



U.S. Small Business
Administration

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SBA Awards Over \$5.4 Million in Grants to Strengthen Research Funding Opportunities Across the U.S.

WASHINGTON – Today, [Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman](#), head of the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) (SBA) and the voice for America’s 33 million small businesses in President Biden’s Cabinet, announced over \$5.4 million in funding to 44 awardees through the [Federal and State Technology \(FAST\) Partnership Program](#). FAST provides small businesses and startups, particularly those in underserved communities, with specialized training, mentoring, and technical assistance for research and development. Grant selectees qualify for award amounts of up to \$125,000 each.

“When we enable equitable access to federal research funding, we empower more of our nation’s entrepreneurs and scientists to translate their cutting-edge ideas into commercial enterprises,” **said Administrator Guzman**. “This is why doubling our funding of FAST grants and expanding the network of awardees is so critical to building a stronger and more inclusive innovation economy that invests in all of our communities.”

FAST’s objective is to strengthen the competitiveness of small businesses and startups across the country, particularly those from underserved communities to help them benefit from the [Small Business Innovation Research](#) (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs. Through FAST, the SBA continues to play a critical role in creating inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems and helping American entrepreneurs grow their networks and revenue opportunities with new capital, a priority of Administrator Guzman.

This year’s expansion of the FAST program created 12 additional awards and expands the program’s footprint to 43 states and one U.S. territory. These organizations are led by state and local economic development entities, Small Business Technology Development Centers, Small Business Development Centers, Women’s Business Centers, Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, incubators, accelerators, colleges, and universities. The expanded reach of the program builds on the success of previous FAST cohorts. With \$4 million in funding in fiscal year 2021, FAST helped small businesses to win over \$88 million in SBIR and STTR awards, a 22:1 return for every taxpayer dollar spent.

The FAST program provides awards for a base period of 12 months, plus four optional continuation periods of 12 months each. Thirty-two FAST awardees from the 2021 cohort were also selected for second or third-year funding. The FAST grantees are as follows:

2023 Cohort – First Year

STATE	ORGANIZATION
Alaska	University of Alaska
Florida	Florida High Tech Corridor
Idaho	Idaho State University
Indiana	Indiana Economic Development Corporation
Iowa	Iowa State University of Science
Maine	Maine Institute of Technology
Minnesota	MNSBIR, Inc.
Michigan	BBC Entrepreneurial Training & Consulting
New Jersey	New Jersey SBDC
North Dakota	University of North Dakota
Utah	Utah Innovation Center
Washington	Life Science Washington Institute

2023 Cohort – Second Year

STATE	ORGANIZATION
Arizona	Arizona Commerce Authority
Georgia	Innovation Gateway at the University of Georgia
Kentucky	Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation
Louisiana	Louisiana Business & Technology Center/LSU
Missouri	Missouri Small Business Development Center
Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico Small Business and Technology Development Centers
South Dakota	South Dakota Biotech Council
Tennessee	Launch TN
Wisconsin	Center for Technology Commercialization

2023 Cohort – Third Year

STATE	ORGANIZATION
Arkansas	University of Arkansas at Little Rock- Arkansas SBTDC
Colorado	Colorado Small Business Development Center
Connecticut	Connecticut Innovations, Inc.

Delaware	Delaware Small Business Development Center
Hawaii	Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC)
Illinois	EnterpriseWorks at the University of Illinois
Kansas	Wichita State University
Maryland	Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)
Mississippi	Innovate Mississippi
Montana	Montana State University TechLink Center
Nebraska	Nebraska Business Development Center, University of Nebraska at Omaha
New Hampshire	UNHInnovation
New Mexico	Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University
North Carolina	First Flight Venture Center, Inc.
Ohio	Ohio Aerospace Institute
Oklahoma	OK Catalyst
Oregon	VertueLab
Pennsylvania	Ben Franklin Technology Partners Corporation
South Carolina	University of South Carolina
Texas	SWTXB SBDC Technology Commercialization Center
Virginia	Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation
West Virginia	TechConnect West Virginia
Wyoming	University of Wyoming Small Business Development Center

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About FAST

In FY 2022, \$6 million was appropriated for entities to carry out activities defined under the FAST Partnership Program legislative authority. Entities from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to receive funding to provide outreach, technical, and financial assistance. These efforts are focused on elevating and expanding the ecosystem support network that works with technology developing entrepreneurs, startups, and existing small businesses. FAST's primary goal is to help tech entrepreneurs who have traditionally been left out of federal R&D programs by successfully applying, winning, and executing SBIR and STTR awards. Additional information can be found at www.sbir.gov/about-fast.

About SBIR/STTR

SBA coordinates the SBIR/STTR programs, known as America's Seed Fund across the 11 participating federal agencies. Over \$4 billion in early-stage seed capital was provided in FY 2022 through over 7,000 awards to more than 4,000 small businesses. Federal agencies announce funding opportunities as either grants or contracts to address their research and development needs. Companies supported by America's Seed Fund often generate some of the most important breakthroughs each year in the U.S. Additional information about the programs, as well as past and current topics can be found at www.sbir.gov.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow, expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.