

ORIP

OFFICE OF RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS



SBIR/STTR

Small Business Programs
Small Business Grants

orip.nih.gov

[X.com/NIH_ORIP](https://x.com/NIH_ORIP)

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Fact Sheet 2025 Spring

ORIP'S MISSION

ORIP advances the National Institutes of Health (NIH) mission by supporting infrastructure for innovation. This support is focused on research resources, including animal models for human diseases, cutting-edge scientific instrumentation, construction and modernization of research facilities, and research training opportunities for veterinary scientists. Through continued engagement with NIH institutes, centers, and offices and the biomedical research community, ORIP empowers and expands existing programs and develops new initiatives to support NIH research at the forefront of scientific progress.



National Institutes of Health
Office of Research Infrastructure Programs

OVERVIEW

NIH provides grant opportunities for small businesses in any biomedical or behavioral research area that falls within the agency's mission to improve human health.

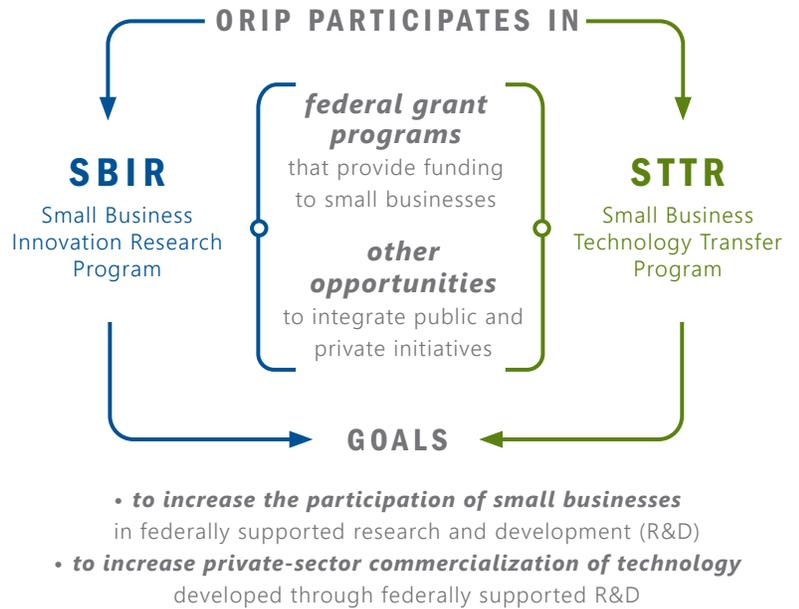
The two components of ORIP, the Division of Comparative Medicine and the Division of Construction and Instruments, support small business programs.

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

The Division of Construction and Instruments encourages the development and implementation of technologies to directly benefit the welfare of research animals and 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 increase private-sector commercialization of technology developed through federally supported R&D. Both these programs provide opportunities to integrate public and private initiatives.



DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE

The Division of Comparative Medicine'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 the following:

- Development and commercialization of technologies to create, characterize, or improve animal models for human disease, including models that relate to human personalized medicine

- Methods for production, characterization, and preservation of new mammalian or nonmammalian 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

The Division of Construction and Instruments supports the development and implementation of technologies to benefit the welfare of research animals and improve animal facilities that support biomedical and behavioral research.

Areas of interest include the following:

- Development of tools and equipment and 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
- The employment and integration of green technologies is of special importance

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 (PI) must be primarily employed by 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

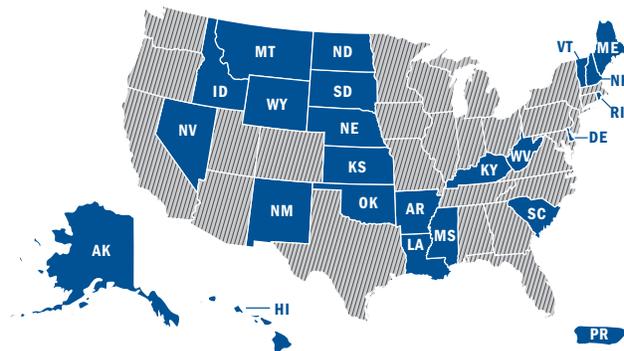
	SBIR	STTR
PHASE I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish technical merit, feasibility, and potential for commercialization. • Support may not exceed \$314,363 in total costs for 6 months.*† 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support may not exceed \$314,363 in total costs for 1 year.*†
PHASE II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue research and R&D efforts initiated in Phase I. • Funding will be based upon Phase I results and may not exceed \$2,095,748 in total costs for a 2-year period. • Commercialization plan required. 	
PHASE IIB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support extra time and effort to reach a commercialization stage. • Only Phase II awardees are eligible. 	N/A

* Deviations from the indicated Phase I/Phase II statutory award project period guidelines are acceptable but must be well justified. However, the support cannot exceed the indicated values [NOT-OD-25-013](#).

† See the current notice of funding opportunity in [ORIP's Funding Opportunities List](#) for the maximal funding supports and a current list of approved topics.

IDeA STATES

Applications are accepted from eligible small business concerns in any state. ORIP is especially interested in applications from socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, women-owned small businesses, and small businesses located in underrepresented states (Institutional Development Awards [IDeA] states, highlighted in the map to the right).



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SBIR

The small business must be a for-profit U.S. business.

It must have
≤ 500 

employees, including affiliates.

U.S.-owned by individuals and independently operated

or

at least 51% owned and controlled by another (one) business that is at least 51% 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% minimum effort by the small business and a minimum 30% 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.

It must be
at least 51%

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DIVISION OF PROGRAM COORDINATION, PLANNING, AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (DPCPSI)
OFFICE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS (ORIP)

NIH Small business Education and Entrepreneurial Development (SEED)

seed.nih.gov

Technical and Business Assistance (TABA)

- Funding: seed.nih.gov/product-development-support/technical-business-assistance-program/taba-funding
- Consulting Services: seed.nih.gov/support-for-small-businesses/technical-business-assistance-program/taba-consulting-services

ORIP Small Business Grant Programs Information

orip.nih.gov/funding/small-business