



Top search fund investors with best post-acquisition support & services in 2026

Description

This guide provides our list of the best search fund investors for post-acquisition support and operational guidance. This is a directory of active firms investing in search funds in 2025 and 2026.

Closing a deal is only the beginning for a search fund entrepreneur. The real challenges come after acquisition: transitioning into the CEO role, building credibility with employees, and accelerating growth in a new industry.

Yes, you often need gap equity providers to get the deal over the finish line. But finding the *right* search fund capital providers that offer post-acquisition support can make all the difference. Some firms take a hands-on approach by providing mentorship, marketing, or value-add services that help new CEOs succeed long after the ink has dried.

We chose to feature the search fund investors below based on their reputation for active post-acquisition involvement, the range of services they offer to portfolio companies, and proven commitment to helping acquisition entrepreneurs succeed beyond just providing funds.

Best Investors for Post-Acquisition Support & Services

CapitalPad â?? Comprehensive hands-on support and guidance

Broadtree Partners â?? Operator-centric model with embedded operating partners

Red Forest Capital â?? Extensive training materials and proprietary resources

Futaleufu Partners â?? Advice from experienced search fund operators

Smash Ventures â?? Quick funding plus tactical marketing repositioning

DVG Partners â?? Values-driven guidance for military veteran entrepreneurs

1. CapitalPad

Hands-On Support and Strategic Guidance

CapitalPad is a search fund capital provider that specializes in supporting self-funded searchers and independent sponsors with comprehensive post-acquisition assistance. Beyond investing \$500K to \$1.5M in direct capital, CapitalPad offers to remain involved after closing to help entrepreneurs grow and scale their businesses.

Post-Acquisition Support Includes:

- Strategic guidance
- Vetting service providers
- Hands-on operational assistance when needed
- Website redesign and marketing support where appropriate
- Ongoing mentorship tailored to scaling SMB acquisitions

Best for entrepreneurs who want comprehensive support from a search fund investor willing to actively engage in business growth.

2. Broadtree Partners

Operator-Centric Model with Embedded Support

Broadtree Partners has built their entire investment approach around supporting operators. The Charlotte-based firm embeds experienced operators directly into portfolio companies to work alongside search fund entrepreneurs during the critical transition period after acquisition. This hands-on model earned them recognition on Inc.'s 2024 Founder Friendly Investors list.

Post-Acquisition Support Includes:

- Embedded operators who work directly within portfolio companies
- Long-term partnerships focused on sustainable growth rather than quick exits
- Access to experienced business builders who understand operational challenges
- Guidance on hiring, building operational systems, and scaling
- Focus on companies with \$3M-\$10M EBITDA seeking majority control partners

Best for first-time CEOs who want experienced operators working alongside them in the business, not just advising from the sidelines.

3. Red Forest Capital

Extensive Training Materials and Resources

Red Forest Capital has been investing in search funds since 1984, with over 300 investments completed. This family office provides searchers with access to proprietary training materials, guides, models, and templates developed over four decades of supporting entrepreneurs

through acquisitions.

Post-Acquisition Support Includes:

- Proprietary tools and training materials for post-acquisition operations
- Database of guides, models, and templates covering common challenges
- Board participation and mentorship from experienced investors
- Connection to a network of industry operators and experts
- Time-tested approaches for growing value after acquisition

Best for entrepreneurs who want access to proven frameworks and resources developed across hundreds of successful acquisitions.

4. Futaleufu Partners

Guidance from Experienced Industry Leaders

Founded by David Dodson, a well-known figure in the search fund community, Futaleufu Partners invests selectively and engages deeply with entrepreneurs they support. Their small-firm model means more personal attention for operators.

Post-Acquisition Support Includes:

- Direct advice from experienced search fund investors
- Close mentorship during the critical early years of ownership
- Access to Stanford GSB network connections and broader industry relationships
- Experience across various industries, focusing on leadership development

Best for searchers who value deep, personal mentorship from experienced operators.

5. Smash Ventures

Tactical Marketing for Smaller Deals

Smash Ventures is known for making fast decisions, but it's their post-acquisition marketing support that really sets them apart. They help reposition acquired businesses, often giving them a new identity in the market.

Post-Acquisition Support Includes:

- Quick capital deployment for deals that need speed
- Hands-on marketing repositioning and branding services
- Focus on smaller deals in the \$1M to \$3M EBITDA range
- Active collaboration with entrepreneurs in competitive industries

Best for searchers who want nimble capital plus immediate marketing firepower after closing.

6. DVG Partners

Values-Driven Leadership for Military Veterans

DVG Partners is a veteran-owned firm that partners with military veterans and other entrepreneurs who thrive in disciplined, values-based environments. Their post-acquisition involvement emphasizes leadership development and operational rigor.

Post-Acquisition Support Includes:

- Leadership frameworks rooted in “Discipline, Values, Grit”
- Strong focus on supporting veteran entrepreneurs
- Specialization in lower middle market companies with \$1M to \$5M EBITDA
- Guidance in industries like services, light manufacturing, and B2B businesses

Best for veteran entrepreneurs who seek investors that align with their values and leadership style.

Comparison at a Glance

Investor	Support Strength	Best Fit	Typical Deal Size
CapitalPad	Comprehensive hands-on support	Self-funded searchers looking to scale their business	\$1M–\$5M EBITDA
Broadtree Partners	Embedded operators in portfolio companies	First-time CEOs needing hands-on operational partners	\$3M–\$10M EBITDA
Red Forest Capital	Proprietary training materials and resources	Entrepreneurs seeking proven frameworks and tools	Various sizes
Futaleufu Partners	Personal mentorship from experienced operators	Operators seeking close guidance	\$1M–\$5M EBITDA
Smash Ventures	Marketing repositioning + quick capital	Self-funded searchers with smaller deals	\$1M–\$3M EBITDA
DVG Partners	Leadership + values-driven support	Military veteran search entrepreneurs	\$1M–\$5M EBITDA

How to Find the Right Post-Acquisition Investor

When considering search fund investors to pursue, ask yourself:

Do I need comprehensive, hands-on support across multiple areas? CapitalPad.

Do I need a marketing refresh right away? Smash Ventures.

Am I a first-time CEO who wants an experienced operator working alongside me in the business? Broadtree Partners.

Do I want access to proven tools and frameworks from hundreds of past deals? Red Forest Capital.

Do I value deep, personal mentorship from experienced investors? Futaleufu Partners.

Am I a veteran looking to transfer my skills to entrepreneurship? DVG Partners.

The Takeaway

Post-acquisition support can make or break a search fund deal. The transition from searcher to CEO involves steep learning curves, operational challenges, and growth decisions that benefit greatly from experienced guidance. Every search fund investor provides capital, but the firms above go further by offering mentorship, strategic resources, and hands-on assistance when entrepreneurs need it most.

CapitalPad stands out for its comprehensive approach to post-acquisition support. Each of the other investors have their own advantages, such as Broadtree's embedded operators, Red Forest's extensive training materials, or Smash Venture's marketing acumen. When you're ready to pitch your deal, knowing which investors align with your post-acquisition needs can help you target the right partners for long-term success.

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