ORIP MISSION

The Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP) advances the NIH mission by supporting research infrastructure and research-related resources programs. ORIP’s programs support biomedical researchers with the infrastructure and research-related resources they require to advance medical research and continue improving human health.
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) provides grant opportunities for small businesses in any biomedical or behavioral research area that falls within NIH’s mission to improve human health.

Two components of ORIP, the Division of Comparative Medicine, and the Division of Construction and Instruments, support small business programs.

The Division of Comparative Medicine helps meet the needs of biomedical researchers for high-quality, disease-free animal models of human disease and specialized animal research facilities.

The Division of Construction and Instruments encourages the development and implementation of technologies to directly benefit the welfare of research animals and to improve animal facilities.

ORIP participates in two federal grant programs that provide funding to small businesses – the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program. Both programs seek to increase the participation of small businesses in federally supported research and development (R&D) and to increase private-sector commercialization of technology developed through federally supported R&D. Both of these programs provide opportunities to integrate public and private initiatives.

**DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE (DCM)**

DCM’s small business programs support the development and commercialization of technologies to better understand, preserve, characterize, improve and treat animal models for a wide range of human diseases.

**Areas of interest include:**
- Methods for identification or production of new mammalian or non-mammalian animal models;
- Improvement of Animal Models and Development of Technologies for Stem Cell-Based Regenerative Medicine;
- Development and Commercialization of Technologies to Create, Characterize or Improve Animal Models of Human Disease, including models that relate to human personalized medicine;
- Methods for identification, production and preservation of new mammalian or non-mammalian animal models;
- Development of methods, equipment or reagents that facilitate the use of zebrafish for translational research;
- Development of Novel and Emerging Technologies for the accurate detection and diagnosis of polymicrobial Infections in biomedical laboratory animal models;
- Development of innovative methods and tools to control and prevent selected laboratory animal diseases.
DIVISION OF CONSTRUCTION AND INSTRUMENTS (DCI)

DCI supports the development and implementation of technologies to directly benefit the welfare of research animals and to directly improve animal facilities that support biomedical and behavioral research.

Areas of interest include:
- Research on tools and equipment, their use to improve and ease care, and to facilitate monitoring of healthy animals;
- Research to improve laboratory equipment to maintain environmental conditions and to maintain and improve the infrastructure of animal facilities;
- Of special importance is the employment of green technologies.

DEFINITIONS OF THE NIH SBIR AND STTR AWARDS

The NIH SBIR program is a set-aside program for domestic small businesses to engage in biomedical R&D that has the potential for commercialization. The NIH STTR program is a set-aside program to facilitate cooperative R&D between small businesses and U.S. research institutions, with the potential for commercialization.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SBIR AND STTR

Under the SBIR program, the principal investigator’s (PI) primary employment must be with the small business. However, if multiple PIs are applying for a grant, the second PI need not be primarily employed by the small business. Under the STTR program, primary employment is not stipulated. The STTR program requires research partners at universities and other nonprofit research institutions to have a formal collaborative relationship with the small business.

STRUCTURE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

**SBIR**
- Establish technical merit, feasibility, and potential for commercialization.
- Support may not exceed $150,000 in total costs for six months.*
- Continue research and R&D efforts initiated in Phase I.
- Funding will be based upon Phase I results and may not exceed $1,000,000 in total costs for a two-year period.
- Commercialization plan required.

**STTR**
- Support may not exceed $150,000 in total costs for one year.*
- Commercialization stage using non-SBIR/STTR funds to pursue Phase I and II goals.

* Deviations from the indicated Phase I/Phase II statutory award amount and project period guidelines are acceptable but must be well justified. However, the support cannot exceed 50% of the indicated values.
Applications are accepted from eligible small business concerns in any state. ORIP is especially interested in applications from organizations owned by women and socially/economically disadvantaged persons or located in underrepresented states (IDeA states, highlighted in the map to the right).

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**SBIR**
- The small business must be an organized for-profit U.S. business.
- It must have $\leq 500$ or fewer employees, including affiliates.
- U.S.-owned by individuals and independently operated or at least 51 percent owned and controlled by another (one) business that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more individuals.
- The PI’s primary employment must be with the small business at the time of award and for the duration of the project period.

**STTR**
- The small business must be a for-profit U.S. business.
- The U.S. research institution must be a nonprofit.
- A formal cooperative R&D arrangement must exist with a 40 percent minimum effort by small business and a minimum 30 percent effort by a U.S. research institution.
- The PI’s primary employment may be with either the small business or the research institution.
- There must be an agreement identifying the allocation of intellectual property rights.

**CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**DIVISION OF PROGRAM COORDINATION, PLANNING, AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (DPCPSI)**

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**NIH Small Business Grant Programs Information**
https://sbir.nih.gov

**Niche Assessment Program**
For SBIR and STTR Phase I Awardees  
https://sbir.nih.gov/nap

**Commercialization Accelerator Program (CAP)**
For Phase II SBIR & STTR Awardees  
https://sbir.nih.gov/cap

**ORIP Small Business Grant Programs Information**
http://dpcpsi.nih.gov/orip/cm/small_business_opportunities