



**Women's Capital
Collaborative**

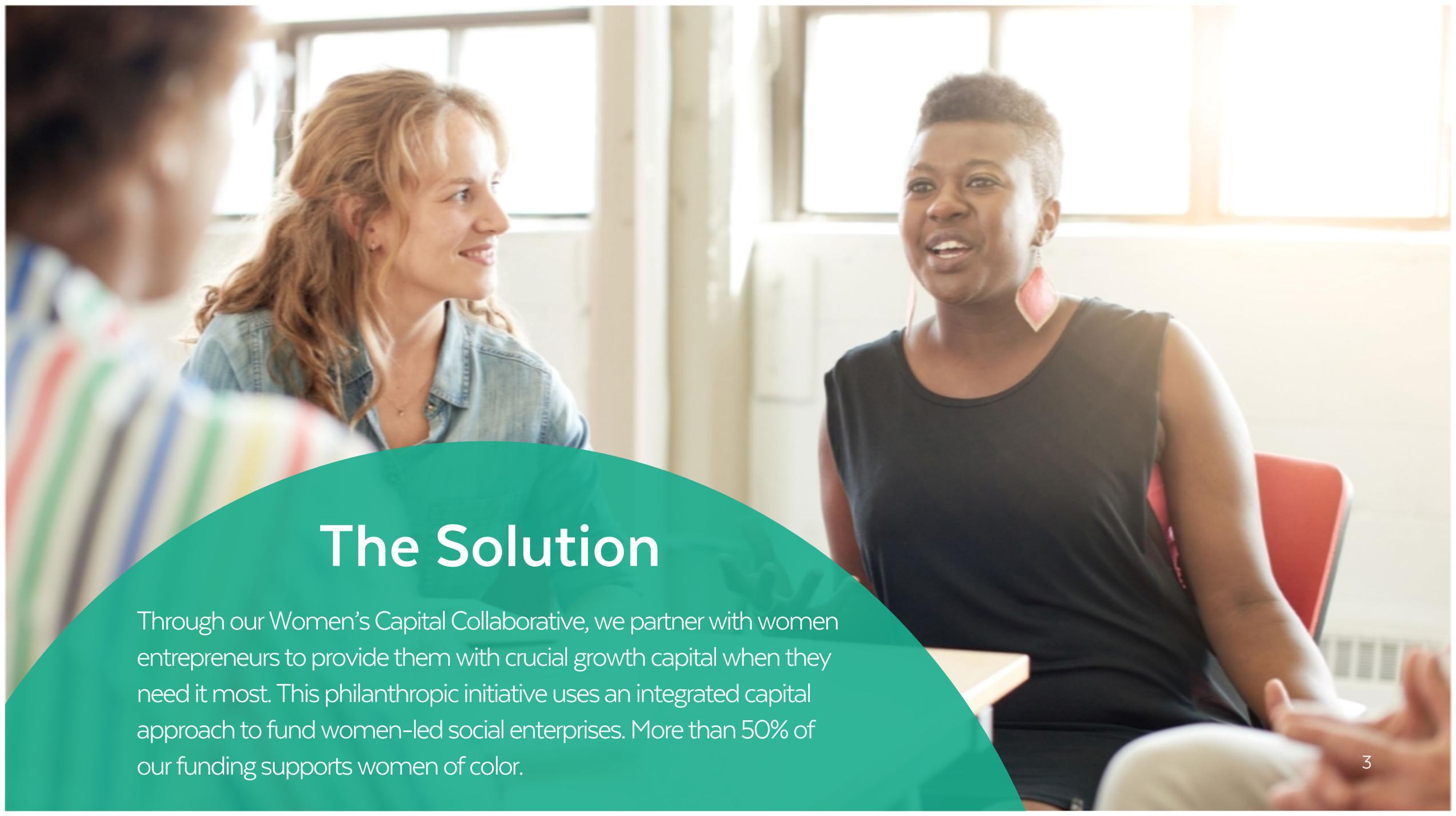
**A Philanthropic Initiative to
Support Women Entrepreneurs**

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black t-shirt and green overalls, is harvesting tomatoes in a greenhouse. She is standing in a narrow aisle between rows of tomato plants. A green plastic crate filled with ripe red tomatoes is on a small cart in front of her. The plants are lush green with many red tomatoes hanging from the vines. The greenhouse structure is visible in the background.

The Challenge

Women entrepreneurs are routinely left behind when it comes to funding. On average, women start businesses with half as much capital as men, despite women-led enterprises exhibiting faster rates of growth.

A Harvard Business School study found that, even when business pitches were identical, men were 60% more likely to be chosen to receive funding. Early growth stage capital is especially hard for women to raise.

A photograph of three women sitting around a table in a bright, modern office or meeting space. The woman on the right is a Black woman with short hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and large red earrings, smiling and speaking. The woman in the middle is a white woman with long blonde hair, wearing a denim shirt, looking towards the Black woman. The woman on the left is a Black woman with her back to the camera, wearing a colorful striped shirt. The background features large windows with natural light.

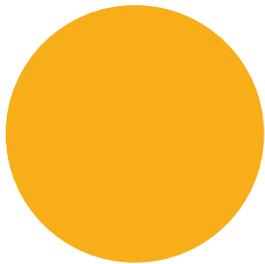
The Solution

Through our Women's Capital Collaborative, we partner with women entrepreneurs to provide them with crucial growth capital when they need it most. This philanthropic initiative uses an integrated capital approach to fund women-led social enterprises. More than 50% of our funding supports women of color.

Integrated Capital: An Overview

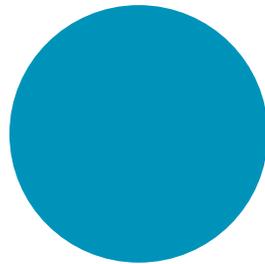
Integrated capital is the coordinated use of diverse forms of financial and human capital to support enterprises and strategies that are addressing complex social and environmental problems.

Tools:



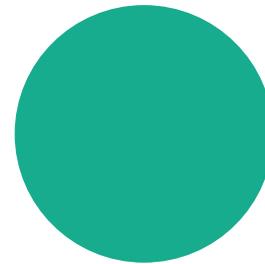
LOANS

Senior-secured loans
Unsecured loans
Loan participations



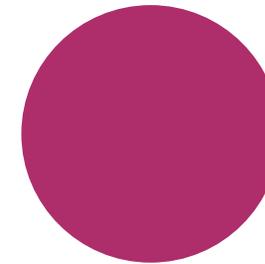
LOAN GUARANTEES

RSF guarantees
Third-party guarantees



GRANTS

Technical assistance
Third-party grants



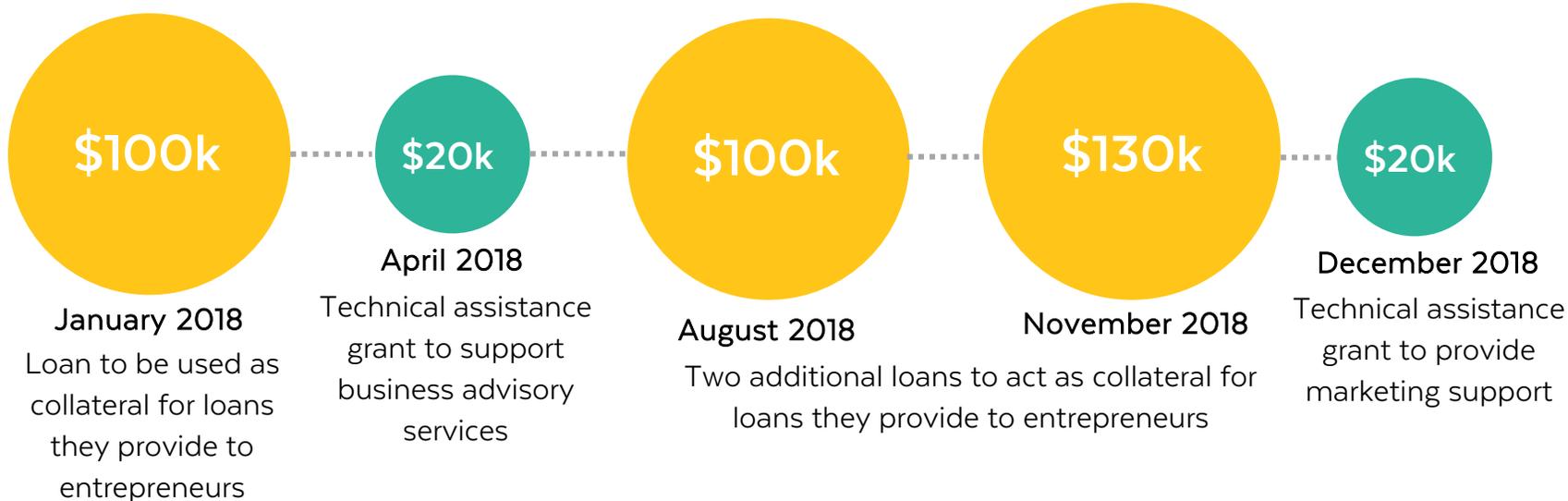
NON-FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Network connections
Advisory support

Integrated Capital in Action

We partnered with **The Runway Project** to support their pilot program, Runway Project Oakland. Their mission is to catalyze African American wealth through small business ownership and standardize the way friends-and-family capital is deployed to African American, primarily women, entrepreneurs. They also provide culturally relevant technical support and a community of mentors.

Funding provided by the Women's Capital Collaborative:



Stevonne Ratliff, founder of Beija Flor Naturals and Runway Project Oakland borrower



Selection Criteria

- Owned and/or led by women¹
- Support women and/or girls in at least one of the following areas: health, economic empowerment, education, personal safety, and legal rights²
- Committed to advancing women in their organization
- Collaborative, transparent, inclusive, and prioritize long-term benefit to stakeholders
- Based in the United States

¹ “Women” includes trans-women and people whose gender is non-binary

² Research from The Center for High Impact Philanthropy found five key dimensions crucial to women flourishing.

Examples of Enterprises Funded



Eu'Genia Shea

Employs and uplifts Ghanaian and American women through the sourcing and processing of shea butter and offers financial literacy training

Brooklyn, NY



Akola

Provides training and work opportunities making handcrafted jewelry to women living in poverty in Dallas, TX, and Uganda

Dallas, TX



Kreyol Essence

Provides economic empowerment to Haitian women and environmental restoration in Haiti through the creation of castor oil

Miami, FL



Spotlight: Girls

Uses the arts to educate, engage, and inspire girls, applying a social-emotional learning approach

Oakland, CA



Participatory Grantmaking

Democratization, collaboration,
and community wisdom

Shared Gifting Circles – grantees have ownership, distribution and allocation authority

Flow Funding – new funders are entrusted with grantmaking decisions



Multiplier Effect

We partner with other funders, networks, and allies to leverage resources and create customized capital solutions for women-led social enterprises.

Together, we can amplify our impact to raise two to five times more resources from other investors, lenders, and donors.



Progress

Thanks to generous individuals and foundations committed to supporting women entrepreneurs and creating an inclusive and equitable economy, we recently surpassed our initial \$4 million fundraising goal. We have provided over \$2 million to 38 groundbreaking women-led social enterprises impacting the lives of women and girls in over 20 countries.

Our next goal is to grow the Collaborative to \$10 million to multiply our impact.

To learn more, please contact one of us:

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