VC: Driving Innovation in Oklahoma

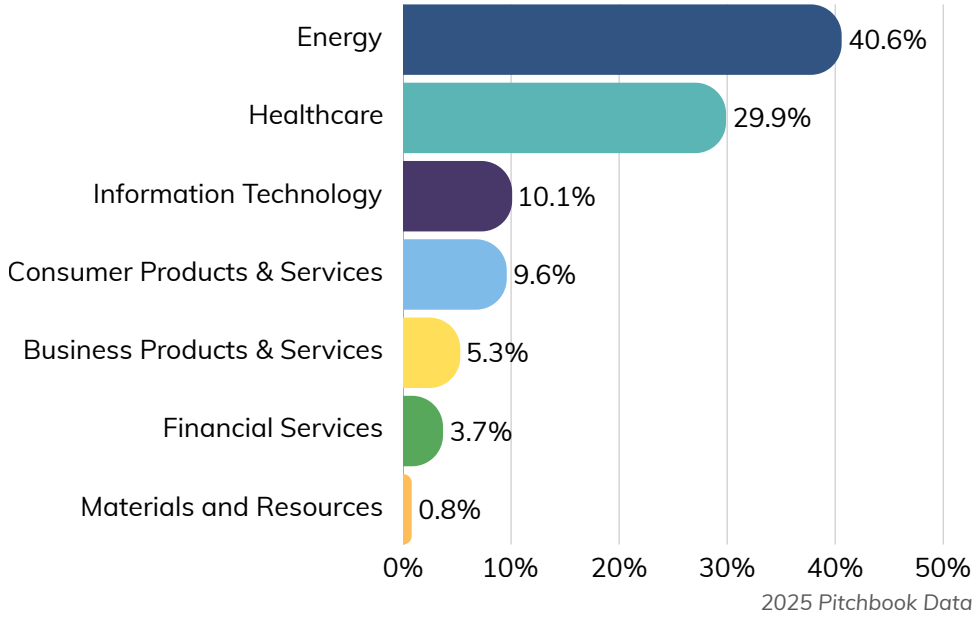
213 Startups received venture funding (2021-2025)

$1.31B In VC investment in startups (2021-2025)

20.4K People Employed by VC-backed startups[1]

A broad range of Oklahoma-based pension funds, university endowments, and nonprofits invest in and benefit from venture. This includes the state's largest pension fund, the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), which supports 188,000+ active and retired educators.

2025 VC Investment by Sector in OK



2025 Pitchbook Data

VCs Funding OK Startups Include:

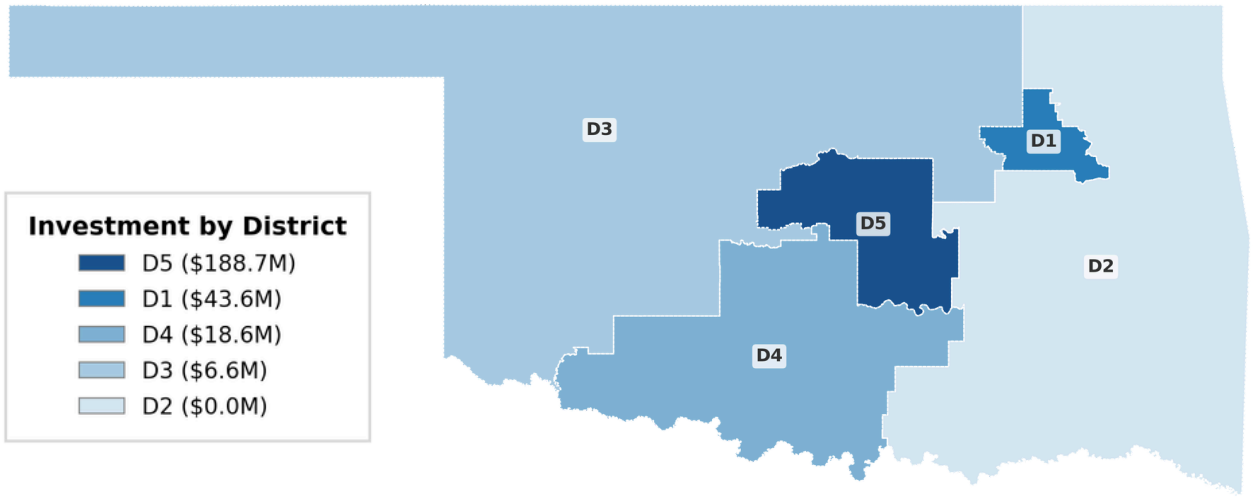
Tulsa-based FortySix VC invests in early-stage software, drone technology, and manufacturing companies in Tulsa, Denver, and St. Louis, targeting enabling technologies that can drive broad economic impact. Tracy Poole, an Oklahoma State University grad who also holds a JD from the University of Oklahoma, launched FortySix after a successful career as a founder and investor, having orchestrated successful exits of up to 10x returns.

Cortado Ventures, an early-stage VC firm based in Oklahoma City which focuses on Oklahoma and the Midcontinent region, invests in capital-efficient B2B technology companies across insurtech, biotech, aerospace, fintech, energy tech, and ag tech sectors. Beyond funding, they support founders with growth roadmaps, customer network access, and M&A strategy.

Plains Ventures is grounded in the belief that good ideas require more than just capital. Based in Oklahoma City, the venture firm provides the resources, guidance, and support needed to grow successful companies throughout the startup journey, with a focus on early stage capital. Believing that the growth process is more than just a financial transaction, the firm has built the blueprint for sustainable funding for startups between the coasts. Plain Ventures has the know-how and experience to truly grow a business, investing in companies across a range of industries, including software, life sciences, advanced materials, manufacturing, and more.

[1] *"An Analysis of U.S. Employment Dynamics at Venture-Backed Companies ..." (Brown & Tilleman-Dick, 2024)*

2025 State Funding Breakdown



2025 Pitchbook Data

VC Investment Helps OK's Startups Thrive:

Every six seconds a workplace injury occurs. Every 1.8 hours, that injury is fatal. Tulsa-based Safety Radar revolutionizes operational risk management through an advanced AI-powered platform that prevents job site accidents. By collecting and analyzing hazard information in real-time, the company provides organizations with actionable insights to identify, track, and mitigate risks, protecting employees.

Cadenza Bio, based in Oklahoma City, is developing innovative, small-molecule drugs to transform treatment for inflammatory diseases like Multiple Sclerosis and Endometriosis. Their preclinical compounds aim to reduce inflammation, drive remyelination, and restore patients' quality of life for the nearly 1 million MS patients and 6.5 million women affected by Endometriosis.

Sci-Lume Labs is working to address 34 billion pounds of clothing discarded annually in the U.S. through their Bylon®, a groundbreaking biobased and biodegradable material. Derived from renewable agricultural waste, their innovative, sustainable solution replaces petroleum-derived plastics, creating "earth-digestible textiles." Oklahoma City-based Sci-Lume Labs offers an accessible path to more environmentally responsible clothing.