



HUNTSVILLE

The Star of Alabama

NEWS RELEASE

The Catalyst forms HUBZone Accelerator program

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HUNTSVILLE, AL – [The Catalyst Center for Business & Entrepreneurship](#) launched a new program today, called HUBZone Accelerator, dedicated to empowering underserved communities to increase entrepreneurship, share resources and market their combined network of capabilities.

HUBZone is a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) program for small companies that operate and employ people in [Historically Underutilized Business Zones \(HUBZones\)](#). The HUBZone program was created in response to the HUBZone Empowerment Act created by the US Congress in 1998.

“Catalyst is all about helping entrepreneurs take the leap toward business ownership and providing them the assistance to be successful,” said Joanne Randolph, Catalyst President & CEO. “Large businesses and the government both have goals of using HUBZone businesses and this accelerator will be a showcase for our many talented HUBZone businesses.”

The HUBZone program has already been very beneficial for several businesses in Huntsville and Randolph says the Catalyst looks forward to helping many more new businesses get started.

“The creation of a HUBZone accelerator is an important addition to our entrepreneurial ecosystem,” said Mayor Tommy Battle. “HUBZone businesses bring jobs and contribute to the revitalization of areas that need it the most.”

Battle added that there are many federal business opportunities beyond Huntsville with Department of Defense and NASA. “We need to make every effort we can to expose our businesses to these options and give them the tools they need to be successful.”

The HUBZone will be located at The Catalyst, 515 Sparkman Drive. Today's announcement, however, was held at Huntsville West, an incubator on 9th Avenue that provides office space for entrepreneurs. Huntsville West owner Brandon Kruse sees the new program as a potential break for small businesses.

"Like many entrepreneurs, I wasn't aware of the HubZone program before this," said Kruse. "It's a great vehicle for those looking to do business with the government or their prime contractors."

The HUBZone Accelerator program will also provide a platform for HUBZone member companies to champion their businesses as technically qualified in engineering, science and/or technology. Participating companies will pool resources to cut overhead costs and increase engagement with HUBZone community initiatives.

About The Catalyst

The Catalyst Center for Business & Entrepreneurship serves as a driver for economic growth and job creation in Huntsville and surrounding areas by providing support for entrepreneurs and business owners in every stage of growth.

Through quality business education, personalized one-on-one coaching, and networking opportunities that build valuable business relationships, we enable entrepreneurs to get started and provide established businesses the tools they need to successfully navigate their business journey.

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For more information, contact Kelly Cooper Schrimsher, Director of Communication, City of Huntsville, 256-427-5006, kelly.schrimsher@huntsvilleal.gov.

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