

#StartupStrong

Stronger Together:
Support Resources for Founders

V1 APRIL 2020



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DISCLAIMER:

The information provided in this doc does not constitute legal or tax advice. All information, content, and materials included are for general informational purposes only. Please be sure to do your own research, and consult professionals as needed, to evaluate any guidance or programs as they relate to your specific situation.

A Few Words

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the startup ecosystem has experienced massive upheaval. But also, it's exhibited inspiring resiliency and agility in the face of change.

Innovators and doers from around the world quickly have compiled blogs, launched resource webpages, created virtual events, recorded podcasts and more — coming together to help support fellow founders and the tech community as a whole.

It's a daunting prospect to parse through thousands of tips on pipeline modelling, government relief programs, remote work, and mental wellness to surface the most valuable information. And time is of the essence right now.

So we've collated a curated set of resources to help everyone access valuable support faster. Listed offerings are free of charge and available to all. We've kicked off with a handful of regions and will continue to publish expanded versions to include more global government, tax and legal support via tech leaders from India to Israel to Latin America and beyond.

Like you, we're working hard to stay on top of the latest news, gathering intel in real time.

Like you, we don't have all the answers.

Like you, we're passionate about startups and want to help our entrepreneurial sisters and brothers get through this hard moment together.

Yours truly,

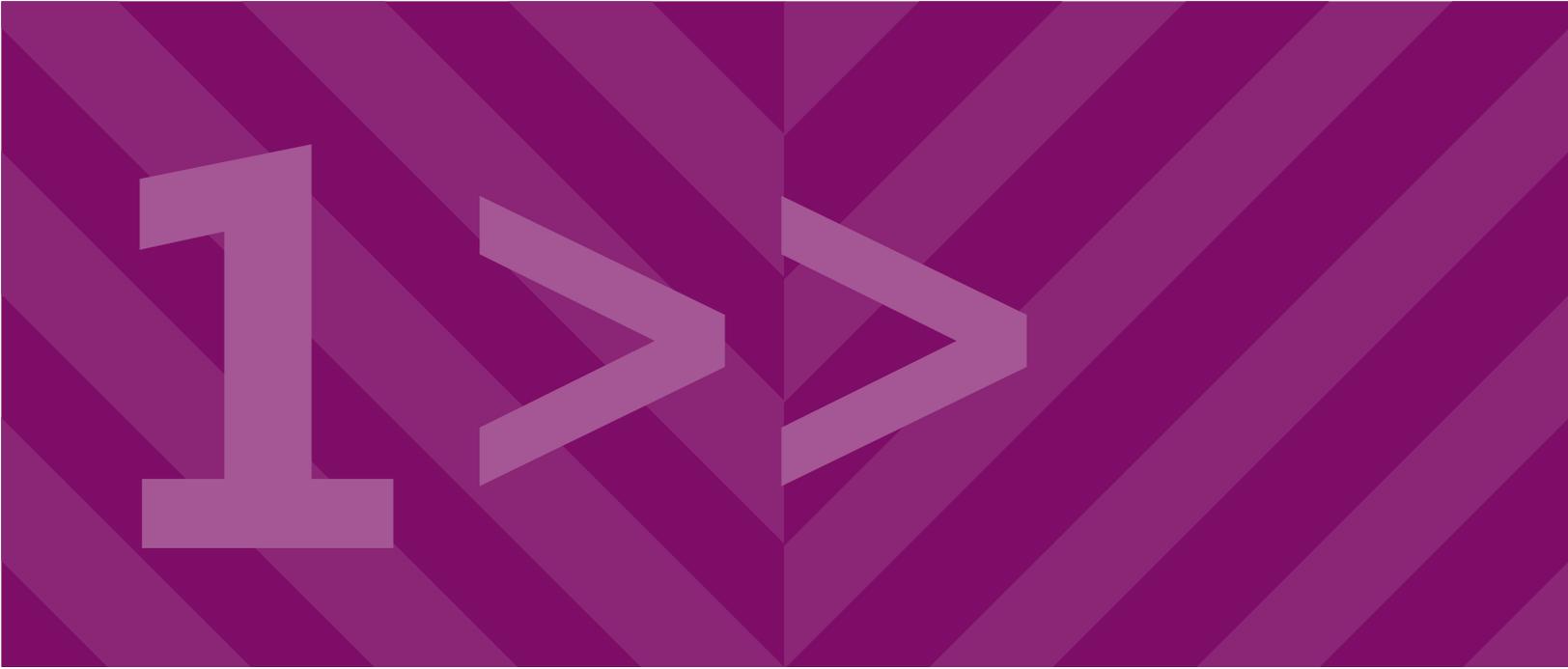


Meredith Powell

CCO, Microsoft for Startups

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PS. This resource wouldn't have been possible without many helping hands. Special thanks and shout-out to Ted Roduner, Tom Brown, Toni Hasson, Daniel Sevitt, Denise Sakaki, Theresa Stone and all of the regional leaders who contributed their time and insights. You are so appreciated.



Strategic & Tactical Resources

[Government Relief, Taxes & Legal](#)

[Further Global Perspectives](#)

[Leadership, Teams & Culture](#)

[Taking Care: Health & Wellness](#)

[Supplemental Reading: Reports & Points of View](#)

1 >> Support Resources for Founders: Strategic & Tactical Resources

Government Relief, Taxes & Legal



US

Who: Crunchbase News

What: [Forgivable Loan Apps Start Today And Will Be Big For Startups Facing COVID-19 Disruptions.](#)

Out of the hundreds of pages that comprise the massive U.S. stimulus bill, only a few sections are pertinent to startups. Of those, the most significant is the [Paycheck Protection Program](#), a provision in the bill providing for forgivable loans to qualifying businesses that meet goals for maintaining headcount. Get the latest from Crunchbase and contact your bank asap for more intel.

Who: National Venture Capital Association (NVCA)

What: Launched a [webpage](#) to provide startups with important info & resources to venture-backed companies about the current federal response including tax credits, loan opportunities, and sick leave. Excellent resource re: all legislation that helps startups... full CARES Act play-by-play, updated frequently.

Who: Silicon Valley Bank

What: [COVID-19 Response & Community Support](#)

Bankers to many of the world's top tech companies, you can bet SVB is on top of all the news as well as offering [ongoing webinars](#). Not with SVB? You can still find lots of valuable intel on their Response and Community Support page that you can discuss with your own bankers, so bookmark it all the same. Note some banks, such as Wells Fargo at \$10b, already have announced they've exhausted their capacity for lending under the PPP (April 5)

Who: Hello Alice

What: [COVID-19 Business Resource Center](#)

Find plenty of funding info and guidance here including financial aid options, applying for an emergency grant, pausing or closing your business, government policy info and more. For e.g., the SBA has issued Disaster Recovery Loans for small businesses for immediate deployment, in amounts up to \$2m, based on direct business impact from coronavirus.

Who: Microconf

What: [COVID-19 Business Relief: An Overview](#)

for Startups, Consultants, and Freelancers Including: PPP, Refundable Employee Retention Credit, Economic Injury Disaster Loan, Emergency EIDL Grants, and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act.

MACRO SCENARIOS (Outside Our Control)

POTENTIAL STRATEGIES (In Our Control)	SCENARIO A	SCENARIO B	SCENARIO C
	3 months lockdown X% Revenue Loss	6 months lockdown Y% Revenue Loss	12 months lockdown Z% Revenue Loss
PLAN A No change to plan	12 months runway \$XM cash EO2020	9 months runway \$XM cash EO2020	6 months runway \$XM cash EO2020
PLAN B -15% Opex	18 months runway \$XM cash EO2020	12 months runway \$XM cash EO2020	9 months runway \$XM cash EO2020
PLAN C -25% Opex	24 months runway \$XM cash EO2020	18 months runway \$XM cash EO2020	12 months runway \$XM cash EO2020

* Key: Columns represent drops in operational expenditures, rows revenue losses. * Source: A Sequoia-backed company

1 >> Support Resources for Founders: Strategic & Tactical Resources

Government Relief, Taxes & Legal

US

Who: PWC

What: PwC is providing a [matrix](#) that summarizes select state and local tax relief relating to COVID-19, as well as guidance on how startups can focus their efforts in this [comprehensive collection of information](#).

Who: US Small Business Association

What: [Providing Disaster Assistance Loans for Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19](#)

- Disaster assistance loans for up to \$2m for small businesses
- Provided an [express loan](#) program for exporters whose overseas sales have been affected
- Other valuable information for entrepreneurs can be found on SBA's [webpage](#)

LEGAL

Who: Cooley - US, ASIA, EU/UK

What: [Cooley's landing page](#) for all things legal and business insights on the COVID-19 pandemic is easy to navigate and full of valuable intel covering not only the US, but also UK/EU and Asia. To receive the latest info quickly, you can join their mailing lists from their [alert sign-up page](#). Check out their webcast on [CARES Act: PPP Impact on Venture-Backed Companies](#).

Type: Text & Recorded Webinar

Who: Fisher Phillips - US

What: Comprehensive [FAQs](#) for employers on COVID-19. Fisher Phillips has assembled a cross disciplinary taskforce of attorneys across the US to address employment-related issues facing employers in the wake of COVID-19.

Type: Text

Duration: 25 minutes

Who: Open Government Partnership - Global

What: Open Government Partnership has created an [open space](#) for the community to share where they see open government and legal approaches to tackling COVID-19 being implemented, either by governments themselves or civil society, citizens or the private sector.

Type: Text

Duration: 10 minutes

Who: Perkins Coie - US

What: Perkins Coie is focused on assisting businesses faced with legal and operational issues arising from the pandemic and have put together a number of [resources](#) pertaining to its impact on businesses.

Type: Text

Duration: 5 minutes

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Further Global Perspectives



AFRICA | CHRIS LWANGA, SENIOR DIRECTOR SOFTWARE PARTNERSHIPS



Image Credits: Sam Masikini via Zindi

Who: Rupert Family

What: Business Partner's Sukuma Relief Programme, which will disburse R1-billion from the Rupert Family to small businesses, is now open to accept applications for funding from small businesses. The fund is made up of two distinct and separate relief offerings – one for formal sole proprietors (R25 000 grants) and another for other business entities, namely close corporations, companies, and trusts (loans between R250 000 and R1-million) ([see this story](#)).

Who: Small Business Development

What: In South Africa over 81,000 small businesses had by Friday (3 April) registered to be on the Department of Small Business Development's SMME SA database, after applications on the database opened last Thursday, the government's news agency South Africa news reported in an [article](#). Those firms that wish to apply for the department's Debt Relief Fund and Business Growth Facility must first register on the database. Funding applications also opened last Thursday.

Who: Kenyan fund launched - Tala

What: US fintech Tala on Friday (3 April) announced the launch of a 605-million Kenyan shillings (\$5.7m) fund to help Kenyan businesses and communities tackle the pandemic, tech publication TechMoran reported in an [article](#). The fund will prioritize existing Tala customers as well as Tala businesses that provide essential services to their communities.

Who: CcHUB

What: In March, Africa's largest innovation incubator, CcHub, announced funding and engineering support to tech projects aimed at curbing COVID-19 and its social and economic impact. The Lagos and Nairobi based organization [posted an open application](#) on its website to provide \$5,000 to \$100,000 funding blocks to companies with COVID-19 related projects.

Who: Vital Capital

What: Swiss headquartered impact investor Vital Capital has announced a new debt facility to provide loans to businesses to help them get through the coronavirus pandemic while continuing to offer essential services. The vehicle will primarily target companies involved in agro-industry and processing, healthcare, sustainable infrastructure and education, and is initially launching in Kenya and Uganda ([see this story](#)).

1 >> Support Resources for Founders: Strategic & Tactical Resources

Further Global Perspectives



AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & SE ASIA | EMILY RICH, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Who: Zoom

What: An Australian startup Zoom is showing off the best virtual backgrounds for video calls. Backgrounds such as the Starship Enterprise, Millennium Falcon, the cockpit of a fighter jet from Top Gun, from the show The Office, and many more.

Who: Grant Thornton

What: Grant Thornton; The Australian Banking Association announced on Friday, 20 March 2020, that Australian banks will defer loan repayments for small businesses affected by COVID-19 for six months.

Who: Care for a Coffee

What: Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC) is a non-government, charitable organization that delivers a range of crisis and early intervention accommodation and support services to women, children and young people, and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and/or domestic and family violence.

By giving money to WAGEC you're contributing to helping create safe spaces for women and children and benefitting programs for kids that enable them to thrive.

Type: Text/Paid Service

Who: AirTree

What: Startup newsletter providing innovation opportunities through tech, support for startups and entrepreneurs including policy development, sustainable entrepreneurship, respectful relationships and making access to venture open to everyone.

Who: NZ Venture Capital Investor Database

What: Blackbird VC kindly pulled together a comprehensive list of New Zealand investors actively investing during COVID-19, including target investment stages, fund size, typical cheque size, email contacts and more.

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Further Global Perspectives



CANADA | ADAM NANJEE, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Who: Government of Canada

What: The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to help Canadians facing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Find resources [here](#) for help with economic relief.

Who: Creative Destruction Lab / CDL

What: On April 6th, Creative Destruction Lab launched their [Rapid Response Innovation Program](#). CDL Recovery will rapidly transform technological innovations into useful products and services that address public health and economic recovery challenges created by the global COVID-19 crisis.

Who: Startup Canada

What: In addition to their existing suite of digital programs, SC's implementing a [new townhall series focusing on the impacts and effects of COVID-19](#) in tech communities across the country. These Entrepreneur Town Halls will connect local communities with their MPs via a digital event where they can share insights and knowledge regarding the changing landscape. Find their [live list of key resources at the link](#).

Who: PWC

What: Check out [what Canadian business leaders should know](#) — a library of webcasts focusing on variety of hot topics, from digital disruption, financial reporting, to regulatory and business issues in your industry. Busy during the virtual event? Register for on-demand versions straight to your inbox. [Their Cashflow Coach](#) tool connects to a client's Xero general ledger and uses ML to predict business cash flow on a 6-week rolling basis. See who owes you what, when you're going to get paid, and how much cash you'll need to pay out-up to 6 wks ahead of time. [Register for an account](#) and check out their [quick start video](#).

Who: Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)

What: [Support for entrepreneurs impacted by the coronavirus COVID-19](#). As the COVID-19 outbreak unfolds, BDC knows these are challenging times for you and your business. BDC stands ready to support entrepreneurs like you through to a more stable period, their portal is regularly updated including their Convertible Note program — nb: note with discount to next round, must be Cdn VC-backed company, have raised min \$500k previously, and matching fund required.

Who: BLG Law

What: Follow [BLG's Breaking Developments Page](#) for new developments and essential resources around COVID-19 including [Raising capital in the current Canadian private market](#), and Administration Issues: Actions from Federal & Ontario Pension Regulators

Who: Osler

What: Find a full resource portal on Osler's site [to navigate legal implications and business impacts](#) including new COVID-19 wage subsidies for Canadian employers

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Further Global Perspectives



UK | AMALI DE ALWIS, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Who: Sifted — Pan-European Resource

What: Support measures for European startups affected by Coronavirus — [is this the ultimate resource?](#) It could just be! Find all the details split out by country with unique resources for each region. Sifted also offered up a good piece on fundraising in today's climate, including insights from various VCs and founders like "VCs are extra interested in how our business is now growing because of the pandemic." And "There will be fewer FOMO rounds;" read more [here](#).

Who: SeedLegals

What: Create your [Coronavirus Workplace Policy](#) now (it's totally free) then share it with your team so everyone knows the drill. They're keeping this policy updated as events change and as new legislation is introduced.

What: On April 3rd, the [UK government announced](#) that it will issue [£20m \(\\$24.5m\)](#) in grants of up to £50,000 each to startups and other businesses that are developing tools to improve resilience for critical industries — in other words, those that need to keep moving when something cataclysmic like a pandemic hits. [Start your application here](#). Unlike a lot of other government efforts, this one is aimed at a quick start: you need to be ready to kick off your project using the grant no later than June 2020, but earlier is okay, too.

Who: Maddyess UK

What: Fantastic 360 Support for businesses during the coronavirus crisis, including detail on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, VAT and Income Tax, payment of sick pay to employees, Business Interruption Loan Scheme and more. Find the article [here](#).

Who: French Chamber of Great Britain

What: [The French Chamber of Great Britain](#) shared their top crisis management tips through an infographic for navigating the COVID-19 crisis.

Type: Infographic

Who: London Business School

What: [Leading Through a Pandemic](#) provides insights and inspiration through free lectures and webinars via expert analysis on how and why coronavirus will change the way the world does business.

1 >> Support Resources for Founders: Strategic & Tactical Resources

Leadership, Teams, & Culture



Who: Top Global PE and VC firms — including Accel, Lightspeed, Sequoia Capital, Bessemer, and Matrix Partners

What: [A comprehensive resource page](#) of Best Practices for Founders from across the startup ecosystem re: how to deal with the crisis at hand. (March 31)

Who: Pete Flint from NFX

What: [28 Moves to Survive \(& Thrive\) in a Downturn.](#) Pete, a Managing Partner at NFX (seed-stage venture firm in SF), offers up some great insights into leadership at this time, including managing losses, gaining ground, and managing psychology.

Who: a16z

What: Developed a [list of company plans & remote working strategies](#) these are from companies sharing their own plans and strategies, culled here (without including our own recommendations or commentary on them).

Who: Slack

What: [Adapting the way we work when offices need to close](#) — shifting to remote work can disrupt how startups operate and Slack has expertise to share. At the bottom of this link, find great webinars too.

Who: ThoughtExchange

What: Keep people Connected. This crowdsourcing platform for leaders is a powerful listening tool with a [special free COVID-19 offering](#) that helps company and community leadership solicit and understand the impact of the health & economic crisis.

Who: BurnRate

What: Making BurnRate's Sales & Revenue Capacity strategic planning free for all users from now until the end of the second calendar quarter (June 30, 2020). In under five minutes, [Sales leaders can see what your capacity plan should look like](#) with reduced targets and walk through the ways that could impact your sales staff.

Who: BREX

What: Startup Fundraising in Today's Environment — full set of slides [here](#), recording [here](#).

Type: PDF/Recording Attached

Duration: PDF — 15 minutes. Recording — 58 minutes

Who: Techstars

What: [Techstars Advice For Startups In An Economic Crisis: COVID-19 & 11 Tips for Startup Survival During COVID-19](#)

Who: 500 Startups

What: [How Startups Can Navigate the Change in Investment Climate Due to COVID-19.](#) 500 Startups received responses from 139 investors who answered ten questions on COVID-19 and early-stage investing. From these responses and our knowledge of the investment world, we've gathered insights for startups looking to navigate investment during this time.

Who: Sequoia Capital

What: [The Matrix for COVID19](#)

Sequoia's created a matrix that presents the various possible decisions entrepreneurs may face as they model out scenarios for their business. Find a great podcast that talks more about the Sequoia Black Swan Memo story and this very matrix on [Acquired here \(from March 30, 2020\)](#).

Duration: 2 minute read + 37 minute podcast

1 >> Support Resources for Founders: Strategic & Tactical Resources

Taking Care: Health & Wellness



Who: Chopra Center

What: [At-Home Wellness Guide](#) to Staying Healthy During COVID-19.

Who: Starling Minds

What: [Managing Stress & Anxiety from COVID-19](#). Get free access to this confidential program to manage mental health during COVID-19. Their mental health program helps combat stress, anxiety, and worry and is open to everyone — people working at small or large businesses, self-employed, laid off workers, and their extended family and support networks.

Who: The Society of Advice

What: Jerry Colonna gets [interviewed](#) by Carl Richards explaining his thoughts around what to do with all the fear and uncertainty going on right now with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Type: Text/Video

Duration: 56 minutes

Who: Today.com

What: Tensions running high at home? Try Brené Brown's '[family gap plan](#). Brené Brown gives an informative interview regarding how to navigate feels through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Type: Text/Video

Duration: 15 minutes

Who: Forbes

What: Brené Brown offers tips on [How To Take On First Times](#) and COVID-19 in her new Podcast, '[Unlocking Us](#)'

Type: Text/Podcast

Duration: 38 minutes

Who: Total Brain

What: [Total Brain Offers Consumers Free Three-Month Access To Mental Health And Wellness App To Help Address COVID-19 Induced Anxiety](#)

Who: Headspace

What: To help support you through this time of crisis, Headspace is offering some meditations you can listen to anytime — free for everyone — called [Weathering the Storm](#). It includes meditations, sleep, and movement exercises to help you out, however you're feeling. It's our small way of helping you find some space and kindness for yourself and those around you.

Type: App

Who: Calm

What: Meditation and relaxation app Calm offers content to support your mental and emotional wellness and stay grounded during this tough time, including [Masterclass audio programs](#) taught by world-renowned mindfulness experts Calm is [providing free access to the resources and content on their COVID-19 webpage](#) free of charge.

Type: App

Who: Nike

What: Helping to Make Sport a Daily Habit with the Nike App. To support all athletes wherever they are, Nike provides multiple formats of workout classes, coaching, motivation, nutrition guidance and training tips via our digital ecosystem — the [Nike App](#), the Nike Running Club app ([NRC](#)), the Nike Training Club app ([NTC](#)), our social channels, [nike.com](#) and our award winning podcast, [TRAINED](#) free of charge.

Type: Paid App

Who: 305 Fitness

What: Shake off your social-distancing stress with [305 Fitness](#). The dance-cardio studio is now offering free live-stream workouts on its [YouTube channel](#) every day at 12 p.m. EST. Based on 305 Fitness's first live-stream, the workouts will mimic in-person classes, featuring a mashup of [aerobic and anaerobic training](#) with [sprints](#) and [muscle toning](#).

Type: Paid YouTube Channel/Live workouts

1 >> Support Resources for Founders: Strategic & Tactical Resources

Taking Care: Health & Wellness

Who: Underbelly Yoga

What: To help bring the mindfulness of yoga to the masses, [Jessamyn Stanley's Underbelly Yoga](#) is offering a free 14-day trial to new subscribers.

If you aren't familiar with the app, the virtual yoga studio is a gentle introduction to yoga in three courses: Air (to learn mindful breath), Earth (to connect the breath to simple yoga postures), and Fire (to advance skills and build heat). The goal? To provide peace to the mind and body, which is perfect for those feeling overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who: Peloton

What: Up until now, workouts on the [Peloton app](#) have been mostly compatible with the [brand's own equipment](#). But thanks to a new free [90-day trial](#), you can try Peloton's workouts by hopping on your own bike or treadmill. Don't have equipment? There are plenty of options for strength training, yoga, and stretching with top trainers motivating you along the way.

Who: Fit Body App

What: It's no secret that Anna Victoria's [Fit Body](#) workouts are challenging ([even for the trainer herself](#)). So, it comes as no surprise that thousands of people have been subscribing to the app amid the pandemic. To make her workouts more accessible, Victoria recently announced that new users will be able to take advantage of the app for free for the next 30 days. Use the code DAJEITALIA at checkout to redeem the offer.

Who: Fight Camp

What: Whether you want to learn basic [boxing skills](#) or try HIIT workouts that blend punches with bodyweight [plyometric moves](#), [Fight Camp](#) is the app for you. The interactive boxing workout app has uploaded dozens of free workout videos to its [YouTube channel](#). From basic boxing techniques to intense, no-equipment-needed boxing drills there's something for everybody.

Who: Daily Burn

What: [Daily Burn](#) will upgrade all of its current members to Premium access for 60 days, free of charge. That means you'll have access to the app's full archive of classes, an additional 600 "fan favorite" workout videos, plus audio workouts. And, if you're new to Daily Burn, the platform is offering a 60-day free trial, also with Premium access. Aside from its in-app offerings, Daily Burn will also be hopping on Instagram Live every morning at 9 a.m. EST to host 30-minute full-body interval workouts. The best part? Each day offers a new routine to help keep you motivated.

Who: CorePower Yoga

What: [CorePower Yoga](#) has shut down its brick-and-mortar studios across the US. But now, CorePower is [taking its in-studio experience online](#), free of charge, for folks working out at home. Users have the option of choosing C1 classes (perfect for beginners exploring yoga postures), C2 classes (focused on more challenging postures and connected breath), or [CorePower's popular Sculpt class](#).

Who: Simple Habit

What: [Simple Habit](#) is a free meditation app offering bite-sized meditation sessions for anxiety, relaxation, relationships, career, parenting, and more. Simple Habit is giving users free premium memberships through the end of April to [help ease stress and anxiety](#).

Who: CITYROW

What: If you're all about hitting the [rowing machine](#) when you go to the gym, you were probably pretty bummed when [CITYROW](#) closed its doors in response to the pandemic. But the studio's finding other ways to engage its community. As of March 16, CITYROW trainers are inviting you to join them for equipment-free at-home workouts, posted daily on the studio's [Instagram](#).

1 >> Support Resources for Founders: Strategic & Tactical Resources



Supplemental Reading: Reports & Points of View

Who: NFX's VC / Founder Sentiment Survey

What: NFX, an early-stage venture firm based in SF, surveyed 286 seed-stage and Series A Founders and 114 VCs to capture sentiment data during the COVID-19 crisis. [This data adds unique perspective and insights into startup ecosystem impact.](#)

Who: Plug and Play

What: [eBook](#) highlighting top startups addressing COVID19, including remote patient monitoring, detecting pathogens, molecular diagnostics and more. Also check out their [blog series](#).

Type: eBook and blogs

Duration: 3 minutes

Who: Oliver Wyman

What: Oliver Wyman published a report on [Private Equity response](#) to COVID19 and their portfolio companies, providing context on various industries including manufacturing, supply chain, aviation, etc.

Type: Infographic

Duration: 15 minutes

Who: Pitchbook

What: [The Ripple Effect of COVID-19 on Startups and Emerging Technologies](#) gives an overview of how the COVID-19 crisis is affecting the startup ecosystem. The report includes a high level outline of deals, historical data, and predictions as well as unique insights broken out by verticals like Supply Chain, AI, DevOps, FinTech and more.

Type: PDF report

Duration: 10 minutes

Who: The Next Web

What: Published the 'Corona in Context' [Newsletter](#) with resources, and facts that matter about the COVID-19 pandemic and the technology trying to stop its spread for startups.

Type: Text/Newsletter

Duration: 4 minutes

Who: Campaign Monitor

What: [COVID-19 Email Comms, Key Considerations & Tips.](#)

Type: Text/Newsletter

Duration: 7 minutes

Who: Startup Genome

What: [Startup Genome](#) has issued the [first installment of reports](#) that it plans to do on how startups are being affected since the onset of COVID-19.

Type: Text/Links

Duration: 5 minutes

Who: Digital Trends Magazine: [5 key insights from Bill Gate's Reddit AMA](#)

What: Bill Gates took to Reddit on Wednesday to answer questions about the COVID-19 outbreak during an [Ask Me Anything](#) session on the Coronavirus subreddit. The Microsoft co-founder, whose Gates Foundation helps fight disease around the world, shared some insights into his thoughts on the current global pandemic, as well as what we should be doing and can expect to happen these coming months.

Who: Arlan Hamilton (Backstage Capital) and Mark Cuban (Shark Tank)

What: Two startup and investment experts discuss [being an entrepreneur in the age of COVID-19.](#)

Who: Pete Docter from Pixar, Director of *Monsters Inc., Up and Inside Out*

What: [This charming video](#) demonstrates how to clear your head by savoring. Since how you experience this time can come down to your point of view.



Cool Stuff to Check Out

[Grants, Offers & Opportunities](#)

[Hackathons](#)

[Events & Webinars](#)

[Podcasts](#)

2 >> Support Resources for Founders: Cool Stuff to Check Out

Grants, Offers & Opportunities



Who: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome & Mastercard

What: Launch the [COVID19 Therapeutics Accelerators](#) — an Initiative to Speed Development and Access to Therapies for COVID-19

Who: Y Combinator & Sam Altman (Open AI)

What: Fast-tracking investments in startups tackling COVID19 — [Link](#) and via [YC Advisor Sam Altman](#). Particularly interested in startups working on tests/diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, equipment for hospitals, monitoring and data infrastructure.

Who: Sara Blakely, CEO and founder of shapewear brand Spanx

What: Sara recently announced that she will be distributing \$5 million to support female-run small businesses during the coronavirus pandemic via 1,000 grants of \$5,000 each to female entrepreneurs in the U.S. Read more [on Forbes](#) now or start [your application today at the link](#).

Who: Ground Up Ventures

What: March Madness Competition: [VC Launches Online Start Up Competition](#)
Are you fundraising? In this pitch competition, early stage ventures who've raised between \$200k-\$2m will pitch to a panel of VCs. Selected finalists will then pitch to a live audience of investors and participants from across the globe via video. Register now: <https://www.groundup.vc/marchmadness>

Who: Fundera

What: Published a [Best Small Business Grants for 2020](#), including COVID-19 grants and an overview of multiple United States wide grant programs, Federal grants, and local government grants.

Who: Facebook

What: Announced they'll soon be offering [\\$100m in cash grants and ad credits for up to 30,000 small businesses across 30 countries](#).

Who: Plug and Play

What: The [program](#) will focus on existing technologies that can achieve massive scale across three tracks: healthcare, enterprise, and supply chain.

Who: Founder Institute

What: [Founder Institute Announces New "Public Health Startup Fellowship" program](#)
Founder Institute is offering "Public Health Startup Fellowships" to top Founder Institute applicants worldwide that are working on solutions to cure, prevent, and mitigate threats to public health, including COVID-19.

Who: Finder

What: Top 9 grants for startups, detailed overview of the top grant services for startups, including Amber Grant, Visa Everywhere Initiative, Small Business Innovation Research, etc.

Who: The AI for Good series + XPrize

What: Backed by the International Telecommunication Union & XPRIZE Foundation among others, recently announced the launch of [The Innovation Factory](#), a program to help scale companies using AI for social good.

Who: Carta

What: Carta published a COVID19 [resource page](#) on their blog including an extensive list of current Free SaaS Products (think Airtable, Zoho, Box, Salesforce, SAP and more) and a great list for business assistance as well.

Who: Isreal's [AI for Good Accelerator Program](#) — [register now here](#)

What: Microsoft for Startups' AI for Good cohort will take place virtually and give ventures the opportunity to connect with local experts, participate in curriculum session, and match directly with our global mentors. All programming is cost and equity-free.

Who: Mass Challenge

What: [MassChallenge](#), the [COVID-19 Healthcare Coalition](#), and public and private sector partners have [launched a worldwide survey](#) to identify the startups with relevant solutions that can help limit COVID-19's impact. Info shared in the survey will be used to connect innovators with frontline organizations and networks to extend the reach of their innovations.

2 >> Support Resources for Founders: Cool Stuff to Check Out Hackathons



Who: WHO, Facebook, Microsoft, TikTok, Pinterest, Twitter, AWS, WeChat

What: [The COVID-19 Global Hackathon](#)

#BuildforCOVID19 Global Hackathon welcomes locally and globally focused solutions, and is open to all developers — with support from tech companies and platforms including AWS, Facebook, Giphy, Microsoft, Pinterest, Salesforce, Slack, TikTok, Twitter and WeChat, who all will be sharing resources to support participants throughout the submission period.

When: Selected projects will be announced April 10

Who: CODEVID-19

What: With the COVID-19 pandemic in full swing, many people are looking at a lot of free time stuck indoors. Avoid cabin fever and use that time to make a difference in your community and the fight against COVID-19 by [joining CODEVID-19](#), the world's first pandemic hackathon!

When: Through April

Who: in.dev

What: Hackorona is a virtual [Hackathon](#) by in.dev in collaboration with Microsoft with a focus on COVID-19

When: 3/23/2020 – 6/4/2020

Who: Mindstream-AI

What: [A virtual hackathon](#) bringing together Biomedical and data scientists to explore ways to combat Coronavirus. This event will go virtual through a platform with full access to covid-19 datasets and other technology.

When: Tue, Apr 14, 2020, 9:00 AM – Sun, Apr 19, 2020, 8:00 PM BST

Who: Techstars

What: [The Unite to Fight Covid-19 Startup Weekend](#) is run at a country level, enabling each Startup Weekend to focus on developing Covid-19-related solutions unique to each country and will connects current and aspiring entrepreneurs with the best mentors from the Techstars global network.

Type: Hackathon

Duration: Varies per country

2 >> Support Resources for Founders: Cool Stuff to Check Out

Events & Webinars



Who: Silicon Valley Bank

What: Silicon Valley Bank has comprised a list of [webinars](#) that detail scenarios around navigating the Covid-19 situation, such as employment laws, regional based webinars, and fundraising workshops.

Type: Webinar

When: April 1 – April 22

Who: Founder Institute - the world's largest pre-seed accelerator.

What: [free webinars](#) that encourage the continuation of education while practicing social distancing.

Type: Webinar

When: April 2- April 16

Who: TED

What: Launched Community response = Connects, bringing hope, care, and learning to communities: [Link](#)

Type: Webinar

When: Ongoing

Who: PWC

What: Developed a series of [webinars](#) surrounding COVID-19 with a variety of topics that help businesses make better decisions.

Type: Webinar

When: Range from March to Present Day

Who: Essence COVID-19 Session & Wellness House Events

What: [A 90-minute information and Q&A session](#) with detail on the PPP under the newly-passed stimulus package — the CARES Act. Understand what's included in the PPP and your business's eligibility. (April 6) Essence of Wellness House events are an ongoing series, read more on [NBC News](#) and find [videos here](#).

Type: Video

Duration: 90 minutes

Who: [Google for Startups](#)

What: Like Twitter AMAs? Google for Startups is running a cool series of Q&As right now. Follow the hashtag #RemoteGFSChat to hear from, and engage with, founders and partners on how to stay connected and build remote communities during this uncertain time.

Who: [Microsoft for Startups](#)

What: A healthy mix of [technical](#) & [business](#) workshops — as well as [partner ecosystem demos](#), use cases, and live Q&A with Microsoft's industry experts — being updated weekly and all free of charge.

Who: Launch DXB's #LaunchDXBConnect

What: #LaunchDXBConnect brings day to day insights as well as advice from Middle Eastern change-makers, innovators, and top industry experts in the region to respond to COVID-19 via webinar. How can startups better navigate through the coronavirus crisis and ensure they are better prepared for future challenges? [Learn more at the link.](#)

2 >> Support Resources for Founders: Cool Stuff to Check Out

Podcasts



Who: Jack Kornfield on Tim Ferris's blog

What: [How to Find Peace Amidst COVID-19, How to Cultivate Calm in Chaos](#)

Type: Text and audio

Duration: Text — 10 minutes. Recording — 2 Hours

Who: Andreessen Horowitz

What: In the latest [WFH episode](#) of the a16z Podcast — recorded all remotely, of course — a16z general partners Connie Chan in consumer and David Ulevitch in enterprise discuss with Lauren Murrow the swift rise of remote work and virtual networking amid the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Type: Podcast

Duration: 20 minutes

Who: The Twenty Minute VC

What: Howard Marks on How COVID-19 Impacts Our Economy, Liquidity and National Debt, Why The Theory of Falling Knives and Market Bottoms is Wrong & Why The Best Investors Are Fundamentally Unemotional in this [podcast](#).

Type: Podcast

Duration: 26 minutes

Who: The Betakit Podcast: Black Swan

What: This is [Black Swan](#): a limited-run Canadian series. In the first episode, Matt Roberts, partner at ScaleUP Ventures, talks through the government's response to COVID-19's impact on the economy (takes that have changed significantly since [Friday's announcement](#) of increased wage subsidies). Matt shares what he would do (spoiler: get SR&ED payments flowing again) and explains the advice he's providing to portfolio companies to help them survive.

Type: Podcast

Duration: 40 minutes

Who: GeekWire

What: Check out GeekWire's Podcast featuring [Bill Gates on COVID-19, gig workers](#), and more on the coronavirus crisis.

Who: The Pitch

What: This [podcast](#) is where real entrepreneurs pitch to real investors and it's great. Even better, The Pitch is [opening up the phone lines to take your calls](#). Their investors will be on the line, ready to give advice on how your business can survive this crisis. They're hosting several call-in opportunities during the month of April, and so far investors Jillian Manus, Michael Hyatt, Elizabeth Yin and Charles Hudson have all signed up to take your calls.



When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the empty train platforms, don't say to yourself "It looks like the end of the world."

What you're seeing is love in action. What you're seeing — in that negative space — is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, for our immune-compromised brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet.

People will lose their jobs over this, some will lose their businesses, and some will lose their lives. All the more reason to take a moment, when you're out on your walk, or on your way to the store, or just watching the news, to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of the love.

Let it fill and sustain you.

It isn't the end of the world. It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness.

— Anonymous