

## KCRise Fund welcomes two more local companies to its portfolio



Darcy Howe, founder and managing director of KCRise Fund  
ANDREW GRUMKE | KCBJ



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KCRise Fund has added two more area companies to its portfolio, PayIt LLC and Main Street Data.

The venture capital sidecar fund has now invested \$6 million across 14 portfolio companies since its inception in 2016. To date, the fund has raised \$19 million in private capital.

“It has been especially encouraging and exciting for us to see how the KCRise Fund companies are gaining attention from top VC firms across the U.S., drawing interest in our KC startup community,” [Darcy Howe](#), founder and managing director of KCRise Fund, said in a release. “We continue to be impressed by the increasing early stage deal flow in our region.”

KCRise Fund’s portfolio companies have collectively raised \$80 million in the rounds in which KCRise Fund participated, and more than half of that capital came from investors outside of the Kansas City region. In the release, Howe said it’s a testament to the breadth and depth of Kansas City’s burgeoning technology ecosystem.

### PayIt

KCRise Fund’s latest investment, PayIt, has continued to gain ground. In March, the digital government and payment platform announced it expanded its relationship with the state of Kansas via the iKan app. PayIt created the app, which initially allowed Kansans to renew their vehicle registration via their smartphone. PayIt later added more capabilities, including the ability to order birth, marriage and death certificates via the app. The startup aims to simplify doing business with state, local and federal governments and was born out of co-founder [John Thomson](#)’s frustration with the Department of Motor Vehicles. He needed to renew his tags and waited in line for several hours.

PayIt’s citizen-first approach is resonating in the market, and customer demand recently spurred PayIt to [double its headquarters space](#) in Kansas City at 1812 Broadway.

Also participating in PayIt’s funding round were Royal Street Ventures and Kansas City angel investors.

### Main Street Data

Kansas City-based Main Street Data is an agriculture data analytics company that consolidates current and historical agronomic data, which helps farmers benchmark yield performance and boost return on investment. Its first product, Validator, gives farmers access to more than 7 years’ worth of data. The company also has strategic partnerships with IBM and Grower Information Services Cooperative (GISC), the nation’s only grower-owned and governed agriculture data cooperative.

“Main Street Data, alongside partners IBM and GISC, are creating a powerful global team to provide world-class data solutions to the agriculture industry,” Main Street Data CTO [Kathy Walker](#) said in the release. “KCRise Fund brings local capital, which allows us to build in the region we call home.”

In addition to KCRise Fund, Main Street Data’s seed round included OpenAir Equity Partners, Leawood Capital and Royal Street Ventures.