Start your application → Deadline: June 14, 2017

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

- $\longrightarrow$  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 <u>across all tech sectors</u>, 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.

REGISTER

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.

→ View event details

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.

View event details

May 4, 2007

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET

### 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

REGISTER

May 19, 2007

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET

Online webinar

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

REGISTER

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.

REGISTER

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.

View event details

### How to apply

Determine eligibility Make sure your company is incorporated and meets these work requirements. 90 days before Call for proposals (solicitation) officially released. the deadline > See if your company is a good fit To see if your company is a good fit, review our evaluation criteria and consider submitting an executive summary to get feedback from our program directors. 60 days before the deadline > Register your company You'll need to register your company with four different systems. > Review the solicitation Read the solicitation, which features everything you need to know about applying for funding. Start your application Once you've reviewed the solicitation, start preparing your online application. 30 days before You may submit your application in FastLane. the deadline Deadline Applications due by 5:00 PM in your time zone. June 14, 2017 Note: Your time zone is based on your company's address as you listed it in your application. 1-3 months after Applications undergo panel reviews. the deadline 4-6 months after We'll notify you whether your proposal is accepted or declined for funding. the deadline

This site is currently in <u>beta</u>. Visit the current <u>NSF seed fund SBIR/STTR site</u>.

## How to apply

### Make sure your company is incorporated and meets

Determine eligibility

Your company must be a legal entity at the time you

- apply for funding.At least 50% of your company's equity is owned by U.S.
- citizens or permanent residents, and all funded work must take place in the United States (including work done by consultants and contractors).

   The project's designated lead (principal investigator)
- must be legally employed by the company seeking funding. The project lead needs to commit to at least 20 hours of work per week and at least one month (173 hours) of work on the funded project. The lead doesn't need any advanced degrees.

   Finally, you can designate a university faculty member
- week on the project.

as the lead only if they can commit at least 20 hours a

the deadline

90 days before

See if your company is a good fit

Call for proposals (solicitation) officially released.

### To see if your company is a good fit, review our evaluation criteria and consider submitting an executive

Criteria

Here are the criteria we use to determine which companies

summary to get feedback from our program directors.

#### to fund:

Seed stage: Early-stage company that's conducting research or prototyping (or both).

product and made customer development efforts, but

hasn't yet created the minimum viable product to solve their target market's need.

• High-risk: The product is based on unproven

**Pre-traction**: Has identified the market for their

Scale: If the product is found to be successful, it could have a major social impact and/or venture scale.

technology that needs further testing (and funding for

Portfolio

You can check out our portfolio to see what companies

#### we've recently funded.

Technology topic areas

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet consecteteur sid adipiscing

### Get pre-submission feedback You can send an executive summary to one of our program

quid nostrud. Nonummy duis autem

completed form to the program director whose topic area best reflects your product's focus.

STTR

If you're applying for funding for academic research (STTR

program), you must partner with an academic, non-profit,

or federally funded research institution. If you're funded

If you're not applying for funding for academic research

directors to discuss your work and get feedback. Download

our executive summary form (PDF) and return your

### through STTR, 30% of your funding must go to your research partner and 40% must go to your company.

**SBIR** 

go to your company.

(SBIR program), at least 2/3 of the funding you receive must

60 days before

the deadline

### Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS number) Processing time: Up to five business days

systems.

Register your company

A DUNS number is a unique, nine-digit number that identifies each physical location of your company.

You'll need to register your company with four different

number for government funding, processing time should take about five business days.

FastLane (NSF's electronic submission system)

Processing time: Up to 48 hours

Before applying, you need to register your principal

investigator and company in FastLane. Within 48 hours, you'll get a confirmation email with login

You'll need one in order to receive government

funding. Because you're applying for a DUNS

### instructions. We recommend you explore FastLane before submitting your application.

System for Award Management (SAM)

Any company that does business with the government needs a SAM account. When you register, you'll have to share EFT information.

Finally, you need to register with the SBIR Company

Administration). Post-registration, you'll receive a

Registry (operated by the Small Business

### Business Concern Control ID (SBC ID), which you'll need to include in your FastLane application.

preparing your proposal, and more.

**SBIR Company Registry** 

Review the solicitation

Read the solicitation, which features everything you need to know about applying for funding.

STTR solicitation. Otherwise, view the SBIR solicitation.

Start your application

Once you've reviewed the solicitation, start preparing

The [solicitation](link to active solicitation page) has

information on the seed fund program, awards (number

If you're looking to fund academic research, review the

available and award amounts), program directors, tips for

# Please note that you can only submit your application between May 17 and June 17, 2017.

your online application.

Download our FastLane guide for detailed steps on how to submit your application and

watch our video on how to apply.

You may submit your application in FastLane.

Deadline June 14, 2017

30 days before

the deadline

Note: Your time zone is based on your company's address as you listed it in your application.

Applications due by 5:00 PM in your time zone.

1-3 months after

the deadline

Applications undergo panel reviews.

4-6 months after

the deadline

We'll notify you whether your proposal is accepted or declined for funding.

### How to apply

Determine eligibility Make sure your company is incorporated and meets these work requirements. 90 days before Call for proposals (solicitation) officially released. the deadline > See if your company is a good fit To see if your company is a good fit, review our evaluation criteria and consider submitting an executive summary to get feedback from our program directors. 60 days before the deadline > Register your company You'll need to register your company with four different systems. Review the solicitation **EXPIRED** Read the solicitation, which features everything you need to know about applying for funding. Start your application **EXPIRED** We're not currently accepting proposal applications. 30 days before You may submit your application in FastLane. **EXPIRED** the deadline Deadline Applications due by 5:00 PM in your time zone. **EXPIRED** June 14, 2017 Note: Your time zone is based on your company's address as you listed it in your application. 1-3 months after Applications undergo panel reviews. the deadline 4-6 months after We'll notify you whether your proposal is accepted or declined for funding. the deadline

### **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.