

ACADEMIC MATCHING GRANT FY24 Solicitation



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 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 Academic Matching Grant expands academic engagement in research and development to **validate and advance technology concepts** towards the potential of company formation.

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).
- Funding requests must be matched by direct institutional dollars. Qualifying matches may be direct, in-kind, or a combination of both.
- Federal funding, legal/patent expenses and salaries are not eligible as matching funds.
- Matching institutional support can be concurrent with the project or reach back up to 36 months prior to the project start date.

Funding Amount & Use of Funds

- Applicants may request matching funds ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, inclusive of 20% indirect costs (if applicable).
- Each SC Research Institution has a maximum allowance \$45,000 allocated exclusively, until March 30, 2024.
- The use of funds must demonstrate milestones alongside commercialization efforts and may not be used for licensing fees, patent expenses, salaries, or reimbursement of past expenses. Ideal applicants will demonstrate product-market fit.
- Ideal applications will execute project activities and source partners/materials within South Carolina.
- The performance period will not exceed twelve (12) months.

Application & Review Process

- Rolling application submission ends for this fiscal year: May 30, 2024 – unless fully subscribed.
- 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.
- 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.