

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

Apply now →

Deadline: June 17, 2017

- How to apply
- About the seed fund

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.
- 0% equity. (Spell out what this means and how this is a huge benefit)

More benefits here...

What we offer

Upcoming events

APRIL 5, 2017 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET

Webinar Q&A

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

REGISTER

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→ [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.

Our portfolio

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 eligible?](#)
- [Link to relevant content](#)

How to apply

^ Determine your eligibility

Interested in applying for funding? First make sure your company meets these requirements.

- Your company must be a legal entity at the time you apply for funding.
- At least 50% of your company's equity must be owned by U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and all funded work (including work done by consultants and contractors) needs to take place in the United States.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) must be legally employed at least 20 hours a week by the company seeking funding.
- The PI must commit to at least one month (173 hours) of work on a funded project.
- A university faculty member may be designated as the PI only if they can commit a minimum of 20 hours a week to work on the funded project.

90 Days
Before deadline

^ Submit an executive summary

(Optional)

- See comment in draft doc. They don't have the capacity or supporting infrastructure to make this mandatory at this time esp. given that there's an open solicitation. Also program directors cannot provide feedback that may be deemed as providing insider information that could offer an unfair advantage.

30-60 Days
Before deadline

^ Register your company

Once you've decided to apply, you'll need to register your company with four different systems. We encourage you to do so 1-2 months before the applications are due.

→ Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS number)

A DUNS number is a unique, nine-digit number that identifies each physical location of your company. You'll need one in order to receive government funding. Processing time for government funding should take about five business days.

→ FastLane (NSF seed fund's electronic submission system)

Before applying, you need to register your tech lead and company in FastLane. Within 48 hours, you'll get a confirmation email with login 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.

→ SBIR Company Registry

Finally, you need to register with the SBIR Company Registry (operated by the Small Business Administration). Post-registration, you'll receive a Business Concern Control ID (SBC ID), which you'll need to include in your FastLane application.

> Review the solicitation

→ Solicitation: December 2016 (expired)

> Submit your application

→ FastLane: Due by December 7, 2016 5PM (currently closed)