



Grant Programs Qualifications and Processing Procedures

Effective January 3, 2017

SCRA's SC Launch Program supports entrepreneurs, increases technology commercialization and fosters early-stage company development in South Carolina. The SC Launch Program provides mentoring, grant and investment support to companies in the Program that are closely aligned with the following industries: Advanced Materials/Manufacturing; Life Sciences; and Information Technology. By bridging the gap from start-up financing to later-stage investments, SC Launch strengthens South Carolina's innovation economy, thereby creating high wage-earning jobs.

Grant Programs

Start-up assistance in the form of grant monies is available to qualified South Carolina-based technology companies through the use of four grant programs. Qualified entities are offered an opportunity to compete for available funding based on merit and potential for success. SCRA limits the total amount of all SCRA grant funds received by a company during its lifetime to \$150,000.

- SCRA Phase 1 award matching grants for Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants
- Academic Start-up Assistance Program (ASAP) grants (formerly University Start-up Assistance Program grants)
- Project Development Fund grants
- (New) Acceleration grants

Grant Descriptions

1. SBIR/STTR Matching Grants

- The SBIR/STTR Phase I Matching Grant are for companies who have been approved to receive a federal agency award. This grant matches the agency award one to one, up to \$50,000 per company or as designated in the current fiscal year matching grant program solicitation. Matching grants are limited at A company can only receive one matching grant per solicitation year, and each company is limited to two SBIR Matching Grants in the company's lifetime.
Note: The SBIR/STTR Phase I Matching Grant applies to federal agency Phase 1 awards only
- Qualifications:
- The company must be, or eligible to become, an SC Launch Client Company
- Current SC Launch Client Company requirements are available for review on the SCRA website;
<http://scra.org/what-we-do/support-entrepreneurs/become-a-company>
- Sole proprietorships or Individuals working outside of a company are not eligible
- The company must be registered to conduct business in the State of South Carolina as authorized by the Office of the Secretary of State prior to award of the matching funds
- Funding amount:
 - SBIR/STTR grants will be matched, one to one with the agency award amount,

up to a limit of \$50,000 and based on clearly described reasoning for the funding need and well-defined intended uses of those funds

- A company may receive one matching grant per solicitation year (SCRA Fiscal Year)
- A company may receive a maximum of two SBIR/STTR matching grants during its lifetime
- Use of funds:
 - Supplemental funding to assist the company in completing the awarded research activity
 - The funds should not be used for long-term commitments such as salaries and rents
- Application process:
- An online, matching grant application can be found on the SCRA website; <http://www.scra.org/what-we-do/support-entrepreneurs/types-of-support>
- The application should include the following elements:
 - Use of Funds Statement
 - Federal Agency Award letter
 - Description of the benefits to South Carolina
 - If available, a business plan and/or commercialization plan
- Review procedure:
 - Applications will be reviewed bi-annually, in February and August
 - Qualified applicants will be invited to discuss their applications with the SCRA Grant Review Committee; feedback and a final decision will be provided in writing to the applying company within two weeks of a presentation
- Funds distribution:
 - Grant funds will be distributed within one week of authorization decisions and submission of completed tax reporting information from the company
 - 75% of the funds will be distributed upon the approval of the grant match
 - A 25% reserve will be held until a final federal agency report is submitted to SCRA
 - SCRA should receive a copy of the final report within 30 days following submission of the report to the awarding agency.
 - The company must return all of the matching funds to SCRA if it leaves South Carolina within 12 months of the final distribution of monies.

2. Academic Start-up Assistance (ASAP) Grants, formerly University Start-up Assistance Program (USAP) Grants

- Academic Start-up Assistance Program (ASAP) is available to academic institution-sponsored commercial, for-profit, early-stage, technology companies. The Academic institution understands that all money being applied for should be either used at the school or provide some level of benefit or support back to the school.
- Qualifications:
 - The company must be, or be eligible to become, an SC Launch Client Company (<http://www.scra.org/what-we-do/support-entrepreneurs/become-a-company>)
 - Sole proprietorships or Individuals working outside of a company are not eligible
 - The company must be registered to conduct business in the State of South Carolina as authorized by the Office of the Secretary of State prior to award of the funds
- Funding amount:
 - A company may request and receive up to \$15,000 in a 12-month period
 - A company may receive a maximum of \$25,000 in ASAP grants during its lifetime
- Use of funds:
 - Supplemental funding to assist company in achieving one or more critical

- milestones toward commercialization
 - The funds should not be used for long-term commitments such as salaries and rents
- Application process:
 - Download the ASAP Grant application from the SCRA website; <http://www.scra.org/what-we-do/support-entrepreneurs/types-of-support>
 - Fill in application fields, as required
 - Submit your completed application with all required attachments to the TTO of your academic institution for assessment
 - Attachment A-Project Summary
 - Attachment B-Market Research Summary
 - Attachment C-Use of Funds Statement
 - Applications should include the following elements
 - A description of benefits to South Carolina
 - A business and/or commercialization plan, if available
 - The TTO will continue the submission process in addition to providing a Letter of Support from the academic institution
- Review procedure:
 - Applications will be reviewed monthly
 - Qualified applicants will be invited to discuss their applications with the SCRA Grant Review Committee. Feedback and a final decision will be provided in writing to the applying company within two weeks of a presentation
- Funds distribution:
 - Grant funds will be distributed within one week of authorization decisions and submission of completed tax reporting information from the company
 - The company must return all of the awarded funds to SCRA if it leaves South Carolina within 12 months of the distribution of the monies

3. Project Development Fund (PDF) Grants

- The PDF grants apply to South Carolina for-profit early-stage, technology-based commercial entities not sponsored by an academic institution
- Qualifications:
 - The company must be, or be eligible to become, an SC Launch Client Company
 - Sole proprietorships or Individuals working alone are not eligible
 - The company must be registered to conduct business in the State of South Carolina as authorized by the Office of the Secretary of State prior to award of the funds
- Funding amount:
 - A company may request and receive up to \$15,000 in a 12-month period
 - A company may receive a maximum of \$25,000 during its lifetime
- Use of funds:
 - Supplemental funding to assist the company in achieving one or more critical milestones to commercialization
 - The funds should not be used for long-term commitments such as salaries and rents
- Application process:
 - Online application, found on the SCRA website; <http://www.scra.org/what-we-do/support-entrepreneurs/types-of-support>
 - The application should include the following elements:
 - Use of Funds Statement
 - Description of the benefits to South Carolina
 - If available, a business plan and/or commercialization plan
- Review procedure:
 - Applications will be reviewed monthly
 - Qualified applicants will be invited to discuss their application with the SCRA Grant

Review Committee; feedback and a final decision will be provided in writing to the applying company within two weeks of a presentation

- Funds distribution:
 - Grant funds will be distributed within one week of authorization decisions and submission of completed tax reporting information from the company
 - The company agrees to return all of the awarded funds to SCRA if it leaves South Carolina within 12 months of the distribution of the monies

The grantee is expressly forbidden to use or subcontract for the use of laboratory animals in any manner whatsoever without the express written approval of an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). SC Launch! will require evidence of IACUC approval for any proposals describing the use of laboratory animals, or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for any proposals describing research involving human subjects.

4. Acceleration Grants (New, Pilot Program January 2017 through December 2017)

- The Acceleration Grant is competitively awarded to South Carolina-based, for-profit, technology companies that are progressing well in early-stage development. This funding will enable qualifying, selected companies to make further progress toward commercialization and thereby better position the company to apply for a direct investment from SC Launch, Inc.

Note: Approved companies may be eligible to receive a maximum total of \$150,000 in grants from a combination of the four available SCRA grant programs; PDF Grant, ASAP (Academic Start-up Assistance Program) Grant, SBIR/STTR Matching Grant and the Acceleration Grant. Maximum allowable direct investment from SCRA and SC Launch, Inc. over a company's lifetime is \$600,000. In total, the combination of grant awards and direct investments made from SCRA and SC Launch, Inc. is \$750,000.

- Qualifications:
 - The company must be, or be eligible to become, an SC Launch Client Company <http://www.scra.org/what-we-do/support-entrepreneurs/become-a-company>
 - The company must be legally organized as either a Limited Liability Company (LLC) or a C-corporation. Sole proprietorships or individuals working alone are not eligible
 - The company must be either incorporated in South Carolina or registered to conduct business as a foreign corporation in the State of South Carolina as authorized by the Office of the Secretary of State
 - The company must be, or eligible to become, an SC Launch Client Company
- Funding amount:
 - During the pilot program period (January-December 2017), a company may request a one-time award of up to \$50,000
 - Companies demonstrating the ability to provide matching funds will receive a preference
 - The deadline to apply is November 30, 2017
- Use of funds:
 - Companies are encouraged to employ Acceleration Grant funds to continue technology and company business development as well as to position the company to receive additional grants and investments
- Application process:
 - The Acceleration Grant Application can be found below or on the SCRA website; <http://www.scra.org/what-we-do/support-entrepreneurs/types-of-support>
 - Submit completed application with required attachments to apply@scra.org

- Attachment A-Company Summary
 - Attachment B-Market Research Summary
 - Attachment C-Use of Funds Statement
 - Applications should include the following elements
 - A description of benefits to South Carolina
 - A business and/or commercialization plan, if available
 - Deadline to apply is November 30, 2017
- *Note: Incomplete applications will be returned unprocessed
- Review Procedure:
 - Applications will be reviewed during 2017 in January, March, June and September
 - Qualified applicants will be invited to discuss their intentions with the SCRA Grant Review Committee. Results of the review and a final decision will be provided in writing to the applying company within two weeks of the company's presentation to the Committee
- Funds distribution:
 - Acceleration Grant funds will be distributed within two to three weeks of an authorization decision and upon submission of a completed W-9 tax form from the company
 - The company agrees to return all of the awarded funds to SCRA if it departs from South Carolina within 12 months of the distribution of funds
 - SCRA may distribute grant monies in a staged-gate manner such as to correspond with the achievement of company-defined milestones and other development criteria at the discretion of the Review Committee