

FEDERAL MATCHING GRANT FY23 Solicitation



Chartered in 1983 by the state legislature as a public, non-profit corporation, SCRA fuels South Carolina's innovation economy by accelerating technology-enabled growth in academia, entrepreneurship, and industry. SCRA's Academic Innovations Program seeks to be an indispensable partner in advancing translational research and supporting academic startups.

Grant Objective

The Federal Matching Grant furthers federal funds received by small businesses in South Carolina to **advance translational research in support of one or more critical milestones towards commercialization**. Preference given to SBIR/STTR awardees with initial datasets who identify gaps in commercialization activities that would help develop a compelling proposal for follow on funding. Other Federal matches will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility Criteria

- The company is registered as a for-profit business with the SC Secretary of State.
- The company must be an active SCRA Member Company, in good standing.
Note: Company may apply for membership and request grant funding simultaneously; must meet [membership criteria](#).
- Applicants must present official notice of award from the awarding agency at the time of application, along with initial data developed from their currently awarded project.
- Company has an experienced and coachable management team and/or board of advisors.

Funding Amount & Use of Funds

- Federal Matching Grants can match funds up to 50% of the Federal award, not to exceed \$50,000.
- The company is allowed up to two (2) Federal Matching Grants during its lifetime; each for separate Federal awards.
- The use of funds must demonstrate commercialization of the technology and positioning the company to obtain follow-on funding. This can include activities to **demonstrate product-market fit, develop the minimum viable product (MVP), navigate the regulatory pathway**, provide strategic business/startup expertise, etc.
- Excluded from the Use of Funds are the following: debt repayment, rent, licensing fees, legal fees, reimbursement of past expenses, and designation as fee/profit.
- Ideal applications will execute project activities and source partners/materials within South Carolina.
- The performance period will not exceed twelve (12) months.

Application and Review

- Rolling application submission ends for this fiscal year: May 30, 2023 – unless fully subscribed.
- Interested applicants should contact their SCRA Relationship Manager to initiate a conversation with the SC Academic Innovations team (SCAI). Based on review of criteria and readiness, SCAI will provide application materials and instructions.
- SCAI team will conduct an initial department review of the application and intended use of funds.
- Companies demonstrating readiness will be invited to pitch their project alongside their business development progress to SCRA's Company Review panel.

- Within a week following their presentation, companies receive notification of SCRA's decision and next steps, if applicable.
- Awards are typically funded within 30 calendar days after notification.

Reporting Requirements

- The project manager 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. The Grant Final Report Template will be provided with the contract upon award.
- **SCRA Annual Survey:** The SCRA's Economic Impact Survey is essential to demonstrate the impact of SCRA's grant programs on South Carolina's economy. The survey is sent at the end of each fiscal year, and does not reveal individual company information.

Intellectual Property Guidelines

- 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 Technology Transfer Office may request in writing to extend the performance period.
- **Approval for Changes:** Approval of the SCRA Program Manager (academicinnovations@scra.org) is required for changes to project scope, budget, milestones, and/or deliverables.
- **Facilities and Infrastructure:** Awardee institutions must provide the necessary facilities and infrastructure for the project.
- **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.