

# America's Seed Fund: How to Fund your Small Business with an NIH Grant

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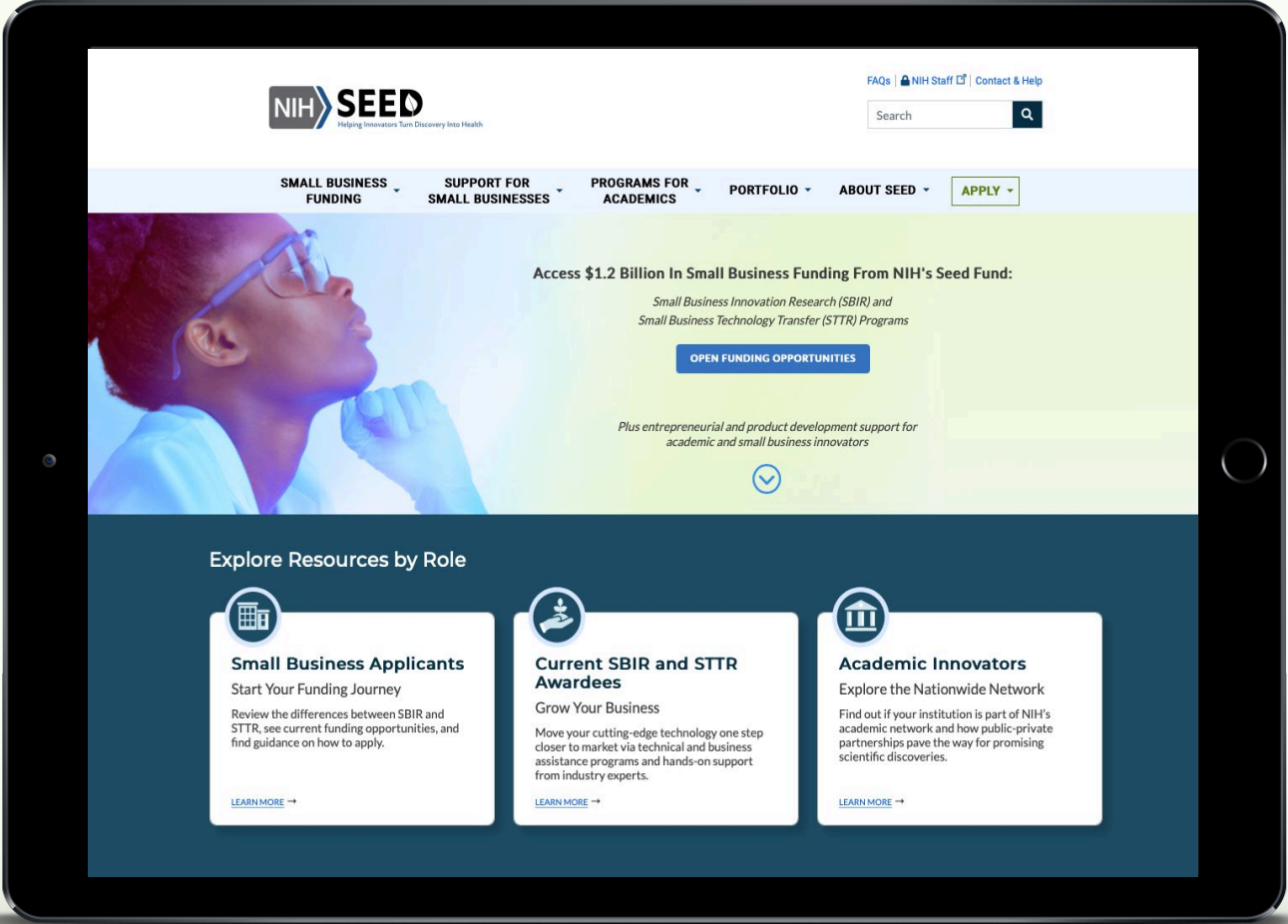
*Director, NIH Small Business Program*

*SEED (Small business Education & Entrepreneurial Development)*

OFFICE OF EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH | OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR | NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

This presentation may include presenter's notes.

# Small Business Program Website



[seed.nih.gov](https://seed.nih.gov)

# NIH Mission



*To seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the **application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.***

*The Small Business Program helps NIH accelerate discoveries from bench to bedside*

# Congressionally Mandated Programs

~\$1.4 Billion Dedicated Funding  
**Largest source** of early-stage capital for  
life science in the US



## **SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM**

For small business concerns to engage in federal R&D -- with potential for commercialization

## **SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (STTR) PROGRAM**

To facilitate cooperative R&D between small business concerns and US research institutions with potential for commercialization

# SBIR and STTR Critical Differences

*Award is always made to the small business*

## SBIR

### Partnering Requirement

Permits partnering

### Work Requirement

Guidelines: May outsource 33% (Phase I) 50% (Phase II)

### Principal Investigator

Guidelines: Primary employment (>50%) with the small business

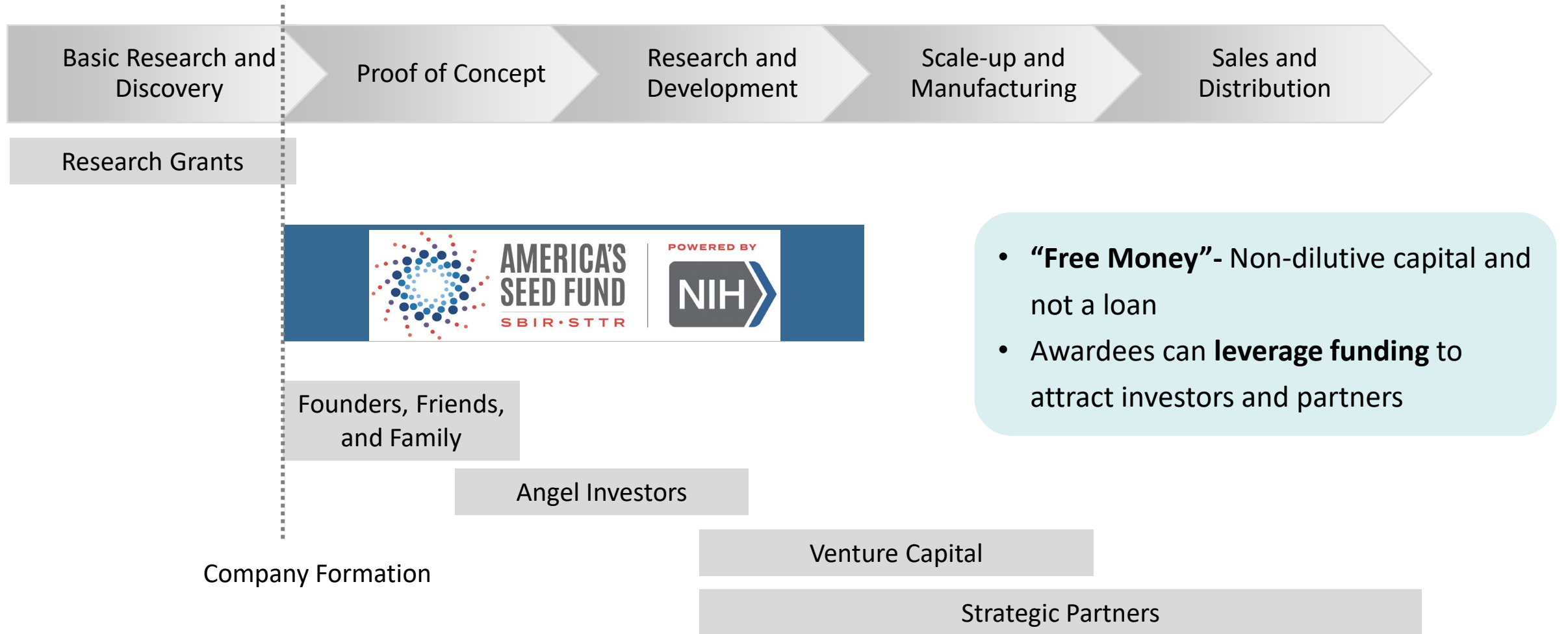
## STTR

Requires a non-profit research institution partner (e.g., university)

Minimum Work Requirements:  
40% small business  
30% research institution partner

Employed by either the research institution partner or small business

# Benefits of NIH Funding



# Small Business Success Stories



<https://seed.nih.gov/portfolio/stories>



## Illinois

DNA Sensors Bring Rapid Toxic Water Analysis to the Field



## Connecticut

Wearable, Drug-Free Treatment Provides Safe Access to Pain Management for Rural Populations



## Michigan

Software Takes the Guesswork Out of Insulin Dosages

# Funding Opportunities

[seed.nih.gov](https://seed.nih.gov)



[FAQs](#) | [NIH Staff](#) | [Contact & Help](#)

SMALL BUSINESS  
FUNDING

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT  
SUPPORT

PORTFOLIO

ABOUT SEED

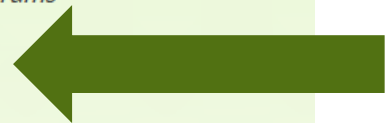
**!** [Small Businesses: Review important information about NIH's foreign disclosure requirement \(last updated 03/31/2025\)](#) ×

Access \$1.4 Billion in Small Business Funding from NIH's Seed Fund:

*Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and  
Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs*

[OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

*Plus entrepreneurial and product development support for  
academic and small business innovators*



Majority of the funding goes to investigator-initiated grant applications

Standard receipt dates:  
September 5, January 5, April 5



# Open Funding Opportunities

## General Grant Omnibus Solicitations

Clinical Trials Not Allowed:  
SBIR ([PA-24-245](#)) and STTR ([PA-24-247](#))

Clinical Trials Required:  
SBIR ([PA-24-246](#)) and STTR ([PA-24-248](#))

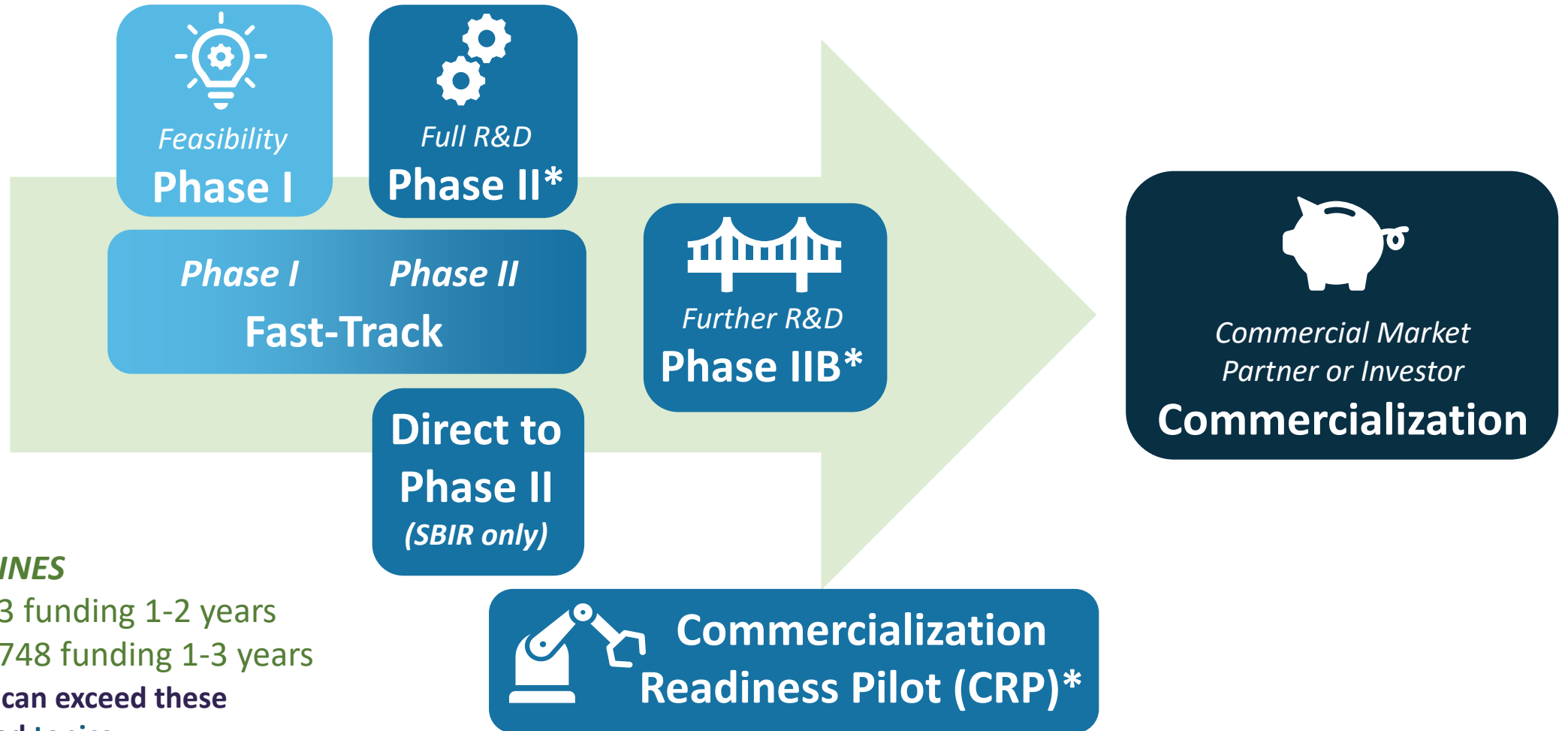
***Read the “Program Descriptions and Research Topics” Section in the Solicitation***

## Targeted Solicitations

Specific Grant Solicitations:  
[seed.nih.gov/small-business-funding](https://seed.nih.gov/small-business-funding)

SBIR Contract Solicitations:  
[seed.nih.gov/small-business-funding/find-funding/sbir-contracts](https://seed.nih.gov/small-business-funding/find-funding/sbir-contracts)

# Phased Programs



## BUDGET GUIDELINES

*Phase I:* \$314,363 funding 1-2 years

*Phase II:* \$2,095,748 funding 1-3 years

NIH, CDC, ARPA-H can exceed these budgets for selected [topics](#)

*\*Only available to SBIR and STTR recipients*

# Application Resources

SMALL BUSINESS FUNDING

## HOW TO APPLY

Find step-by-step instructions to apply for SBIR and STTR grants along with contact touchpoints at each step.



[seed.nih.gov/howtoapply](https://seed.nih.gov/howtoapply)

### Prepare Your Application links to:

- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Annotated Form Set](#)
- [Sample Applications](#)
- [State Resources through SBA FAST Program](#)

# Most Important Piece of Advice



**Talk to a Program Officer at least a month before the application deadline!**



List of SBIR Program Managers  
[seed.nih.gov/smallbizcontacts](https://seed.nih.gov/smallbizcontacts)

**Small Business Research Areas**

24 of the NIH's Institutes fund small business R&D projects through the SBIR and STTR Programs.

Select an Institute to learn more about their mission and how they support small businesses.

Select Funding Institute

[INSTITUTE-SPECIFIC SBIR AND STTR CONTACTS](#) →

**Not sure who to contact?**

NIH RePORTER: [reporter.nih.gov](https://reporter.nih.gov)

Email: [SEEDinfo@nih.gov](mailto:SEEDinfo@nih.gov)

# Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePORT): [report.nih.gov](https://report.nih.gov)

NIH > RePORT > RePORTER

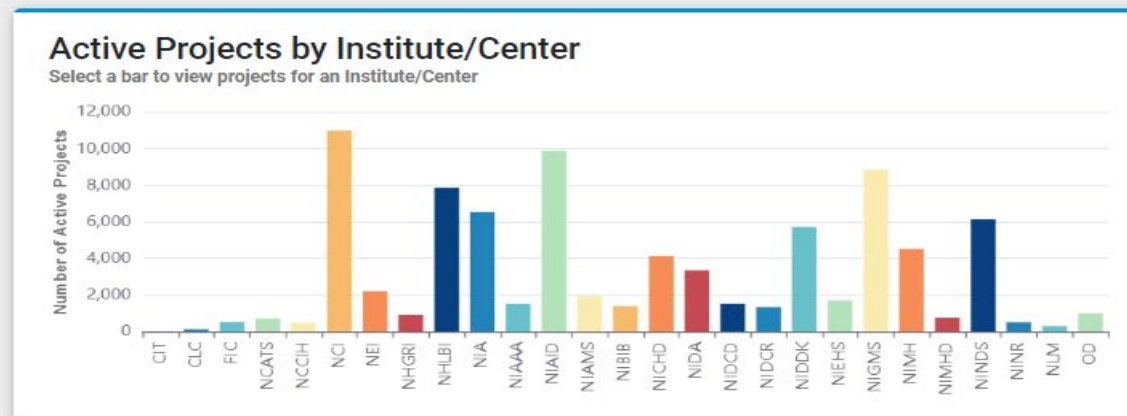
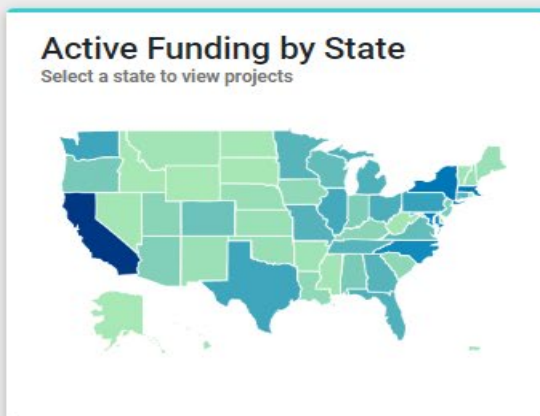
FAQs API Sign In

## Quick Search

Enter just about anything to find NIH projects and funding information:  
text, PI names, project numbers, fiscal year, agency

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### Advanced Projects Search

Fiscal Year ?  
Active Projects  
Current FY is 2021

Principal Investigator (PI) ?  
PI Names or Profile IDs, semicolon ";" separated

Organization ?  
Enter at least 3 characters to search

### Matchmaker

Find potential Program Officials, ICs, and review panels for your research.

[Get Started >](#)



# Review Process

Center for Scientific Review  
[public.csr.nih.gov](http://public.csr.nih.gov)

## Scored Review Criteria

(score 1-9)

Significance:

Real Problem/Commercial Potential

Investigators:

Investigator and Team

Innovation:

Competitive Advantage

Approach:

Research Design, Feasible

Environment:

Facilities/Resources

- Each application has 3 assigned reviewers
- Five Review Criteria that reviewers score individually
  - Notice of Funding Opportunity will give specific questions in Section V.
  - Budget is not factored into the score!
- Overall Impact Score is determined after discussion and scoring by the Scientific Review Group
- ~50% of applications are not discussed -  
but **all** applications receive reviewer comments!

**Be Prepared to Resubmit!**

# Technical and Business Assistance (TABA) Programs

**Phase I** | **TABA**  
**Needs Assessment**      **Request**  
**Post-Award**

## RECOMMENDED

Provides a third-party, unbiased assessment of areas that are critical to success in the competitive healthcare marketplace

**Phase II** | **TABA**  
**Funding**      **Request in**  
**Application**

\$50,000 to hire vendor(s) for Technical and Business Assistance

**OR**

**Phase I** | **TABA**  
**Funding**      **Request in**  
**Application**

For experienced entrepreneurs:

\$6,500 to hire vendor(s) for Technical and Business Assistance

[seed.nih.gov/TABA](https://seed.nih.gov/TABA)

# Other Product Development

## I-CORPS™ AT NIH

Phase I SBIR/STTR Awards  
[seed.nih.gov/i-corps-at-nih](https://seed.nih.gov/i-corps-at-nih)



## Concept to Clinic: Commercializing Innovation (C3i)

Pre-SBIR AND SBIR/STTR Medical Device Awards  
[nibib.nih.gov/research-program/c3i-program](https://nibib.nih.gov/research-program/c3i-program)

## Innovator CONSULTING

All SBIR/STTR Awards  
[seed.nih.gov/consulting](https://seed.nih.gov/consulting)



Business



Regulatory



Intellectual Property



Pitch Review



Reimbursement



# Connect with SEED



[seed.nih.gov/](https://seed.nih.gov/)



[SEEDinfo@nih.gov](mailto:SEEDinfo@nih.gov)



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