



Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) - Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase I Matching Grant Program (“Matching Grant”)

Notice of Availability of Funds and Program Solicitation Effective July 1, 2019

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. SCRA supports its stakeholders in the following industry sectors: Advanced Materials/Manufacturing, Life Sciences, and Information Technology.

SBIR/STTR Phase I Matching Fund Grants

The purpose of the Matching Grant Program is to foster job creation and economic development in South Carolina by enabling Phase I award-winning companies to obtain more substantial Phase II awards.

The goals of the Matching Grant Program are to:

- Increase the number of applications for Federal research dollars submitted by South Carolina small businesses;
- Provide funding to increase the likelihood for Phase I awardees to obtain Phase II funding; acceptable uses of proceeds include expanding research conducted under the Phase I award, enabling acquisition of key equipment, and undertaking market research and other business development activities not allowed under the Federal SBIR/STTR Program; and
- Encourage the establishment and growth of high-quality, advanced technology firms in the State of South Carolina.

A pre-submission consultation is required before submitting an application. Please contact Program Manager, Academic Innovations at academicprograms@scra.org to schedule your consultation.

Eligibility Criteria

- The company has its principal place of business in South Carolina, is registered with the SC Secretary of State, and has at least 51% of wages paid to employees within the state.
- Applicants must have official notification of a Phase I award from a Federal SBIR/STTR agency at the time of application.

Funding Amount

- The company may request matching funds up to 50% of the Federal Phase I award, not to exceed \$50,000.
- A company may receive one (1) Matching Grant per SCRA Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30) and a maximum of two (2) Matching Grants during its lifetime (totaling \$100,000).

Use of Funds

- Funds may be used to complete projects crucial to positioning the company to obtain a Phase II SBIR/STTR (e.g., expanding the sample size of a study or conducting additional research projects).
- Funds may be used as supplemental funding for certain costs not covered or allowed under the Phase I Federal award (e.g., regulatory consultants, market research, equipment purchases, development of business plan, or business development efforts).



- The funds may not be used for rent, licensing fees, legal fees, or reimbursement of past expenses.
- Unlike the Federal program, funds may not be designated for fee/profit.

Application Process

- [Download the Matching Fund Grant application](#) from the SCRA website
- Applicants are to contact SC Academic Innovations at academicprograms@scra.org to schedule a pre-submission meeting.
- Submit completed application with all required attachments:
 - **Attachment A: Use of Matching Funds Statement** with a detailed budget
 - **Attachment B: Certificate of Existence or Certificate of Authority** issued by the South Carolina Secretary of State
 - **Attachment C: Copy of Application** for funded SBIR/STTR Phase I award
 - **Attachment D: Documentation of SBIR/STTR Phase I Award**
 - Either a copy of the executed contract for the Federal SBIR/STTR Phase I award
 - Or Official Notification of Award from the Federal funding agency (see below)
 - **Attachment E: Supporting Documents** (optional) business plan, commercialization plan, executive summary, or any other information to support your application

Official Notifications of Awards from a Federal Agency are only issued by the finance, accounting, contracting, or other unit of the Federal agency officially authorized to commit and obligate the agency under the terms of the Federal SBIR/STTR solicitation for which a Matching Grant is sought. All other forms of notifications are not considered official for the purposes of the Matching Grant Program. All applications submitted without an Official Notification of Award by the Application Submission Closing Date will be deemed incomplete and not considered for the Matching Grant Program.

Proprietary or company confidential material included in a proposal for Federal funding shall be clearly marked by the applicant on the documentation it provides with its Matching Grant application.

Review Process

- Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Eligible applicants will be invited to present to the SCRA Review Team.
- Feedback will be provided in writing within two weeks of a presentation.
- If an applicant does not receive a Matching Grant in the initial funding cycle, applications will be considered in the subsequent funding cycle. There is no need to resubmit the application, unless the company would like to provide updates.

Review Criteria

- Potential for receiving a Federal Phase II SBIR/STTR award
- Clear pathway to become an SC Launch Client Company and receive a subsequent Acceleration Grant and/or an SC Launch, Inc. investment
- Use of proceeds that accelerates the technology to commercialization and secures Phase II funding



- Product is differentiated, not easily replicated, and has protected IP such as trade secrets, patents and/or trademarks
- Viable market with significant commercial potential
- Related intellectual property rights secured (e.g., executed option agreement or license agreement for intellectual property not owned by the applicant)
- Priority for applications with connectivity to a South Carolina institution of post-secondary education – either research collaborations under the SBIR/STTR or advancement of academic intellectual property
- Alignment with SCRA’s key technology sectors: Advanced Materials/Manufacturing; Life Sciences; and/or Information Technology

Reporting Requirements

- Final report within thirty (30) days after end of Performance Period detailing outcomes and impact of SCRA funds
- Copy of final report submitted to Federal funding agency within thirty (30) days of submission
- Completion of SCRA Annual Client Company Data Survey for three (3) years after end of Performance Period to follow longitudinal progress of the technology

Additional Terms and Conditions

- Grant funds will be distributed within one month of the company’s execution of the Grant Agreement and vendor forms.
- All proposed activities must be completed within a period not to exceed twenty-five (25) months.
- The company agrees to reimburse all the awarded funds to SCRA if it leaves South Carolina within twelve (12) months of the final distribution of funds.
- It is expressly forbidden to use or subcontract for the use of laboratory animals without written approval of an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). SCRA requires evidence of IACUC approval for proposals describing use of laboratory animals, or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for proposals describing research involving human subjects.

Release of Information

All documents submitted to SCRA, including applications, are public records governed by South Carolina Code and applicable provisions of the General Statutes protecting confidential information. When specific information in an application is regarded by the applicant and by law as confidential and not subject to disclosure under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, the applicant should specifically and clearly designate it as such in writing on that portion of the application in which the information appears. An applicant should provide an explanation for why particular information is regarded as confidential. applications should not be indiscriminately marked as confidential. However, the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act shall govern the release of information.

For Additional Information

Inquiries about the SBIR/STTR Matching Grant Program should be addressed to:
Program Manager, Academic Innovations at academicprograms@scra.org