



America's Seed Fund powered by the National Science Foundation

How to Apply & Proposal Submission Tips



America's
SEED FUND
SBIR, STTR

1. Submit a Project Pitch

<https://seedfund.nsf.gov/project-pitch/>

- Receive an **official invitation** to submit a full proposal

2. Register your company

- You'll need to register on 3 sites

3. Prepare your proposal

- The SBIR/STTR Solicitation is your guide

4. Submit your proposal before 5 p.m. (your local time) on the window closing date.

- November 22, 2022 - March 1, 2023
- March 2, 2023 - July 5, 2023
- July 6, 2023 - November 1, 2023

NSF staff is working virtually and continues to review Project Pitches in all areas of technology. Send us your good ideas today!



ABOUT

PORTFOLIO

RESOURCES ▾

CONTACT

HOW IT WORKS ▾



WE INVEST UP TO
\$2 MILLION IN
SEED FUNDING.

**AND TAKE ZERO
EQUITY.**

→ Get started

Submit a Project Pitch NOW and find out if your project is a good fit.

Complete **Three** Registrations!

1. System for Award Management (SAM)
2. Research.gov
3. Small Business Administration (SBA)
Company Registration

SAM Quick Start Guide:



Quick Start Guide for New Grantee Registration

Helpful Information

SAM an official **free, U.S. government-operated website** – It is **FREE** to register and maintain your entity registration record in SAM. It is **FREE** to get help.

What is an Entity?

In SAM, your *company/business/organization* is referred to as an "Entity." You register your entity to do business with the U.S. Federal government by completing the registration process in SAM.

1.

1. **DUNS Number:** You need a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)

Steps for Registering

1. Type www.sam.gov in your Internet browser address bar.
2. Select Log In to complete authentication and create an account.
3. On the My SAM page, select Entity Registrations from the sub-navigation menu and select Register New Entity.
4. Select your type of Entity.
5. If you are registering in SAM.gov so you can apply for a Federal financial assistance opportunity on Grants.gov, and are not interested in pursuing Federal contracts, you will have a much shorter registration path. To choose the grants only path:
 - Select "I only want to apply for federal assistance opportunities like grants, loans, and other financial assistance programs." in response to the question "Why are you registering this entity to do business with the U.S. government?"
6. Complete the Core Data section:
 - Validate your DUNS information.
 - Enter Business Information (FIN, etc.) This page is also where you

[https://www.sam.gov/SAM/transcript/Quick Guide for Grants Registrations.pdf](https://www.sam.gov/SAM/transcript/Quick%20Guide%20for%20Grants%20Registrations.pdf)

Research.gov

- Register in Research.gov
- Prepare and upload your proposal in Research.gov

1. Register



seedfund.nsf.gov/apply

SBIR/STTR Phase I Solicitation

*It contains **everything** you need to know about how to prepare and submit your proposal.*

SBIR/STTR Solicitation – NSF 23-515

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23515/nsf23515.htm>

It's your decision whether to apply for SBIR or STTR....



Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

- No partnership requirement
- The applicant small business must perform a minimum of **66.6% of the research**, as measured by the budget

Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)

- Requires a partnership with an eligible not-for-profit research institution.
- The applicant small business must perform a minimum of **40% of the research**, as measured by the budget, and a minimum of **30% must be performed by a single partner research institution.**

Everything you need is in **Section V.**

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Project Description (15 pages MAXIMUM)

- Elevator Pitch (no more than one page)
- Commercial Opportunity (recommended length: 1-3 pages)
- The Technical Solution (recommended length: 2-4 pages)
- Company/Team (recommended length: 1-3 pages)
- Technical Discussion and R&D Plan (minimum length: 5 pages, recommended length: 5-6 pages)
- Broader Impacts (1-2 pages)



Budget, supplementary documents, etc. **Section V.**

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Use www.research.gov

**Research.gov**
ONLINE GRANTS MANAGEMENT
FOR THE NSF COMMUNITY

Sign In | Register | Home | Contact | Help | About

 **ALERT:** Organizations are experiencing delayed SAM.gov registrations, validations and UEI issuance. Please start SAM.gov processes early to allow for additional time. See SAM.gov for the latest status.

[Hide all notifications](#) (Viewing 1 of 1 notification)

MODERNIZATION
Research.gov

Prepare proposals and supplemental funding requests in Research.gov!

- ALL Proposal Types Supported
- ALL Submission Types Supported
- **NEW:** Supplemental Funding Requests. *Prepare and submit requests in Research.gov no matter which proposal submission system was used.*





Prepare & Submit Proposals

Prepare, submit and check status of proposals

- Letters of Intent and Proposals
- Demo Site: Prepare Proposals
- Check Proposal Status

FASTLANE PROPOSAL FUNCTIONS

-  Additional proposal functions



Proposal/ Panel Review

Review proposals, participate in panels

FASTLANE PROPOSAL REVIEW

-  Proposal Review

FASTLANE PANEL REVIEW

-  Panelist Functions



Awards & Reporting

Submit project reports, notifications & requests, and supplemental funding requests

- Project Reports
- Continuing Grant Increments Reports
- Award Documents
- Deposit Public Access Publication



Fellowships & Honorary Awards

Nominate colleagues, apply for awards

- Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
-  Postdoctoral Fellowships and Other Programs
-  Honorary Awards

Important Links:

<https://seedfund.nsf.gov/resources/applicants/>

NSF staff is working virtually and continues to review Project Pitches in all areas of technology. Send us your good ideas today!

FOR APPLICANTS

FOR PHASE I AWARDEES

FOR PHASE II AWARDEES

FOR REVIEWERS

EVENTS

For applicants

Apply

Once you've received an invitation to submit a proposal (via the Project Pitch process), we encourage you to dig into the following resources to support you as you create your SBIR/STTR proposal.

APPLY

FAQ

Have lingering questions? Visit our [FAQ](#), which covers the pre-application process to post-award reporting (and everything in between).

Proposal submission guide

Before you start your proposal, take a look at our [proposal submission guide](#).

Scroll down for
Frequently Asked Questions and
the Proposal submission guide

Intellectual Merit

- Innovative (i.e., novel and differentiable new approach that will solve a big ongoing problem)
- High-technical risk requiring R&D to prove out

Broader Impacts

- Potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific societal outcomes

Commercial Potential

- Market/customers and value proposition identified
- Company/team suited to focused on commercialization
- Sustainable competitive advantage, credible business model
- NSF funding will “move the needle”

Review timing after the close of the window:

1-3 months after ---->

Applications undergo merit review.

4-6 months after ---->

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

5-6 months after ---->

If your proposal is accepted, you'll receive funding of **up to \$275,000.**

Phase I

Feasibility Research

6-12 Months

\$275,000



Phase II

Research Toward

Prototype

24 Months

\$1,000,000



Phase IIB

Third-Party Investment Plus

1:2 NSF Match

(up to \$500,000)

1. Registrations take time; start these ASAP!
2. Read the Proposal Submission Guide for help submitting your proposal
(<https://seedfund.nsf.gov/how-to-submit/>)
3. Call or email Research.gov with any technical issues
(1-800-381-1532 or rgov@nsf.gov)
4. Initiate the full proposal process in Research.gov as soon as possible (even before writing anything!)
5. Don't sweat the (budget-related) small stuff
6. You're not done until you're assigned a proposal number of the form "23xxxxx"



Join us as a reviewer

(if you are not planning to have a proposal under review in the near future)

Seeking Technical and Commercial Experts in Technology Commercialization and Translation



America's Seed Fund, powered by the National Science Foundation (NSF), is searching for technical and commercial experts from all technology disciplines to review proposals from startups and small businesses. Your different insights and expertise will help NSF program directors evaluate transformative technologies from the nation's most promising entrepreneurs in their proposals to receive for up to \$2 million in NSF funding. Serve as an NSF reviewer

<https://seedfund.nsf.gov/resources/review/>



Interested in becoming part of our team?

We're Hiring Program Directors!



America's
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SBIR.STTR



CORPS
NSF Innovation Corps



NSF's Pathways to Enable
Open-Source Ecosystems

Visit the TIP website for position description.

<https://beta.nsf.gov/tip/latest/careers>

TO APPLY:

Send your resume and cover letter to:

TJJobs@nsf.gov



Research.gov and Proposal Submission Questions:
rgov@nsf.gov or 800-381-1532

SBIR/STTR Programmatic Questions:
sbir@nsf.gov

<https://seedfund.nsf.gov>
@NSFSBIR