



ACCESS

2



funding

TRANSFORMING OPPORTUNITIES & OUTCOMES FOR DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS

Partners



Founding Signatories

ASCENSION



TRANSFORMING OPPORTUNITIES & OUTCOMES FOR DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS

Access2Funding is the campaign committed to improving equitable investment in disabled-owned and disabled led businesses.

Disabled entrepreneurs face a backdrop of palpable disparities, inaccessibility and barriers to participation and opportunity when seeking investment.

Access2Funding challenges this reality.

Backed by investors and leading disability-focused organisations, committed to improving the equity of disabled communities; this campaign is pulling together disabled community's entrepreneurs for the first time to achieve three fundamental aims.

- 1** Collect ground-breaking data on the barriers to disabled entrepreneurs growing their companies
- 2** Work with the global investment community to create more equitable support for disabled founders
- 3** Grow a community of disabled founders and smashing the stigma around capability through storytelling

Access2Funding is calling upon early-stage investors to break down barriers and improve accessibility, sending a clear message to disabled entrepreneurs that you are genuinely committed to access, diversity, and inclusion. It is time that businesses stop underestimating the value of disabled innovation and work together to unlock one of the most under-tapped opportunity pools in the world.



ABOUT OUR DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS

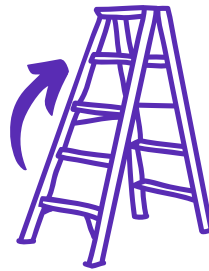
GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION



38.5% NATIONAL
15.4% OUTSIDE THE UK
30.8% GREATER LONDON
7.7% YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER
7.7% SOUTH WEST
3.8% NORTHERN IRELAND
11.5% NORTH WEST
7.7% NORTH EAST
3.8% EAST MIDLANDS

CURRENT STAGE OF INVESTMENT

9.1% SERIES A-E
13.6% SEED
18.2% PRE-SEED
59.1% ANGEL/
FRIENDS & FAMILY



INTENDED RAISE VALUE



10.5% £0 - £1K
5.3% £1K - £5K
21.1% £5K - £25K
10.6% £25K - £50K
10.6% £50K - £100K
31.6% £150K - £499K
5.3% £500K - £1M

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT



50% CURRENTLY ACTIVELY
EMPLOY DISABLED PEOPLE

100% WOULD START/HIRE
MORE DISABLED PEOPLE WITH
BETTER FUNDING ACCESS



DISABILITY DIVERSITY REPRESENTATION

44% NON-VISIBLE CONDITION
36% MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION
24% CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION
36% PHYSICAL CONDITION
16% SENSORY CONDITION
44% NEURODIVERGENT
4% HEARING CONDITION
8% OTHER



INTERSECTIONAL REPRESENTATION

ETHNICITY INTERSECTIONAL
DISABILITIES RACE
SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS GENDER
IDENTITY
NATIONALITY RELIGION &
SPIRITUALITY
SEXUAL ORIENTATION



CURRENT STATE OF UK INVESTMENT IN DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS

OVER 96%

BELIEVE THERE IS A
LACK OF VISIBILITY
ON DISABLED
ENTREPRENEURS



92%

SAID THERE IS A
LACK OF FOCUS ON
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS

OF THOSE UNABLE TO RAISE CAPITAL

50% BELIEVE THEY DID NOT HAVE THE
SAME **ACCESS TO INVESTORS** AS
NON-DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS

BELIEVE THERE IS A **LACK OF**
SUPPORT & ADVICE AVAILABLE FOR
DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS **50%**

84%



SAID THEY

DON'T HAVE
EQUAL ACCESS

TO THE SAME
OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES
AS NON-DISABLED
ENTREPRENEURS

THE REMAINING **16%** RESPONDED
'MAYBE'. NOT A SINGLE PERSON
RESPONDED THAT THEY DID



44% BELIEVE THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE &
SUBSEQUENTLY **COULD NOT ACCESS**
ADEQUATE RESOURCES

COULD NOT ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES
DUE TO **INACCESSIBLE SYSTEMS &**
PROCESSES **33%**

33% BELIEVE INVESTORS HAVE
COMPETING PRIORITIES WITH
DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS

COULD NOT FIND ANY RELEVANT
INFORMATION FOR DISABLED
ENTREPRENEURS **28%**

33% BELIEVE THAT **ALL OF THESE**
FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR
INABILITY TO OBTAIN CAPITAL

1.2BN SEARCH RESULTS FOR
BLACK FOUNDER

400M SEARCH RESULTS FOR
FEMALE FOUNDER

2.5M SEARCH RESULTS FOR
DISABLED FOUNDER

DISABLED
ENTREPRENEURS
HOLD JUST

0.1%
OF
SHARE OF VOICE



ONLY 17%

OF DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS
SAID THEY ARE TREATED

EQUALLY

TO NON-DISABLED ENTREPRENEURS IN
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DISABLED PEOPLE MAKE UP THE **LARGEST MINORITY GROUP** IN
THE WORLD & OVER **20% OF THE UK POPULATION**

Heading into economic uncertainty, with limited national resources to spend on infrastructure, one of the most significant social and economic mobility assets is scaling entrepreneurship within every community.

Currently, disabled-owned businesses contribute almost 10% of the UK's GDP.
25% of small businesses are disabled-owned.

This proves a vast and untapped pool of highly competent, driven and creative business owners currently excluded from contributing even more to our economy. Using our initial findings, we can equate this missed opportunity to approximately £500M+ a year.



JOSEPH WILLIAMS CO-FOUNDER & CEO CLU, A2F CO-FOUNDER

"For so long, the astronomical potential of our creative, agile and highly-skilled community has been diminished because of a lack of understanding of the value we bring. It is our intention for this campaign to create a movement of attention and opportunity for our community and to shine a light on the vast inequity we face when it comes to realising our potential as entrepreneurs."



CELIA HENSMAN CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR THE DISABILITY POLICY CENTRE, A2F CO-FOUNDER

"Why is it that, despite many of the greatest thinkers and creators of all time coming from disabled communities we are still struggling to be taken seriously as entrepreneurs? Normalising disabled people being experts in subjects beyond being disabled is crucial to investing more money in disabled entrepreneurs."



VICTORIA JENKINS FOUNDER UNHIDDEN CLOTHING

"When the non-disabled don't see us, they don't consider us. The lack of opportunity we are presented with when looking to maximise our potential, and our businesses have gone unchallenged for too long. This must change."



DIARRA SMITH HEAD OF PORTFOLIO & BRAND ADA VENTURES & A2FOUNDING SIGNATORY OF A2F

"We are passionate about finding and funding extraordinary talent as they build breakthrough ideas for the hardest problems we face. We believe bold ideas are the ones that change the world and this is why we wanted to be a part of #Access2Funding. Disabled entrepreneurs will build some of the most significant companies of the future."

JOINING THE PLEDGE

By joining the Access2Funding Pledge, you send a clear message to disabled entrepreneurs that you are serious about setting up for success. You will also become a pioneer for access, diversity and inclusion in your sector.

We work with signatories to improve their engagement with disabled founders by:



IMPROVED LANGUAGE

Adopting inclusive language across the deal flow



IMPROVED EXPERIENCE

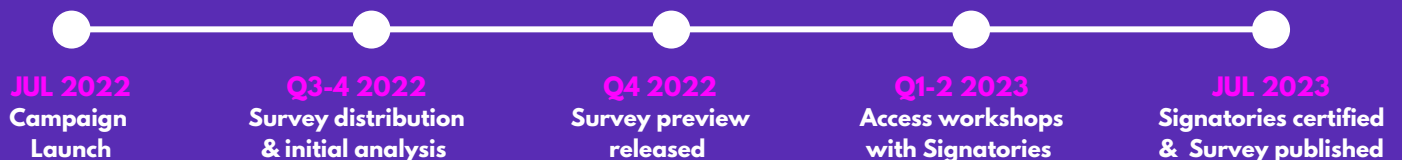
Offering accessible experiences across the end-to-end process



IMPROVED DATA

Capturing the correct data in the correct way

THE TIMELINE OF



SUPPORT US

Help us get our campaign as far and wide as possible. We want to connect with more founders, local Chambers of Commerce, charities, education bodies and membership organisations to ensure we are getting the best diagnostic possible on current state of play and opportunities ahead of the official report release next Summer.

Please use #Access2Funding or #A2F when mentioning us online.

For more information on how you can get involved with this monumental campaign, please get in touch:

For Signatories:
access2funding@getaclu.io

For research enquiries:
contact@thedpc.org.uk

For media enquiries:
liz@four-pr.com

For all other enquiries:
access2funding@getaclu.io

Founding Signatories

ASCENSION

