

Start your application →
Deadline: June 14, 2017

Equity-free seed funding to help transform your innovative idea into a scalable product or service.

- About the seed fund
- How to apply

Already submitted your application? [Check for updates on FastLane](#).

Up to \$225,000 for early-stage product development.

- We offer seed-stage startups with the funding they need to commercialize — up to \$225k for proof-of-concept product development or research.
- We take no equity in exchange for funding. You retain full control over your team and the direction of your work.
- You'll get access to year-round events and join a prestigious network of scientific innovators and founders.

Upcoming events

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET

Webinar NSF seed funding Q&A

Program Director Pete Atherton will answer your questions about the NSF seed fund and what you need to apply for the upcoming deadline.

REGISTER

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET

Webinar NSF seed funding Q&A

Program Director Ruth Shuman will answer your questions about the NSF seed fund and what you need to apply for the upcoming deadline.

REGISTER

→ [View more upcoming events](#)

We provide funding for the high-risk, early product development stage

Portfolio

Since 1977, the NSF seed fund (powered by SBIR/STTR) has helped startups develop their ideas and bring them to market. We support tech innovation — not just in traditional scientific fields — but [across all tech sectors](#), including edtech, IoT, big data, smart health, hardware, even social networks. Between 2007 and 2016 alone, we funded roughly 400 companies each year.

We're diverse

Great ideas aren't limited by geography, and we seek to fund companies both inside and outside of the major tech hotbeds. We also have a mission to promote the innovations of women, people of color, and other folks from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in tech.

Are you a good fit?

We're always looking to support innovative, high-risk work that needs a bit more research and development. As we review applications, we also consider your company's potential for commercial and social impact — your technology needs to have a good market fit and the potential to meaningfully benefit society.

→ [Am I a good fit?](#)

Events / All events

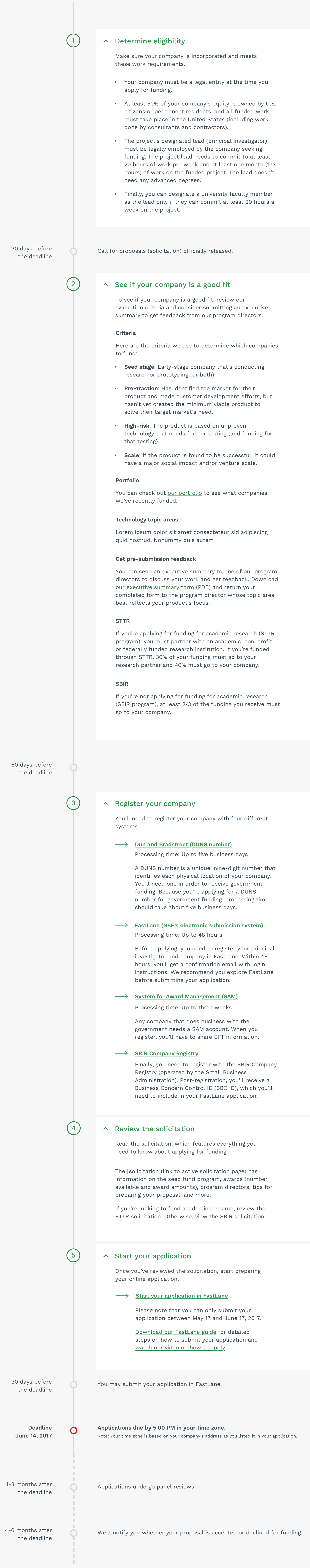
Our onsite and online events will help you learn about our program, and connect with program staff and other founders.

DATE/TIME	EVENT TYPE	DETAILS
April 19, 2007 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET	Online webinar	NSF Seed Fund Q&A Webinar: Pete Atherton Program director Pete Atherton will answer your questions about the NSF seed fund and what you need to apply for the upcoming deadline. <div>REGISTER</div>
May 2, 2007	Boise State University Hatch Ballroom 1700 University Dr. Boise, ID 83725	SBIR Road Tour: Boise, ID Our road tour gives you the chance to meet with program directors and learn more about your state’s innovation programs; it’s a great chance to make one-on-one connections with our staff and get answers to all your questions. <div>→ View event details</div>
May 3, 2007	Salt Lake Community College Miller Campus 9750 South 300 West Sandy, UT 84070	SBIR Road Tour: Sandy, UT Our road tour gives you the chance to meet with program directors and learn more about your state’s innovation programs; it’s a great chance to make one-on-one connections with our staff and get answers to all your questions. <div>→ View event details</div>
May 4, 2007 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET	Online webinar	NSF Seed Fund Q&A Webinar: Ruth Shuman Program director Ruth Shuman will host this Q&A. She’ll answer your questions about the NSF seed fund and share how to prepare for the upcoming application deadline: June 17, 2017 <div>REGISTER</div>
May 19, 2007 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET	Online webinar	NSF Seed Fund Q&A Webinar: Rajesh Mehta Program director Rajesh Mehta will host this Q&A. He’ll answer your questions about the NSF seed fund and share how to prepare for the upcoming application deadline: June 17, 2017 <div>REGISTER</div>
May 30, 2007 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET	Online webinar	NSF Seed Fund Q&A Webinar: Jesus Soriano Program director Jesus Soriano will host this final Q&A session before the June 17 application deadline . He’ll answer your questions and cover what you need to do to apply. <div>REGISTER</div>
July 17, 2007	McNamara Alumni Center University of Minnesota 200 SE Oak St. Minneapolis, MN 55455	SBIR Road Tour: Minneapolis, MN Our road tour gives you the chance to meet with program directors and learn more about your state’s innovation programs; it’s a great chance to make one-on-one connections with our staff and get answers to all your questions. <div>→ View event details</div>

How to apply



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Portfolio

We’re technology-agnostic. Since 1977(?), we have funded hundreds of early innovation each year that have potential for large-scale commercial and societal impact.