

ABLE

20

25

IMPACT REPORT

**ACCELERATING
BUSINESS LEADERSHIP
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**



FUNDERS



LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the African Diaspora Network (ADN), it is my honor to share with you the **Accelerating Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship (ABLE) Year 5 Impact Report**. This report outlines the program experience and outcomes of this year's program, and provides a glimpse into the transformative impact they're making across sectors in the US and around the world.

ABLE has been a catalyst for the entrepreneurs who are privileged to participate in the program. Designed to prepare impact-driven entrepreneurs for the rigorous and uncertain investment landscape, the program equips entrepreneurs with a distinguished ecosystem of advisors, investors, and global industry leaders who provide high-impact and personalized guidance and support along the way. For many entrepreneurs, ABLE is often their first introduction to the Silicon Valley ecosystem and their first substantive attempt at attracting significant capital that could be pivotal in sustaining their work.

This year, we achieved an important milestone by administering the ABLE program in-house. We appreciate Santa Clara University's Leavey Executive Center, who served as the academic partner during the early stages of the program, for their long-standing partnership. Thanks to their invaluable contributions, we've developed a framework that allows us to successfully administer the program fully in-house.

As we look to strengthen the ABLE program and its impact, we welcome potential funders, investors, and partners to learn more about the history of the ABLE and the work and progress of the **71 entrepreneurs** who make up the ABLE network.

We are grateful to all our partners, with special thanks to **BILL, Makahakama Foundation, and KLA Foundation** for their unwavering support.

Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Almaz Negash".

Almaz Negash

Learn more about the ABLE program.

- » [Program Overview, Objectives, and Goals](#)
- » [History of ABLE](#)
- » [Meet the ABLE entrepreneurs](#)



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SNAPSHOT OF ABLE5

MEET THE VISIONARY ENTREPRENEURS

ABLE5 PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

OUR IMPACT SO FAR

71 ENTREPRENEURS
SUPPORTED

GENDER RATIO
♂ **32** ♀ **38**
WOMEN MEN

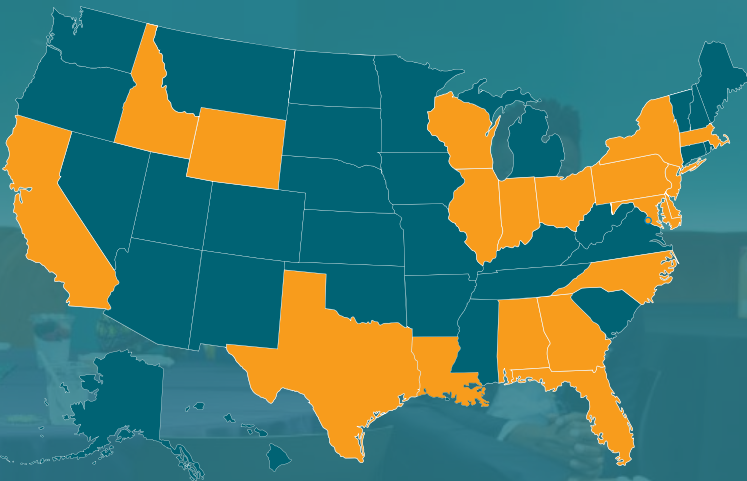
OVER
\$700k
AWARDED

15 SECTORS
REPRESENTED



22 U.S. STATES
REPRESENTED

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

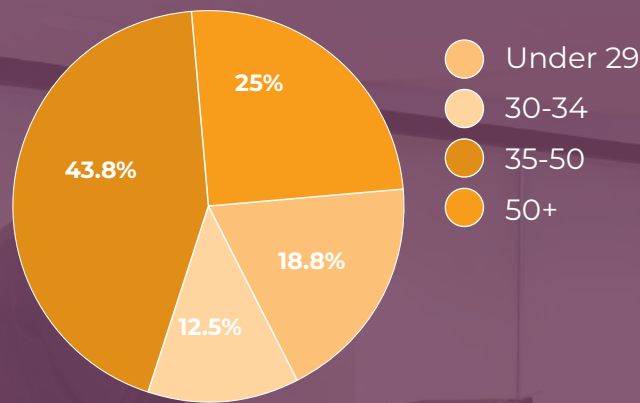


14% of entrepreneurs
based in CA

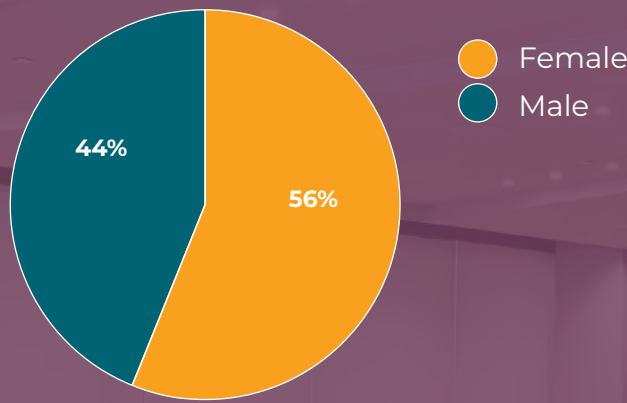
A SNAPSHOT OF ABLE5

Ages Represented

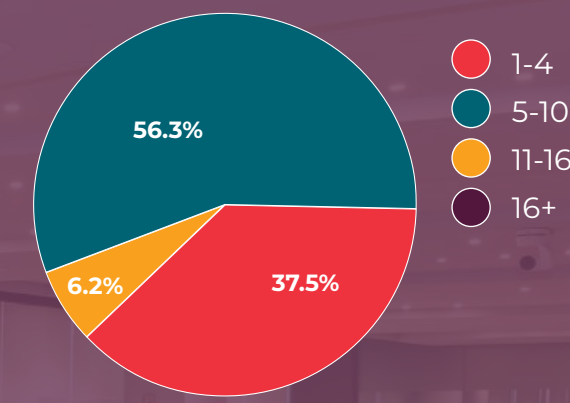
Collaboration across five generations



Gender Breakdown

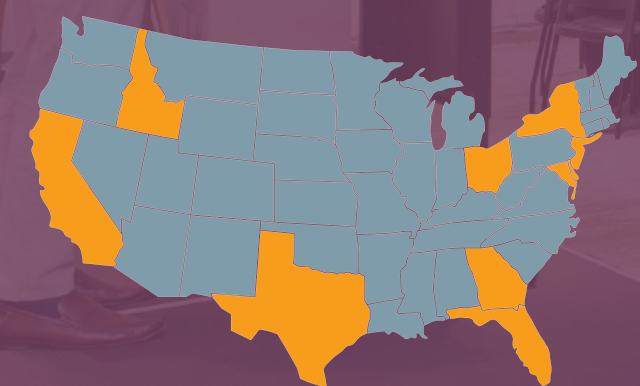


Team Size

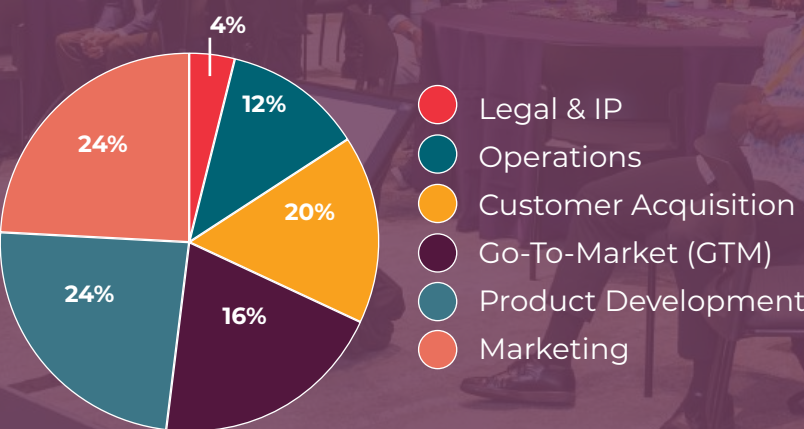


Corporate Headquarters

11 States represented

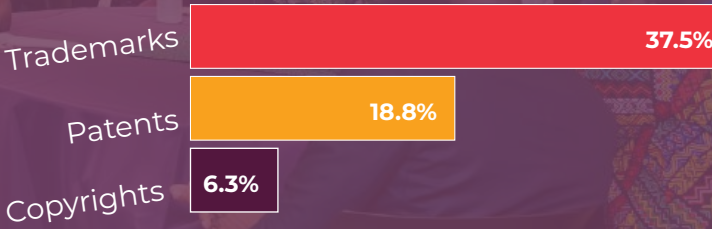


Intended Use of 10K Award



Intellectual Property (IP)

IP filed and/or successfully registered by the businesses



MEET THE VISIONARY ENTREPRENEURS



Affiong Osuchukwu
Indeegenus, LLC
Houston, TX

Indeegenus is a premium, content-driven food company that sources and distributes authentic West African ingredients to serve the growing demand among Diaspora consumers and global culinary explorers.

\$250,000

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.INDEEGENUS.COM



Aliyah Wakil
Neemo
Washington, DC

Neemo is a storytelling and sing-along app that uses AR to help you be the star in your child's life—no matter the distance.

\$500,000

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.NEEMOAPP.COM



Crystal Ochemba
Crystal Ngozi Beauty & Esthetics
Tucker, GA

Crystal Ngozi Beauty & Esthetics is a medspa dedicated to empowering women of color through innovative skincare treatments, inclusive education, and confidence-building wellness experiences.

\$250,000

FUNDRAISING GOAL



CRYSTALNGOZIBEAUTY.COM



Derek Banyard, MD
Sayenza Biosciences
Irvine, CA

Sayenza Biosciences empowers surgeons to deliver superior patient outcomes with a fully automated platform that unlocks the regenerative potential of fat at the point of care.

\$2.5M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.SAYENZA.COM



Efrem Ghebreab
Infinitytrucker
Austin, TX

Infinity Trucker is an AI-powered TMS built for small and mid-sized fleets which accounts for ~90% of all carriers in the US—helping small carriers run like large fleets.

\$1M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.INFINITYTRUCKER.COM



Harriet Kamendi
KANDIH GROUP LC
Silver Spring, MD

The Kandih Group delivers a portable, radiation-free, breast-specific, low-field MRI system designed to revolutionize breast cancer screening by addressing the major shortcomings of current modalities like mammography and conventional MRI.

\$5M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.KANDIH.COM



MEET THE VISIONARY ENTREPRENEURS



Janice Williams Oliver
MisTee Wants to Know, Inc.
San Jose, CA

A Procter & Gamble Beauty/WWD Media winner, MisTee Wants To Know is launching the MisTeePRO, the Dyson for curly/coily hair addressing the needs of 65% of the world.

\$2M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.MISTEETPRO.COM



Kimba Williams
KUSHAE
West Palm Beach, FL

Kushae is the first OB/GYN-developed feminine health brand solving the everyday infections and irritations women face—without antibiotics.

\$5M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.KUSHAE.COM



Kweku Essien
Seso Global
Miami, FL

Seso Global connects property buyers, sellers, and service providers in Africa with secure, transparent, and verified real estate transactions using AI and Blockchain Technology.

\$5M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.SESO.GLOBAL



Loubao Kraka
EnvoyX
San Francisco, CA

EnvoyX allows SMEs to convert unpaid invoices into immediate cash, advancing up to 80% of the invoice value, by verifying and scoring claims using proprietary AI, reducing fraud risk, and accelerating disbursements..

\$1M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.TRYENVOYX.COM



Martins Udotai
Dinesurf
Columbus, OH

Dinesurf is a leading restaurant solutions and food discovery ecosystem that helps restaurants grow with websites, reservations, CRM, and marketing tools, while empowering diners to discover and engage with food experiences through Dinelist.

\$1.5M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



DINESURF.COM



Nadjean Sagesse
Sage Sanctuary Wellness, Inc.
Hyattsville, MD

Sage Sanctuary Wellness™ is redefining what wellness looks like for BIPOC communities by building a resilience infrastructure pioneering Return on Resilience (RoR™), transforming human wellbeing into measurable institutional performance and ROI.

\$500,000

FUNDRAISING GOAL



SAGE-SANCTUARY-WELLNESS.B12SITES.COM



MEET THE VISIONARY ENTREPRENEURS



Ogheneyoma Onosemuode
Travelbay
NYC, NY

Yoma is building the first all-in-one travel infrastructure stack, streamlining itinerary planning, booking, vendor management, and payments so agencies, organizers, and creators can scale seamless, impactful travel to Africa.

\$250,000

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.TRAVELBAYONLINE.COM



Sheilisa McNeal
Fria Inc.
Avenel, NJ

Fria Jewelry® is a revolutionizing, healthtech innovation created to decrease the discomfort of hot flashes and general overheating. Its patented, hydro-powered technology provides easy, on-demand cooling relief.

\$1.5M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.FRIA-JEWELRY.COM



Sunday Paul Adah
Pay4Me App
Boise, ID

Pay4Me is a fintech platform that enables same-day cross-border tuition payments for international students using the local currencies from their home countries, eliminating delays and high exchange/transfer fees, that often block access to life-changing educational opportunities.

\$1.5M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.PAY4ME.APP



Vanessa Serao
Geny Labs, Inc
San Francisco, CA

Geny is an AI-powered voice assistant and operating system that helps skilled service businesses run bookings, payments, and growth entirely hands-free.

\$1.2M

FUNDRAISING GOAL



WWW.USEGENY.COM



Your Support is Critical

Consistent with past cohorts, this year's cohort of visionary entrepreneurs have ambitious goals. Their dedication in leveraging technology and innovation to positively transform local and global communities is commendable. Collectively, they are projecting raising approximately 30M by the end of 2026, and we're honored to be part of this critical work. We formally invite you to support them by reviewing their ventures closely and considering ways of offering your support as a strategic partner or a direct investor. Your support is essential in enabling them as they grow and scale their impact.

How to Get Involved:

[Watch the full Pitch day video](#)

[Learn more about their work](#)

[Watch the Pitch Day Highlight Reel](#)

PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

PROGRAM JOURNEY

GOAL: Pitch to Venture Capitalists, Impact, and Angel Investors



In-Person Pitch Day

Mentorship

Networking & Community Building

Leadership, Entrepreneurship & Investor-Readiness Training

I really appreciated that René Lacerte, Joyce Chung, and Almaz Negash took the time to meet with us before the pitches. [Their] welcomes were warm and I felt that they all truly want us to succeed.
– **Aliyah Wakil, Neemo**

WEEKLY SESSIONS

The ABLE5 program experience kicked off early September with an opportunity for the entrepreneurs to connect with one another and the lead facilitator, Hatim Chraibi. Over the course of eight-weeks, **the 16 entrepreneurs...**

dedicated

30 HOURS

intensive investor-readiness sessions

engaged with

13 EXPERT

facilitators including investors, serial entrepreneurs, and advisors, many of whom have deep-seated networks in Silicon Valley.

Participated in

3 HOURS

pro bono legal consulting provided by partners and associates at Fenwick.

PITCH DAY AT BILL HQ

This year's ABLE Pitch Day was held at BILL Headquarters in San Jose, CA. The signature event featured inspiring keynote addresses from **René Lacerte, CEO and founder of BILL** and **Emmanuel Brown, ABLE '22 alum, and Co-founder & COO of ChurchSpace.**



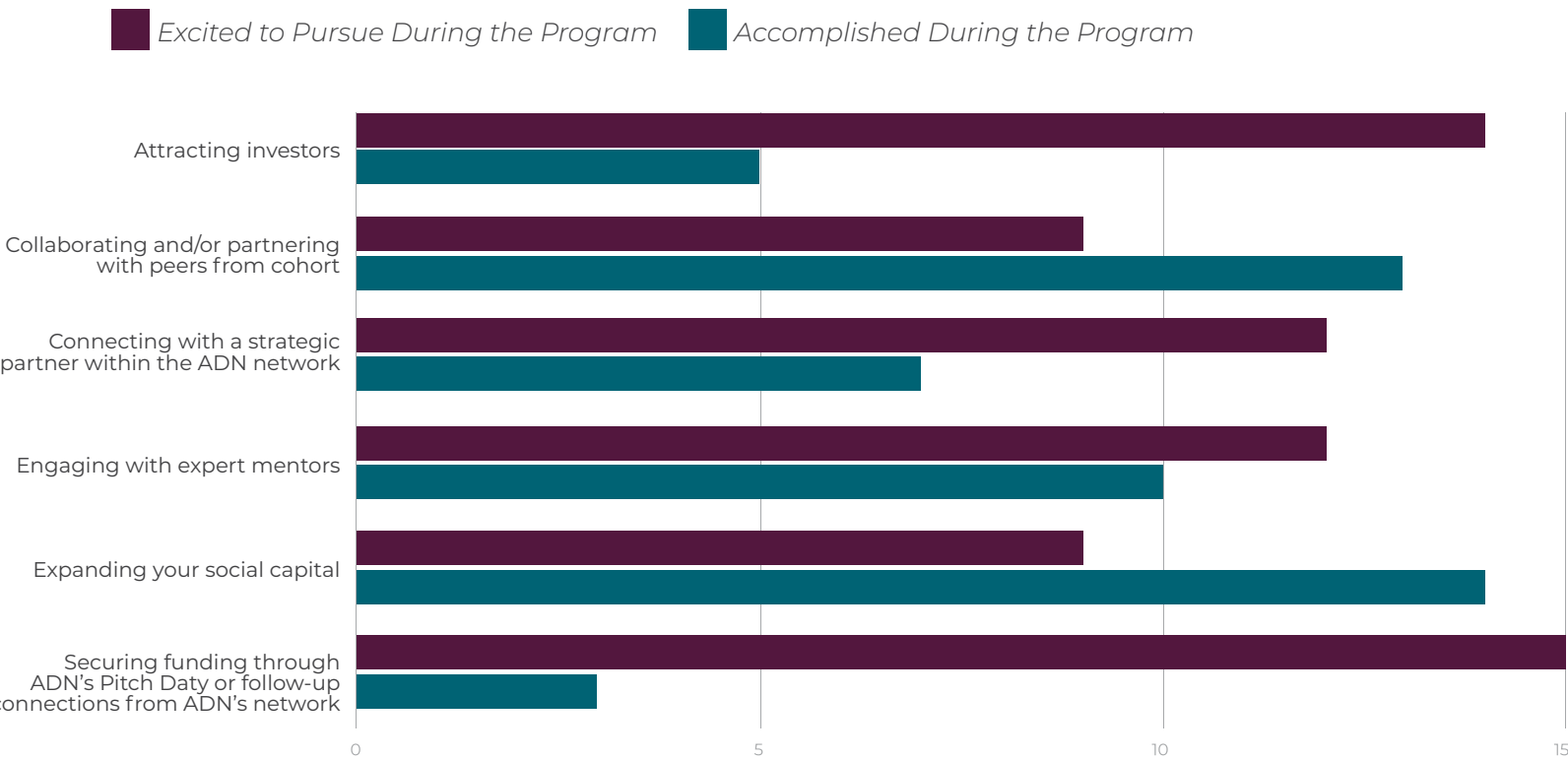
The hybrid event brought together venture capitalists, impact investors, and global industry leaders to witness as the entrepreneurs shared their innovation solutions.

Following the pitch presentations, **Joyce Chung, Co-founder and President of Makahakama Foundation** applauded the entrepreneurs on successfully pitching their innovations, and announced a financial award of **\$10,000** for each entrepreneur.

EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

Overall, the entrepreneurs were pleased with the quality and the authenticity of the ABLE program. The cohort deeply valued the practical and high-impact program content, rich engagement with industry experts, and the actionable insights they gained from the network of facilitators, mentors, and advisors.

At the conclusion of the program, the entrepreneurs identified **attracting investors** and **expanding their social capital**—including engaging with mentors, collaborating with their peers, and connecting with new strategic partners—as their primary expectations for enrolling in the program. At the conclusion of the program, many of the entrepreneurs reported that they believed that they had achieved those outcomes as shown below.



After an extended maternity break, this experience reignited my confidence and reminded me that the work I'm doing through Indeegenus has real value and resonates with investors and potential partners. The exposure and connections gained through ABLE will continue to open doors long after the program ends.
– **Affiong Osuchukwu, Indeegenus, LLC**

I left with sharper language...and real community. The ABLE experience didn't just stretch me as a founder—it matured me as a leader. I walked in with a pitch. I walked out with a playbook.
– **Nadjean Sagesse, Sage Sanctuary Wellness, Inc.**

Pitch Day was a great experience overall. The insights and exposure from this series boosted my confidence and clarified the next steps for scaling and fundraising.
– **Efrem Ghebreab, Infinitytrucker**

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

We are deeply appreciative for the unwavering support of our funders and partners who make this work possible. We are especially grateful for BILL and Makahakama Foundation for their tremendous generosity and leadership in bridging the gap for diasporan founders.

FUNDERS



FACILITATORS

Daniel Chatelain
Dr. Bassam EL-Fahmawi, PhD
Dr. Derrick Akpalu, PhD, MSCR
Hamid Farzaneh
Hatim Chraibi
Joanne Fedeyko
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PhD, EMBA, FACOG
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Jonathan Katende
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Paul Wilson Jr.

ABLE ECOSYSTEM PARTNER

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Fenwick & West
JP Morgan & Chase
Leavey Executive Center
Masters of Scale
U.S. Chamber of Commerce



HATIM CHRAIBI,
EXECUTIVE-IN-RESIDENCE AND LEAD
FACILITATOR FOR THE ABLE PROGRAM

A special thanks to Hatim for playing a pivotal role in administering this year’s program in-house.



STAY CONNECTED

Keep in Touch

Subscribe to the African Diaspora Network newsletter [here](#).
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Support Us

Be an organizational sponsor and support the African Diaspora Network to bring together diverse people from around the world to collaborate and work together.

SUPPORT ADN HERE



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