducting R&D in advanced manufacturing, aerospace, agriculture, AI, blue tech, cybersecurity, education, energy and sustainability, fintech, life sciences, quantum, sensor and robotics may qualify to receive up to \$250K in tax credits for 33% of their eligible investment.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY JOB CREATION FUND

Companies creating a minimum of five jobs paying \$100,000 or more in the Life Sciences; Technology; National Nonprofits, Foundations, and Trade Associations; Corporate Headquarters; Clean Tech, or Hospitality sectors can be reimbursed \$10,000 for each new eligible job up to \$500,000 total.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEW JOBS TAX CREDIT

Companies increasing their space by 5,000+ s.f. and their new jobs by 25+ may receive a 26-52% tax credit.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MOVE GRANT

Technology/manufacturing businesses and certain other sectors signing their first commercial lease in the County can receive \$10 to \$12/square foot up to 10,000 s.f. to support their move to or expansion in the County.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SBIR MATCHING GRANTS (Phase 0, 1, or 2)

Businesses conducting research in biotechnology, medicine, or life sciences in Montgomery County which recently received a SBIR/STTR award or are thinking of applying for their first award may receive grants to support their initial award application (<\$5000), or as a match to their award (\$25-50,000).

MARYLAND INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS (MIPS)

Companies seeking funding, facilities, resources, and expertise within Maryland's public universities to create new products and opportunities can apply for MIPS funding to support up to \$90,000 of a \$100,000 project.

MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH FUND (MSCRF)

Companies involved in a variety of stem cell with significant commercialization can apply for grants of up to \$400,000 to help them advance their technologies.

MARYLAND VENTURE FUND

Companies with proprietary technology and a competitive advantage in the market may apply for \$500 to \$1.5M investment from the Maryland Venture Fund.

TEDCO (MARYLAND) SEED FUNDS

TEDCO will provide \$100,000 to \$500,000 seed funding through convertible debt and equity instruments to qualified early-stage companies in cybersecurity, life sciences, and other technologies.

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR)

Companies engaged in R&D with the potential for commercialization may be eligible to apply for highly competitive grant awards of varying amounts (e.g. \$100,000 to \$2M) to support commercialization projects.

CONTACT US



BusinessCenter@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov



Connect@ThinkMoCo.com
MCEDC operates as a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit public-private partnership
funded by Montgomery County, Maryland