



## **Academic Matching Grant FY22 Solicitation Eligibility and Criteria**

Chartered in 1983 by the State of South Carolina as a public, non-profit corporation, SCRA fuels South Carolina's innovation economy by accelerating technology-enabled growth in research, academia, entrepreneurship, and industry. This mission is supported by the SCRA-Academia Collaboration Agreement, which seeks to create better focus, alignment, and pace across all stakeholders—public and private—in building the state's reputation and strength in technology development and commercialization.

### **Grant Objective**

The Academic Matching Grant expands the impact provided by South Carolina's post-secondary academic institutions towards the development of technology based on intellectual property for commercialization and public benefit. Funds are intended to advance the technology towards the next commercial milestone that reinforces the mutual goals of SCRA and the institution to support the innovation ecosystem. Priority will be given to those applications that align with performance goals outlined in the 2016 Strategic Collaboration Agreement between SCRA and state's Research Institutions including (i) increased research funding, (ii) creation and advancement of early-stage technology-based companies, (iii) total capital investment, and (iv) public/private partnerships generating growth of the state's industry.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Applicants must be a South Carolina post-secondary academic institution, including Research Universities (RUs), Comprehensive Teaching Universities (CTUs)/Predominately Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs), and Technical Colleges (TCs).
- Requests for funding must be matched by direct institutional dollars. Qualifying institutional dollars may be direct, in-kind, or a combination of both.
- Federal funding, patent expenses, salaries are not eligible as matching funds.
- Matching institutional support must be documented by the applicant and must have been provided within 36 months of the request for matching funds.

### **Funding Amount & Use of Funds**

- Applicants may request matching funds ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, inclusive of 20% indirect costs (if applicable).
- The maximum funding per institution per fiscal year (July 1-June 30) is \$45,000.
- The funds must be applied to directly support commercialization efforts and may not be used for licensing fees, patent expenses, salaries, or reimbursement of past expenses.
- Ideal applications will source project activities within South Carolina.
- The performance period will not exceed twelve (12) months.

*Note: Regarding applications with inventors from multiple institutions, such requests will count on a pro-rata basis towards each institution's annual \$45,000 cap.*

### **Application & Review Process**

- Institutions are responsible for the technical review and prioritization of applications from their institutions.
- Completed Academic Matching Grant applications must be submitted by the Technology Transfer Office (TTO), or equivalent office, of the academic institution.



- Submissions must be accompanied by a Notice of Award or other documentation detailing financial support provided by the institution.
- Eligible applications from all institutions will be considered for funding in the order in which they are received.
- Proposals must demonstrate technical feasibility, existing or potential intellectual property, and market opportunity.
- Proposals must demonstrate a commitment towards commercialization of the technology.
- SCRA will review applications on a rolling basis for compliance/eligibility and provide notice of award to the applicant institution within 30 calendar days.
- This solicitation will close on May 30, 2022 or when the full \$180,000 has been awarded.

### Reporting Requirements

- **Grant Final Report:** The Principal Investigator must complete a Final Report within thirty (30) days after the end of the Performance Period outlined in the Grant Agreement. This report documents deliverables and outcomes of the grant and will be referenced should the Principal Investigator request additional funding from SCRA. The Final Report Template is available on the SCRA website.

### Intellectual Property Guidelines

- Awardees should take measures to ensure protection of any IP in accordance with federal and institutional requirements.
- SCRA does not claim any rights whatsoever to patents, copyrights, trademarks, or any other IP created as a result of work sponsored by its grant funding.

### Terms and Conditions

- **Performance Period:** All proposed activities must be completed within the stated performance period in the Grant Agreement. Where circumstances warrant, the Principal Investigator may request in writing to extend the performance period.
- **Facilities and Infrastructure:** Awardee institutions must provide the necessary facilities and infrastructure for the research.
- **Approval for Changes:** Approval of the SCRA Program Manager ([academicinnovations@scra.org](mailto:academicinnovations@scra.org)) is required for changes to project scope, budget, milestones, and/or deliverables.
- **Acknowledgement of SCRA Funding:** Awardees should acknowledge SCRA as a funding source in publications and news releases. Acknowledgement language must be reviewed by SCRA prior to publication. Published documents should be shared with SCRA via the Program Manager.
- **Animal or Human Studies:** If research involves either animal or human subjects, the grant recipient must assure compliance with the prevailing national and institutional guidelines for animal and human studies.

### South Carolina Freedom of Information Act

Information provided by the applicant will be treated by SCRA as business sensitive, and SCRA will make all reasonable efforts to protect this information when disclosure is not legally required. However, SCRA is subject to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the applicant should not disclose to SCRA any information that would negatively affect its ability to obtain intellectual property protection or undermine other business efforts. This applies to all verbal or written material.

Inquiries about the Academic Research Grant should be addressed to [academicinnovations@scra.org](mailto:academicinnovations@scra.org)