

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) & Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) offer funding in the form of contracts or grants. The projects must have commercialization potential and meet the requirements set by the US Government Research and Development needs. Approximately \$2.5B is awarded through these grants per year. Companies must meet qualifications outlined by the programs.

**WHAT IS AN SBIR AND STTR?**

- Non-dilutive funding to support small businesses to stimulate technological innovation to develop products with commercial merit. It is NOT a basic research grant!
- In general, there are 2 phases for the program:
  - Phase I (Feasibility /Proof of Concept): Up to 1 year and \$80K to \$225K
  - Phase II (Development): Up to 2 years and \$750K to \$1.5M
- Companies can switch between the SBIR and STTR (e.g., Phase I can be SBIR and Phase II can be STTR)
- 12 participating institutions: Major ones are [NIH](#), [NSF](#), [DOD](#), and DOE
- Company retains principal worldwide patent rights to the invention that are developed with SBIR/STTR grants
- Disclosing the proprietary information in SBIR/STTR grant application is not a public disclosure and doesn't disqualify applicant for future patent application

**WHAT ARE THE BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?**

At time of award (not at application/submission)

- For profit entity (less than 500 employees)
- Ownership and control of entity (both must be >50% in US)
- Company-controlled research facilities in US; R&D performed in the US; 100% of budget spent within US
- Terms based on Agency Solicitation (Request for Proposal, Request for Application & Funding Opportunity Announcement)

**WHAT ARE THE MAJOR APPLICATION STEPS?**

- Find solicitations that fit your criteria ([Solicitations Page](#)).
- Understand target agency requirements and culture ([Agency Profiles](#)).
- Contact your Program Directors. They have the right answer to all your questions.
- Choose a credible PI with a good funding track record.
- Apply for an [Employer Identification Number \(EIN\)](#).
- Start the 5 major registration steps as early as you can: (*Give it 4-6 weeks!*)
  1. [DUNS Number](#) (Need Company Info)
  2. [System for Award Management or SAM](#) (Need Company Info, DUNS, EIN and bank account)
  3. [Grants.gov](#) (Need Company Info, DUNS Number)
  4. [eRA Commons](#) (Need Company and all PD/Pis Info and DUNS)
  5. [SBA Company Registry](#) (Need Company Info, DUNS and EIN)

**WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SBIR/STTR?**

	SBIR	STTR
PI Employment	>50% employed @ small business	No Requirement
Work Performed at Non-Profit Research Institution	Permitted	Required

**WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER GUIDANCE?**

- Access free SBIR/STTR resources ([Tools](#), [Tutorials](#))
- Apply to participate in INVO SBIR/STTR clinics. Contact Sonia Kim ([sonia.kim@northwestern.edu](mailto:sonia.kim@northwestern.edu))
- Attend a local SBIR/STTR workshop

