

TTDC SBIR/STTR Phase 0 Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the federal SBIR/STTR Program?

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program is a competitive program that provides R&D funding to qualified small businesses in order to stimulate innovation and development in high technology areas.

What is the TTDC Phase 0 Grant Program?

The Phase 0 Grant Program will assist Tennessee small businesses in applying to the federal SBIR/STTR program for Phase I technology development funding. It will reimburse a portion of eligible costs associated with the preparation and submittal of a Phase I proposal.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for a Phase 0 grant, a small business must be planning to and subsequently submit a federal Phase I proposal and meet the following requirements:

- American, for-profit and independently owned (not a subsidiary)
- Principal place of business in Tennessee
- 500 or less employees
- Principal investigator is employed by the business

Can my business win more than 1 award?

A small business may win only 1 award per TTDC solicitation period. In addition, only one Phase 0 award may be applied to each federal application prepared and submitted. Please note: The period from March 17, 2008 through December 31, 2008 is considered a single solicitation period.

Am I guaranteed an award?

No. An applicant must meet all the prerequisites included in the Phase 0 solicitation. Awards will be given out on a rolling basis until the end of the solicitation period or until funds are exhausted.

I have a really great innovation, but do not have a company formed. Can I apply?

No, you must be a legal operating entity in Tennessee. Both the federal and TTDC SBIR/STTR programs award funds only to small businesses. For additional assistance on business formation, you may consider contacting the Tennessee SBIR/STTR Proposal Assistance Center at the University of Tennessee at www.tnsbir.tennessee.edu.

What costs are eligible for reimbursement?

Eligible costs include but are not limited to: consultant services, outside grant writers, printing supplies, SBIR/STTR conference and workshop registration fees, database search fees, and legal fees for provisional patent preparation costs.



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Are there any spending limits?

A small business can spend as much as they desire for proposal preparation, but will only be reimbursed for 50% of costs incurred, up to \$4,000. Also, reimbursement for patents applies only to provisional patent applications and the reimbursement amount applied to the cost associated with provisional patent application will not exceed 50% of total eligible reimbursement from TTDC, with a maximum of \$2,000.

What costs are not eligible for reimbursement?

Ineligible reimbursement costs include but are not limited to: salaries of principal or co-principal investigators, travel expenses and equipment purchases.

I attended an SBIR workshop in June. Is this expense eligible for reimbursement?

No. Eligible expenses for reimbursements will occur between July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.

I submitted a Phase I proposal before the Phase 0 opening date of July 1st. Am I still eligible?

No. The Phase 0 grant must be applied for before the federal Phase I proposal is submitted. In addition, the federal solicitation that you are responding to must be open and accepting Phase I proposals at some time on or between the TTDC solicitation dates of July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.

The federal solicitation I'm applying to doesn't open until January 1, 2009. Am I still eligible?

Not for the 2008 Solicitation. The federal solicitation that you are responding to must be open and accepting Phase I proposals at some time on or between the TTDC solicitation dates of July 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.

Do I have to submit my federal proposal within the TTDC Phase 0 solicitation period?

No. As long as the federal solicitation is open within the TTDC solicitation period and you have applied to the Phase 0 program before December 31, 2008, you may submit your Phase I proposal at a later date, pending it is submitted on time.

If I don't end up submitting a federal Phase I proposal, do I get to keep the TTDC Phase 0 funds?

No. A condition of the grant agreement with TTDC is that a federal Phase I proposal must be submitted on time. Proof of timely submission will be required. If a federal proposal is not submitted, all funds awarded must be returned to TTDC.

Who do I contact for help?

For questions about application to the TTDC Phase 0 program contact Kate Borkon at 615-673-4419 or SBIR@tntechnology.org.

For guidance on the federal SBIR/STTR program and application procedure, contact the Tennessee SBIR/STTR Proposal Assistance Center at the University of Tennessee at www.tnsbir.tennessee.edu.

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