

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

neded.org/ti2

The Talent and Innovation Initiative, commonly known as Ti2, is designed to enhance momentum in Nebraska's fastest growing industries, maintain and build on its world-class workforce, and leverage private sector innovation.

Business Innovation Act

neded.org/BusinessInnovationAct

Provides competitive funding for research, development and innovation, and helps expand small business and entrepreneurial outreach efforts that lead to more quality job opportunities.

Angel Investment Tax Credit

neded.org/AngelInvestmentTaxCredit

Encourages investment in high-tech start-up enterprises in Nebraska by providing 35-40% refundable state income tax credits to qualified Nebraska investors investing in qualified early-stage companies.

Edward Lowe Economic Gardening

neded.org/Business/Economic-Gardening

Offers a new way of thinking about supporting second-stage growth companies, as well as letting business owners know how valuable they are to their local economies. Economic Gardening addresses strategic growth challenges, including developing new markets, refining business models, and gaining access to competitive intelligence.

The Ice House Entrepreneurship Program

neded.org/Business/Start-a-business/Entrepreneur-Education

Inspires and engages participants in the fundamental aspects of the entrepreneurial mindset and the opportunities such an outlook can offer. Participants may range in experience from newly-minted young adult entrepreneurs with little or no experience to long-time workforce professionals. All should have a willingness and interest in exploring and learning about the entrepreneurial mindset.

Invest Nebraska Angel Sidecar Fund

neded.org/AngelInvestmentTaxCredit

Provides early investment capital that matches private angel fund investment in start-up businesses developing, modifying or employing new technology. Seed capital may be used for advanced intellectual property development and evaluation, advanced proof of concept work for scientific discovery, advanced prototype design and development, to hire key personnel, or related activities.

nebraska

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INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

For more information:
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NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PRE-SEED

PROTOTYPE

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a Nebraska business with no more than 500 employees.
- Be involved in the development of a prototype for an innovative product or process with the intent of commercialization.
- Submit a business plan that includes a proof-of-concept demonstration.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT:

Up to \$150,000, based on project budget

MATCHING FUNDS:

2 to 1
4 to 1 for value-added agriculture projects

ACADEMIC R&D PHASE I

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a for-profit business with physical operational facilities in Nebraska.
- Use faculty or facilities of a public or private college or university in Nebraska for applied research or development of new products, or use intellectual property generated at a public or private higher education institution in Nebraska.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT:

\$100,000

MATCHING FUNDS:

1 to 1
4 to 1 for value-added agriculture projects

ACADEMIC R&D PHASE II

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a for-profit business with physical operational facilities in Nebraska.
- Use faculty or facilities of a public or private college or university in Nebraska for applied research or development of new products, or use intellectual property generated at a public or private higher education institution in Nebraska.
- Get confirmation that Phase I is deemed successful as determined by DED and the business.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT:

\$400,000 if Phase I is successful and contractual agreements are met

MATCHING FUNDS:

1 to 1
4 to 1 for value-added agriculture projects

SEED

COMMERCIALIZATION

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a business with no more than 500 employees for purposes of commercializing a prototype of a product stemming from research and development at a business operating in Nebraska, or a public or private college or university in Nebraska.
- Submit feasibility study stating potential sales and profit projections for product or process.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT:

- \$500,000 (no greater than 50% of cost of project)
- Investments may be a stand alone convertible note, or part of minimum qualified round of equity financing.

MATCHING FUNDS:

1 to 1
4 to 1 for value-added agriculture projects

SBIR/STTR PHASE 0

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a for-profit small business with its principal place of business in Nebraska.
- Submit qualified SBIR/STTR Phase I proposal to participating federal agency in response to federal solicitation.
- Submit applications to DED no later than 30 days before closing date of federal solicitation.
- Conduct at least 51% of activities described in SBIR/STTR in Nebraska.
- Notify DED of award or decline of Phase I proposal.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT:

Maximum \$5,000

SBIR/STTR PHASE I & II

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a for-profit small business with its principal place of business in Nebraska.
- Meet all federal SBIR/STTR program eligibility requirements applicable to relevant federal solicitation.
- Conduct at least 51% of activities described in Phases I and II in Nebraska.
- Maintain significant Nebraska business operations for duration of Phase I & II performance periods.
- Receive notification of Phase I award by SBIR/STTR agency during application cycle (Phase I only).
- Have successfully completed Phase I effort corresponding to federal award and submitted final Phase I report to granting federal SBIR/STTR agency and DED.
- Submit Phase I applications to DED no later than 45 days from notification of award by federal SBIR/STTR agency.
- Have received notification of successful completion of Phase I from federal SBIR/STTR agency and submit DED proof that SBIR/STTR Phase II proposal has been submitted to and received by federal agency.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT:

Maximum \$100,000 or 65% of federal grant

ECONOMIC GARDENING

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be a for-profit, privately-held company that has been based in Nebraska for at least the past two years.
- Generate annual revenue between \$750,000 and \$50 million.
- Employ between 6 and 99 full-time employees.
- Demonstrate growth in employment and/or revenue during two of the past five years.
- Provide products or services beyond the local area to regional, national, or international markets.

Grant provides contracted services through Edward Lowe, such as developing new markets, refining business models and gaining access to competitive intelligence.

To apply or for more info:

neded.org/business/economic-gardening

INVEST NE ANGEL SIDECAR FUND

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

Be Nebraska-based start-up companies (less than 750 employees) that have:

- Leadership team with significant experience related to technology commercializing and launching start-up technology business, or collaborators and/or mentors with such experience;
- Viable plan for securing venture capital financing to successfully grow start-up company within reasonable time period after seed capital co-investment; and
- Market-based, third-party investment commitment equal to at least 100% of total requested seed capital funding from Angel Sidecar Fund.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT:

Maximum \$500,000

MATCHING FUNDS:

1 to 1

ANGEL INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST BE:

Individual investors:

- Minimum \$25,000/year

Investment Funds:

- Minimum \$50,000
- Minimum 3 investors

Qualified Businesses:

- Nebraska-based with more than 51% payroll in Nebraska with 25 or fewer employees

MAXIMUM AMOUNT:

- Credits:
 - Individuals \$300,000
 - Couples \$350,000
- 40% refundable tax credit in distressed areas (35% rest of state)
- Investment for any one business limited to \$1 million

Angel Investment Tax Credit Application Process

1. Business/individuals become certified prior to any investments.
2. Applications reviewed by DED.
3. If approved, investor has **90 calendar days** to invest in qualified business.
4. Within **30 calendar days** of investment, qualified investor/fund required to submit Notification of Qualified Investment to DED.
5. Within **30 calendar days** of receipt of timely and correctly filed Notification of Qualified Investment, DED will issue tax credit certificates for calendar year in which qualified investment was made.

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Download guidelines and
applications at:
neded.org/ti2