

**Start your application →**  
Deadline: June 17, 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

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.

→ [Browse our portfolio](#)

## What we look for

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?](#)