

Information Guide

to the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Defense (DoD)



The [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) and Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\) programs](#) encourage U.S. small companies to conduct research and development (R&D) with the potential for commercialization. Some Federal agencies are required to set aside 3.2% of their extramural R&D budget for small companies through the SBIR and STTR programs. The Small Business Administration coordinates this competitive, awards-based program.

The SBIR and STTR program is divided into [three phases of funding](#). The critical [difference between SBIR and STTR](#) is that the STTR program requires the small business to formally collaborate with a research institution in Phase I and Phase II. The SBA has collated a series of [SBIR/STTR tutorials](#) for applicants as well as a table of [State Matching Funds Programs](#).

This guide provides links to specific information on the SBIR/STTR programs at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Defense (DoD), each of which fund grants and contracts relevant to medtech companies conducting R&D and product development.



National Institute of Health

The NIH SBIR/STTR program invests over \$1 billion annually in small companies through 24 participating Institutes and Centers (ICs). [Eligible companies](#) interested in [funding](#) are encouraged to identify ICs with relevant research topics by referencing the [NIH Matchmaker](#) tool. Prior to submitting an application, companies are recommended to speak with an [HHS SBIR/STTR program manager](#), and review the [NIH SBIR/STTR Application Infographic](#) for in-depth information on each step of the application and review process.

[Engage and connect](#) with the NIH SBIR/STTR program to stay informed of upcoming webinars and other educational programs. The [NIH Small business Education & Entrepreneurial Development \(SEED\) office](#) also fosters collaboration and connections across the spectrum of the NIH innovation community.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW:

- [Application Types](#)
- [Multi-step Electronic Submission Process](#)
- [Application Instructions for Grants.gov Submissions](#)
- [Clinical Trials Decision Tree](#)
- [Develop Your Budget](#)
- [Entrepreneurial Finance Course](#)
- [Submission Dates and Review Schedule](#)
- [Selection Process and Review Criteria](#)
- [Support for Awardees](#)



National Science Foundation

The [NSF SBIR/STTR program](#) is housed within the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships of the Directorate of Engineering. [NSF funds startups with transformative science and engineering innovations](#) that have the potential for commercial success and societal impact. Following the three phase program startups can receive up to \$2M in non-dilutive funding to support translational R&D.

Get started by understanding these [basics of the program](#) and exploring the various technology topic areas, including the [Medical Devices topic](#). Then prepare your [Project Pitch](#) to determine if your innovation is a good fit for NSF funding, before being invited to submit a full proposal. Stay informed by participating in [NSF events](#) and referencing the following applicant resources.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW:

- [Project Pitch](#)
- [Full Proposal Guidance](#)
- [Proposal Review and Decision](#)
- [Review Process](#)
- [FastLane Guide](#)
- [Project Pitch Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Proposal Instructions](#)



Department of Defense

The [DoD SBIR/STTR program](#) is a requirements-driven process, following specific topics (or technology gaps) that are set by each of the 14 participating agencies within the DoD (i.e. Department of the Army, Defense Health Agency, DARPA). Topics relevant to medical technology may be found in many of the DOD SBIR/STTR agency announcements. The DoD issues only contracts (not grants). Proposals are allowed a single submission and are reviewed by Government subject matter experts (no peer review process).

The [Defense SBIR/STTR Innovation Portal \(DSIP\)](#) is the official proposal submission website with a searchable list of topics, the schedule of Broad Agency Announcements, and other applicant resources. When preparing a submission, companies should also note the registration requirement with the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#), relevant [Export Control restrictions](#), as well as the national network of [Procurement Technical Assistance Centers](#).

APPLICATION AND REVIEW:

- [Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs](#)
- [U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command \(MRDC\)](#)
- [U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases \(USAMRIID\)](#)
- [U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense \(USAMRICD\)](#)
- [Walter Reed Army Institute of Research](#)
- [Defense Threat Reduction Agency \(DTRA\) Research & Development Directorate](#)
- [Joint Program Executive Office \(JPEO\) for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, & Nuclear Defense \(CBRND\)](#)
- [Homeland Defense and Security Information Analysis Center \(HDIAC\) – to include Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense \(CBRN\)](#)
- [Medical CBRN Defense Consortium \(OTA\)](#)
- [Military Health System](#)



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