



Champion Impact Capital has been awarded a U.S. Economic Development Association (EDA) #SPRINTChallenge grant of \$717,000 for its new Spark North Texas program. The EDA grant program, SPRINT, is harnessing America's entrepreneurial spirit to build resiliency and support post-pandemic economic recovery efforts through innovation. Champion Impact Capital was one of 44 winners selected from 238 proposals in the competitive grant process.

The Spark North Texas mission is to pair investors and entrepreneurs and be the spark that creates connections and fuels a thriving North Texas economy. In cooperation with the Irving Economic Development Partnership, Champion Impact Capital is developing a Spark North Texas investment platform with a matchmaking tool that will provide suggested innovative financing structures for entrepreneurs and investors to bring new technology to market. Champion Impact Capital will launch a business plan competition in the summer of 2021 for entrepreneurs launching nonprofit and for-profit companies.

Economic headwinds from the pandemic made an already difficult process—aligning entrepreneurs with sources of capital—significantly more challenging. Minorities and women have particularly had challenges obtaining funding for their initiatives. The Spark North Texas focus on financial innovation can scale access to capital for technology-focused projects that may be replicable throughout the country.

Founded in 2011, Champion Impact Capital develops creative, impactful public-private partnerships to sustainably invest in the long-term social and environmental health of communities. Expertise in municipal finance, real estate and ESG investing has enabled Champion Impact Capital to develop creative capital structures across a variety of issues and asset classes functioning as project development intermediaries, asset managers and principal investors.

Learn more at <https://eda.gov/news/press-releases/2021/04/06/sprint-challenge-grants.htm>, www.championcapital.org and www.sparknorthtexas.com.