

**Nebraska Department of Economic Development**  
**Nebraska Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer**  
**Initiative Guidelines**

The Nebraska Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Initiative establishes a program to provide financial assistance to small businesses with a principal place of business in Nebraska. This initiative by the State of Nebraska is designed to support applications to the federal Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program (Phase 0) and for the matching of successful federal Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program applications (Phase 1 and 2). The total funds available through the Nebraska SBIR/STTR Initiative will be a maximum of \$1 million per year.

The federal Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer program provides funding competitions in two phases that are relevant to the Nebraska SBIR/STTR Initiative. Phase 1- to conduct feasibility research; and Phase 2-to expand and develop Phase 1 results into commercially viable innovations. The federal SBIR/STTR program is administered by 11 federal agencies. Applicants for federal SBIR/STTR program funding compete by submitting proposals in response to solicitations issued by the participating federal agencies.

Small businesses apply for funding under the Nebraska SBIR/STTR Initiative by submitting an application to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS & REQUIREMENTS**

Small businesses that qualify under the federal SBIR/STTR program for the purposes of submitting an application under the federal program are eligible to apply for funding through the Nebraska SBIR/STTR Initiative. There are two types of assistance available under this program: Phase 0, and Phase 1 and 2 matching funds.

#### **Phase 0 Program for assistance in submitting a federal SBIR/STTR application**

- Applicant must be a for-profit small business with its principal place of business in Nebraska;
- Applicant must submit a qualified SBIR/STTR Phase 1 proposal to a participating federal agency in response to a specific federal solicitation;
- Applicant must meet all federal SBIR/STTR program eligibility requirements that are applicable to the relevant federal solicitation;
- Applicant must not receive concurrent funding support from other sources that duplicates the purpose of the Nebraska Phase 0 initiative, without DED approval;
- Applications must be received by DED no later than 30 days before the closing date of the federal solicitation to which the applicant is applying. Any applications received by

DED less than 30 days before the submission deadline in the federal solicitation will be returned without consideration;

- Applicant must conduct at least 51% of the activities described in the federal SBIR/STTR proposal in Nebraska, and must maintain significant Nebraska operations during the entire corresponding federal SBIR/STTR Phase 1 project, if awarded federal funding;
- Proposals resubmitted to a federal agency, for which the applicant has already received a DED Phase 0 award for the same project, are not eligible for an additional DED Phase 0 award;
- Applicant must notify DED of award or decline of their Phase 1 proposal; and
- Businesses can only receive Phase 0 funding for one project every two years.

### **Phase 1 and 2 Matching Program for successful federal SBIR/STTR applications**

- Applicant must be a for-profit small business with its principal place of business in Nebraska;
- Applicant must meet all federal SBIR/STTR Program eligibility requirements that are applicable to the relevant federal solicitation;
- Applicant must perform at least 51% of the activities conducted under the Phase 1 research and subsequent Phase 2 effort (if awarded), in Nebraska;
- Applicant must maintain significant Nebraska business operations for the duration of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 performance periods; and
- Applicant must not receive concurrent funding support from other sources that duplicates the purpose of the Nebraska Phase I or II match program, without DED approval.

### Phase 1 Matching Applicants

1. Applicant must have received official notification of Phase 1 award by the federal SBIR/STTR agency during the application cycle; and
2. Applications for Phase 1 matching program funds must be received no later than 45 days after the date of notification of Phase 1 award by the federal SBIR/STTR agency. Any applications received by DED after 45 days from the award notification by the federal agency will be returned without consideration.

### Phase 2 Matching Applicants

1. Applicant must have successfully completed their Phase 1 effort corresponding to the federal award and have submitted a final Phase 1 report to the granting federal SBIR/STTR program agency (and to DED, if requested by DED);

2. Applicant must have received notification of the successful completion of the Phase 1 effort from the participating federal SBIR/STTR program agency and must submit to DED proof that the federal SBIR/STTR Phase 2 proposal has been submitted to, and received by, the particular federal agency; and
3. Eligible costs may be incurred, award made, but DED matching funds are not made available until federal approval of Phase 2 grant.

## **AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE, GRANT LIMITATIONS AND MATCHING REQUIREMENTS**

The Department may award up to \$4 million per year for grants through the Nebraska SBIR/STTR Program. The Department reserves the right to award less than \$4 million per year subject to demand, department budget, and available funds. The Department also reserves the right to redistribute funding between programs funded through the Business Innovation Act so long as the Department meets minimum award amounts and does not exceed the maximum amounts authorized by statute.

Phase 0 grants will reimburse qualified applicants, up to \$5,000 per project, for costs incurred in preparing and submitting a federal Phase 1 proposal to a solicitation from a federal agency. Reimbursable costs include: proposal preparation consulting fees paid to others; typing/word processing services; project related supplies and postage; database search fees for project related literature search; rental space and/or equipment directly related to the preparation of the federal proposal; and salaries of individuals who were directly involved in preparation of the Phase 1 proposal.

Phase 1 and 2 matching grants will match federal SBIR/STTR awards and will not exceed \$100,000 or 65% of the federal SBIR/STTR grant, whichever is less.

DED will not award funding to a business for more than one project every two years. Only the federal SBIR/STTR funding is required to match the Nebraska SBIR/STTR Initiative.

## **PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA**

Evaluation criteria that will be considered in evaluation of applications under the Nebraska SBIR/STTR Initiative include, but are not limited to:

1. Scientific and technical merit and feasibility of the proposal;
2. Qualifications of the Principal Investigator, team, and consultants; and
3. Potential for successful commercialization or federal contract of the new product or process.

## **APPLICATION TIMING AND PROCESS**

Applications will be accepted from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, or until all funds are exhausted. Applicants must apply online at <https://neded.fluidreview.com> and must fully comply with all requirements within the time period specified, in order to be eligible for an SBIR/STTR Phase 0, Phase 1 matching award and Phase 2 matching award. Applications that do not include ALL of the documents specified or that contain documents that have not been fully completed, will be considered incomplete and will be returned to the applicant without further review. At its discretion, DED may request supplemental materials from the applicant and such materials must be received within 15 days of the date of the request or the application may be returned to the applicant without further review.

## **DED CONTACT PERSON**

For clarifications on the Nebraska SBIR/STTR Initiative, please direct your inquiries to:

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