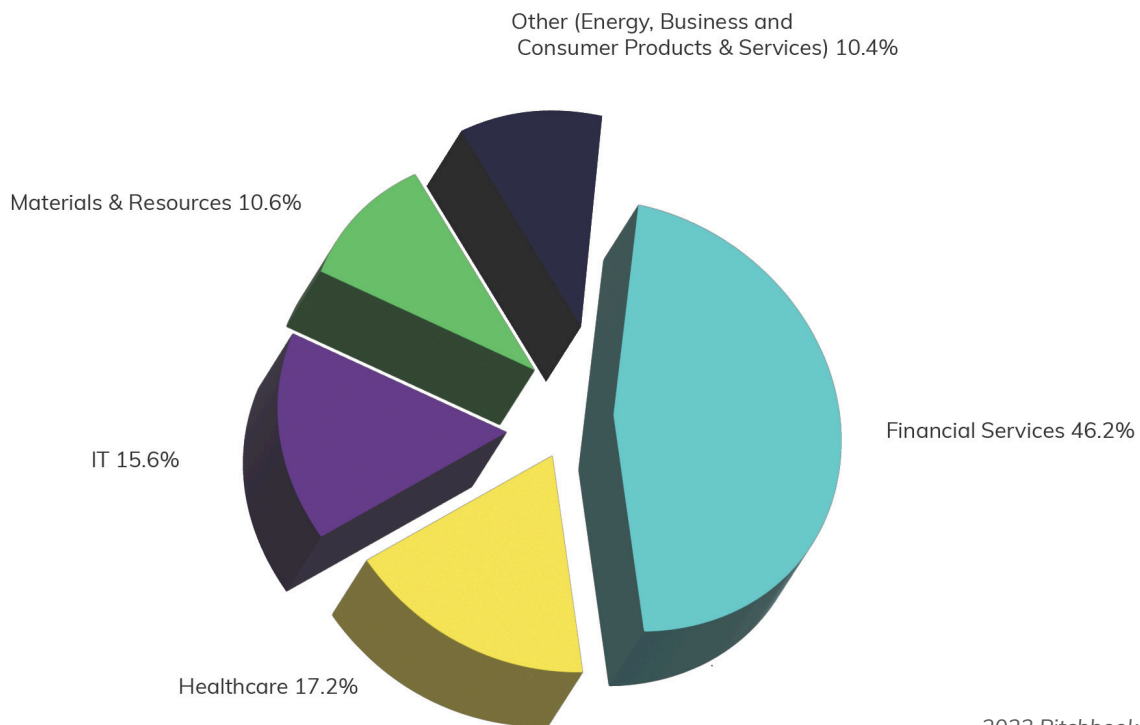


# VC: Driving Innovation in Oklahoma

**178** Startups received venture funding (2019-2023) | **\$7.7B** In VC investment in startups (2019-2023) | **20K** People employed by VC backed startups in 2022

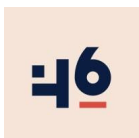
A broad range of Oklahoma-based pension funds, university endowments, and nonprofits invest in and benefit from venture. This includes the state's largest pension fund, the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), which supports 188,000+ active and retired educators.

## 2023 VC Investment by Sector in OK



2023 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.

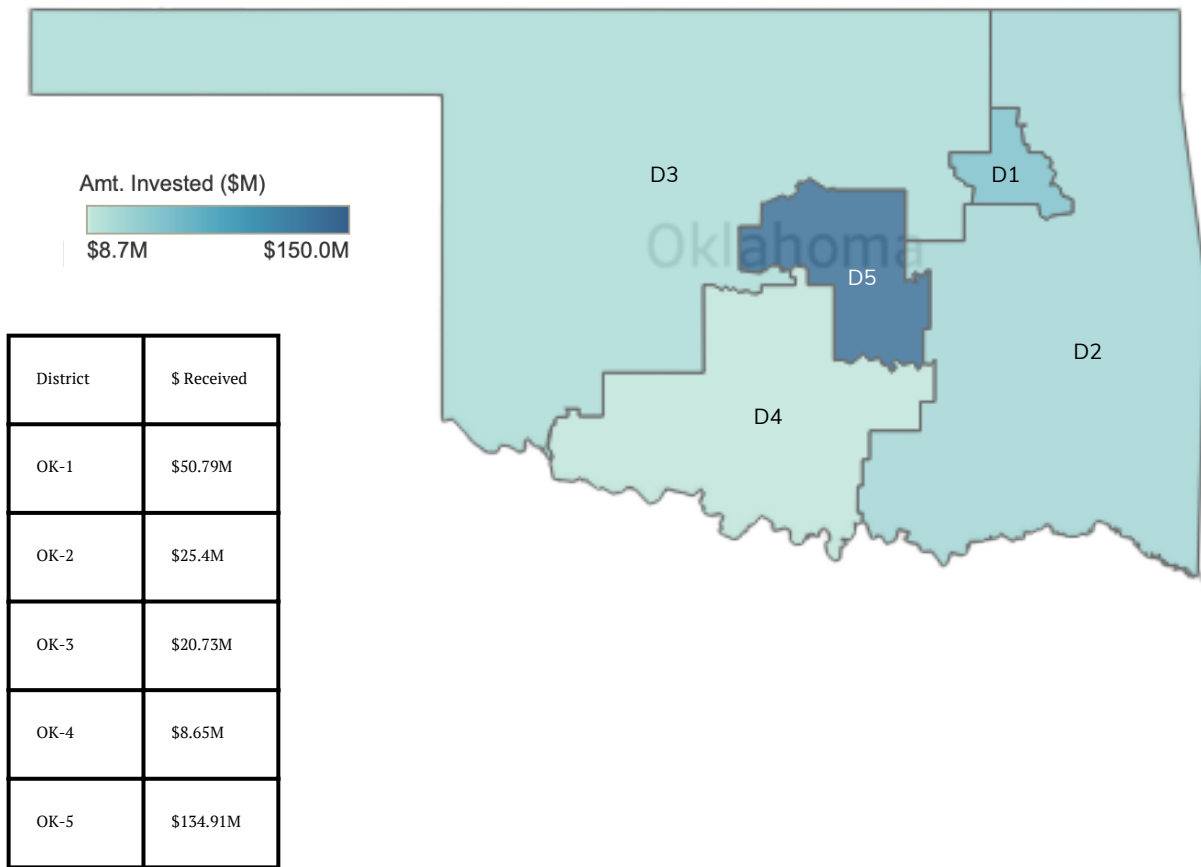


Cortado Ventures, an early-stage VC firm based in Oklahoma City which focuses on Oklahoma and the Midcontinent region, invests in capital-efficient B2B technology companies across insurtech, biotech, aerospace, fintech, energy tech, and ag tech sectors. Beyond funding, they support founders with growth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



Atento Capital actively invests in founders historically overlooked due to gender, race, and geography. With a dual focus on emerging markets in Oklahoma and Arkansas, they back companies across technology, aerospace, analytics, cybersecurity, energy tech, and virtual health sectors. Beyond funding, they invest in human capital through regional partnerships, challenging the coastal VC dominance by supporting diverse entrepreneurs in the heartland.

# 2023 State Funding Breakdown



2023 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.