

150+ Grants Available
for Startup Businesses:

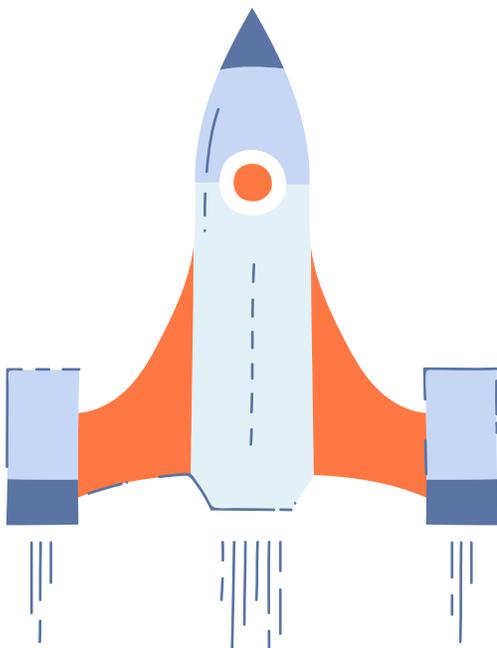
A Complete Guide to Grant Funding

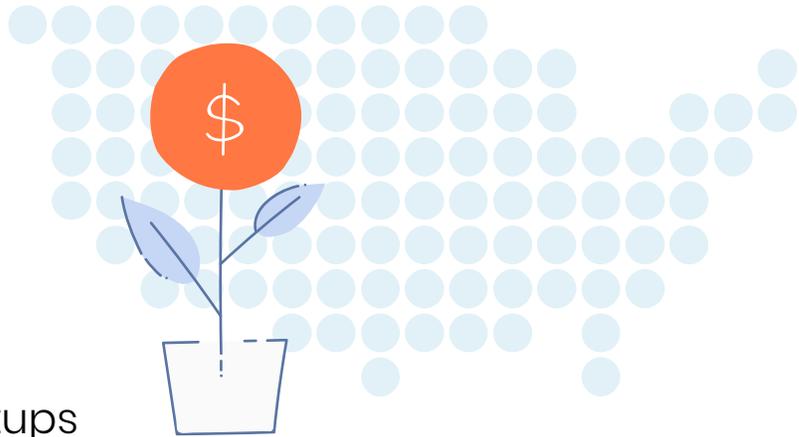
There is nothing entrepreneurs love more than “free money,” which is why startup grants have become such a popular way to finance a growing business. Unlike taking out a loan or striking a deal with investors, there’s nothing to pay back and no equity that needs to be given up.

In short, grants can be a valuable source of funding.

The problem is, few entrepreneurs know how to get their hands on this money. Not because they don’t want the extra funding, but because they have no idea what grants are available for startup businesses. Just take one look at the convoluted database that is *grants.gov* and you’ll be more confused than before.

To make sure that you’re not leaving free money on the table, we’ve put together ***the complete list of grants available for startup businesses***. We’ve even grouped them by category to save you some extra time and help you narrow down your search.





Federal Grants for Startups

If you're looking for grant money, your first thought may be to research federal funding. In this case, your best bet is the grants awarded by the US Small Business Administration (SBA). These are grants that aim to help Americans start, build, and grow businesses. Under the SBA, there are **two key grants** to know about: the Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR).

FEDERAL GRANTS

Small Business Innovation Research Program (**SBIR**)

DESCRIPTION

Provides funding to small, high-tech businesses to research, design, develop, and test new technology ideas related to specific needs defined in competitive solicitations floated by the federal agencies.

QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify, you must operate a for-profit business with less than 500 employees and fulfill all [eligibility requirements](#).

Small Business Technology Transfer Program (**STTR**)

The program funds cooperative R&D partnerships between a small business and a research institution such as a university, Federal R&D center, or a non-profit research institute.

To qualify, you must operate a for-profit business with less than 500 employees and fulfill all [eligibility requirements](#).

It is important to note that the SBIR grant is a gated process made up of **three phases**:

PHASE I

Concept Development awards normally do not exceed \$150,000 total costs for 6 months

PHASE II

Prototype Development awards normally do not exceed \$1,000,000 total costs for 2 years

PHASE III

Commercialization
no grants awarded

The STTR is also a gated process made up of three phases:

PHASE I

Concept Development awards normally do not exceed \$150,000 total costs for 1 year

PHASE II

Prototype Development awards normally do not exceed \$1,000,000 total costs for 2 years

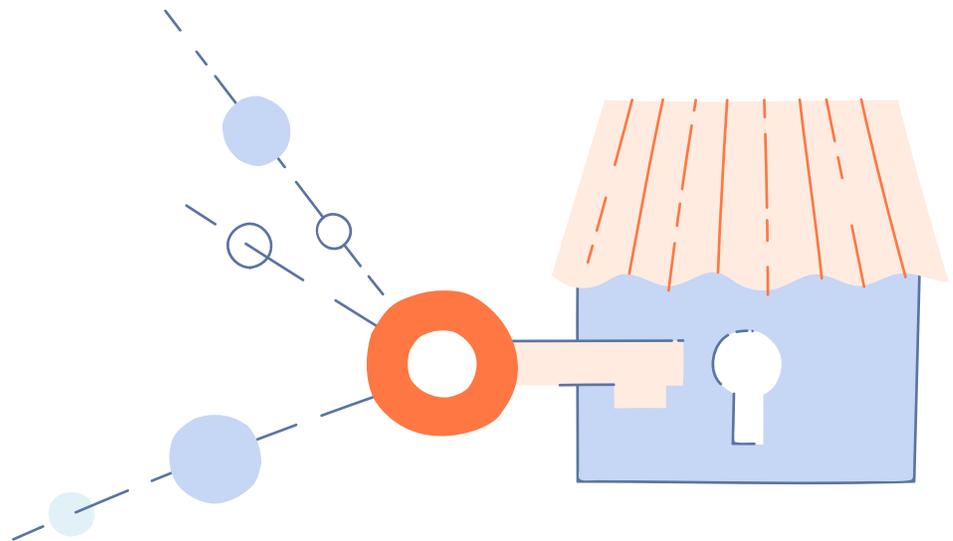
PHASE III

Commercialization
no grants awarded



Small Business/Startup Eligibility Criteria for SBIR/STTR

Beyond award size and timeline, there are other criteria to take into consideration before applying to the SBIR or STTR programs. For one, only US businesses are eligible for the funding. Applicants must also meet the [SBA's definition of small business](#), which can be found online.



Generally, businesses must meet the following criteria:

- Is an organized for profit, with a place of business located in the US, which operates primarily within the US.
- Is in the legal form of an individual proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, joint venture, association, trust or cooperative.
- Has, including its affiliates, not more than 500 employees.

Applying for SBIR/STTR Funding

If you're eligible for the SBIR or STTR programs, the next thing to consider is the application process, which can be broken down into the following steps:

1. Double check your eligibility to ensure you qualify as an SBC.
2. Review the proposal requirements.
3. Identify the Opportunity (Solicitation) on [SBIR.Gov](#) for which you'd like to apply.
4. On [SBIR.Gov](#) Portal, identify a match opportunity.
5. Fulfill the online portal requirements for submissions.
6. Your application will then be reviewed and evaluated.
7. If you receive an award, you must meet the requirements of the STTR or SBIR program.

While these steps may seem simple, the application can be long and complicated. For a more thorough breakdown of the process, consult the SBIR and STTR ["RoadMap."](#)

If you are applying for SBIR or STTR, note that the submission process alone may take 6-8 weeks, so start as early as possible. For more information on the application process, there is a helpful [infographic](#) available from the National Institutes of Health.



State Grants for Startups

Both the SBIR and STTR are highly competitive programs that are limited by industry and in number. In some cases, it may be easier to apply for grants at a state or municipal level. The problem is that these grants can be hard to track down and vary widely by state. To make things easier, we've compiled a list of the major grants available for startup businesses *by state*.

STATE

Arizona

GRANT

[Arizona STEP Grant](#)

[Arizona Innovation Challenge](#)

DESCRIPTION

Offers money to Arizona small businesses that are exporting products or expanding into new markets.

Arizona's leading technology commercialization competition.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must be going global for the first time with sales or entering new international markets.

All applicants must have or be moving towards commercialization of a unique, innovative technology or a scientific solution to a marketplace issue(s) in one of the following industries: Advanced Materials, Advanced, Manufacturing, Aerospace/Defense, Bio/Life Sciences, Clean-Tech/Renewable Energy, Information Technology (Hardware), Information Technology (Software).

AMOUNT

Funding varies.

Up to 10 companies are awarded up to \$150,000 each.

STATE

California

Colorado

GRANT

[California Sustainable Energy Entrepreneur Development Initiative \(CalSEED\)](#)

[Proof of Concept Grant](#)

[Early-Stage Capital and Retention Grant](#)

[Collaborative Infrastructure Funding](#)

DESCRIPTION

Provides grants to entrepreneurs working to bring early-stage clean energy concepts to market.

This grant uses funding to identify and pull technologies from research institutions where they were discovered and connect them to the private sector where they can be developed into products for commercialization.

This grant uses funding to support companies using technologies developed in proof of concept grants and other early stage start-ups that have created viable products that meet a market need and that can be created or manufactured in Colorado and exported globally.

The program provides support to projects that develop the business infrastructure necessary to grow Colorado's Advanced Industries.

QUALIFICATIONS

Open to California-based applicants working on early-stage innovations—from concept to basic prototype.

In order to be eligible for funding, projects must meet the following requirements: Originate from an approved Colorado Research Institution, and demonstrate the availability of necessary matching funds (\$1 non-state funding:\$3 state funding).

Projects must meet the following requirements: Operate within the advanced industries, have headquarters located in Colorado or at least 50% of its employees based in Colorado, have received less than \$20 million from grants and third-party investors, have annual revenues of less than \$10 million, demonstrate that the technology is adequately through the Proof of Concept Phase.

In order to be eligible, projects must meet the following requirements: significantly impact one or more of Colorado's Advanced Industries, collaborate with multiple industry partners, matching fund requirements (\$2 non-state funding:\$1 state funding).

AMOUNT

Up to \$600,000.

Up to \$150,000 of grant funding

Up to \$250,000 of grant funding.

Between \$50,000 and \$500,000.

STATE**Colorado****GRANT****Export Accelerator Program****DESCRIPTION**

Supports small and medium-sized business through funds to offset international business development and marketing costs.

QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible, a company must: be an Advanced Industry company, must have less than 200 employees, be new to export or expanding to a new export market, have its headquarters located in Colorado or at least 50% of its employees based in Colorado, have at least two years of domestic sales experience, have a commercialized product or service that is ready to be exported, must show a profit during the last fiscal year, must apply directly to grant program (no third parties).

AMOUNT

\$15,000 per business to reimburse for costs associated with projects.

Connecticut**Growth Company Grant**

Builds on the success of Connecticut's early-stage companies and offers support for strategic projects and customer acquisition.

Focus on business sectors and companies with the highest growth potential.

\$25,000 per company, and requires a one-third match from external, non-state sources.

Technology Talent Bridge (TTB) Internship Program

A grant opportunity for Connecticut small businesses to provide funding for the hire of student interns.

Participating businesses must be at least one year old and registered in Connecticut. Companies that receive the grant must be based in Connecticut and willing to maintain residence for the duration of the project contract.

Grants will be up to \$25,000 per project to compensate the intern and a 50 percent match is required by the company.

Small Business Express Program

Through state programs, small businesses can access direct funding, including matching grant funds, from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and Connecticut Innovations (CI).

An established small business may apply for this funding so long as it employs no more than 100 employees, has operations in Connecticut or is planning to relocate operations to Connecticut, has been registered to conduct business for at least 12 months, and is in good standing with the payment of all state and local taxes.

\$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 matching grant funds.

STATE**GRANT****DESCRIPTION****QUALIFICATIONS****AMOUNT****Connecticut**

[Manufacturing Innovation Fund Voucher Program](#)

Provides Connecticut companies with access to the equipment and expertise they need to become more efficient, productive, and profitable.

Registered Connecticut manufacturing companies or allied service providers.

Vouchers up to \$50,000 for the purchase of specialized equipment or expertise that will improve operations.

DC

[We Aspire: Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Builder Grant](#)

Funding to further develop and enhance the resource mix available to We Aspire clients.

Applicants may be DC-based businesses, DC-based non-profits, or teams of entrepreneurs seeking an organization to serve as a fiscal sponsor to support their work under the grant.

Between \$5,000 and \$50,000.

Delaware

[Workforce Training Grant](#)

Help fund customized training for eligible Delaware entities.

Must be able to demonstrate a business need for the training. Training programs should be related to new and innovative processes or programs, machinery, or technology-related upgrades.

Up to \$100,000 per project.

[Delaware Technical Innovation Program](#)

Offers funding transition grants to companies that have received a Phase I (SBIR/STTR) federal award and have submitted a Phase II application through which lead to innovative new products, jobs, and revenue to Delaware.

Companies must have received a Phase I (SBIR/STTR) federal award and have submitted a Phase II application.

Funding varies.

Florida

[Florida High Tech Corridor Council](#)

Matching grant funds for collaborative research projects between local industry partners and USF researchers, including SBIR/STTR funded projects.

The industry partner must be a for-profit company located within 23-county Corridor region.

Up to \$150,000 in matching grant funds.

STATE

GRANT

DESCRIPTION

QUALIFICATIONS

AMOUNT



Florida

Trade Grants Program
through Enterprise Florida

Five different grants available to help Florida companies grow their export sales through participation in overseas international trade shows. The grants offset trade show booth costs and enable them to exhibit in trade shows that Enterprise Florida participates in, as well as other approved trade shows and exhibitions.

Eligibility varies between the five different grants.

Funding varies.



Hawaii

Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research Program

Provides matching grants to help companies further the development of new products to solve critical issues.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR grants or contracts to qualify for the state matching grant program.

Provides up to 50% match for companies receiving SBIR awards.

Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP)

Provides Hawaii manufacturers assistance in controlling costs, making sure employees are well trained, and securing the latest technology to grow their business.

Businesses must conduct manufacturing activities in the state.

Up to a 20% reimbursement (up to \$100,000) on qualified expenses.



Idaho

Idaho State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) Grant

Funding for qualifying Idaho companies for international marketing campaigns to export their products.

Participants must meet SBA eligibility requirements to participate in STEP funded programs.

Individual awards ranging from \$2,000 up to \$10,000.



Illinois

REM Program

Awards matching grants to Illinois organizations and businesses to accomplish recycling market expansion and waste reduction goals, while demonstrating public economic benefits.

Any governmental organization, college or university, for-profit or not-for-profit business or organization in Illinois is eligible for funding.

Demonstration Service: \$150,000 (maximum funding); and Implementation Service: \$250,000 (maximum funding).

STATE

GRANT

DESCRIPTION

QUALIFICATIONS

AMOUNT

Indiana



Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF)

Provides assistance to businesses to support training and upgrading the skills of employees.

Each project will be evaluated on its individual merits and with a cost-benefit analysis after it has met the basic requirements as follows: training cost is used to support new capital investment in Indiana and the training cost is used to support the retention or creation of full-time, permanent jobs for Indiana residents at the project location.

Reimbursements (typically 50%) of eligible training costs over a period of two full calendar years from the commencement of the project.

Elevate Ventures Grants

Various grants for Indiana companies in the Ideation Stage—still formulating their product or idea.

Businesses that fit the Elevate Ventures model are startups based in or interested in relocating to Indiana, generally involved in Agriculture, Life Sciences, Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing or Medical Devices, and are in the Ideation, Early or Growth stage of development.

Funding varies based on the grant.

Iowa



Iowa Energy Center Grant Program

The grant program provides grants to eligible applicants for projects that provide a benefit to Iowa ratepayers (defined as a customer who pays for an electric or natural gas utility service in the state of Iowa). Projects must also aid in the implementation of one of the key focus areas of the Iowa Energy Plan.

Iowa businesses, colleges, and universities, and private nonprofit agencies and foundations are eligible to apply.

\$10,000 to \$1,000,000.

Kentucky



SBIR and STTR Matching Program

Kentucky has an aggressive program that matches those federal funds, basically doubling the available capital for a company that innovates in Kentucky.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR or STTR grants to qualify for the state matching grant program.

1:1 dollar match for Phase 1 and Phase 2 SBIR/STTR awards (Phase 1 match available up to \$150,000; Phase 2 up to \$500,000).

STATE



Kentucky

GRANT

Kentucky Export Initiative/
[State Trade Expansion Program \(STEP\)](#)

[New Energy Venture Fund \(KNEV\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

Funding for export-ready US companies seeking to export goods or services of US origin or have at least 51% US content.

Supports the development and commercialization of alternative fuel and renewable energy products, processes, and services across the state.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must meet the small business [eligibility criteria](#) laid out by the US Small Business Administration.

Eligible companies must be Kentucky-based and have 150 or fewer employees, and must be developing/ commercializing alternative fuel and renewable energy products, processes, and services.

AMOUNT

Funding varies.

Up to \$30,000.



Maine

[Maine Technology Institute \(MTI\) Investment Process](#)

[Libra Foundation's Future Fund](#)

MTI offers grants, loans, equity investments, and services to businesses, organizations, and individuals that work within one or more of the seven targeted technology sectors: Biotechnology, Composites & Advanced Materials, Environmental Technologies, Forest Products & Agriculture, Information Technology, Marine Technology & Aquaculture, and Precision Manufacturing.

Aims to capitalize upon the energy and creativity that Maine's young people embody and to combat youth out-migration by supporting initiatives that increase the number of Maine-based professional opportunities.

Open to individuals or groups who introduce ideas that create something new or improve an existing product, service, or process.

Applicants seeking a LFF grant must be between the ages of 18 and 29 and reside in Maine at least 8 months per year. Applicant(s) who are within this age range must collectively represent at least 51% ownership of an entity which owns the business or project.

Grants are awarded on a rolling basis and range from \$5,000 to as much as \$500,000.

Up to \$5,000.

STATE

Maine



GRANT

[Maine Quality Centers Workforce Training Grants](#)

[Libra Foundation's Future Fund](#)

[Maine Quality Centers Workforce Training Grants](#)

DESCRIPTION

MTI offers grants, loans, equity investments, and services to businesses, organizations, and individuals that work within one or more of the seven targeted technology sectors: Biotechnology, Composites & Advanced Materials, Environmental Technologies, Forest Products & Agriculture, Information Technology, Marine Technology & Aquaculture, and Precision Manufacturing.

Aims to capitalize upon the energy and creativity that Maine's young people embody and to combat youth out-migration by supporting initiatives that increase the number of Maine-based professional opportunities.

Customized workforce training grants for Maine employers seeking to locate or expand their operations in Maine or who are interested in providing training to their incumbent workers.

QUALIFICATIONS

Open to individuals or groups who introduce ideas that create something new or improve an existing product, service, or process.

Applicants seeking a LFF grant must be between the ages of 18 and 29 and reside in Maine at least 8 months per year. Applicant(s) who are within this age range must collectively represent at least 51% ownership of an entity which owns the business or project.

Requires a business or industry association to submit a joint application in partnership with a Maine community college.

AMOUNT

Grants are awarded on a rolling basis and range from \$5,000 to as much as \$500,000.

Up to \$5,000.

Covers 50% of the costs to create new training programs or enhance existing ones (requires a direct or in-kind match by the business applicant of 50% of the total project costs).

STATE

Maine



GRANT

[Gorham Savings Bank's Launchpad](#)

DESCRIPTION

Funding to support the growth of Maine businesses and resources needed for them to reach the next level.

QUALIFICATIONS

The contest is open to legally registered Maine based businesses or legal residents of the United States and the State of Maine who are 18 years of age or older with a proposed idea or product.

AMOUNT

\$50,000 grand prize, plus a separate package of a \$10,000 cash grant and \$10,000 in donated services.

[Top Gun](#)

Designed for the entrepreneur with a desire to grow his/her business and achieve long-term success through the use of the right tools, resources, and related mentorship.

Participants in the program are competitively selected, promising entrepreneurs. All ages and experience levels are welcome to apply.

\$25,000 grant to the winner of its grand finale showcase.

Maryland



[University of Maryland's Industrial Partnership](#)

Promotes the development and commercialization of products and processes through industry/university research partnerships. MIPS provides matching funds to help Maryland companies pay for the university research.

Startup firms, small firms, and out-of-state companies may apply.

Maximum of \$100,000 per year for large and small companies and \$90,000 for startup firms.

[Maryland Technology Internship Program \(MTIP\)](#)

Administered by University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and funded by the State of Maryland, the program offers financial assistance to technology-based businesses, as well as state and local agencies, to hire more interns.

Internship funding is available to technology-based businesses and state and local agencies offering paid internships. Preference will be given to smaller businesses and employers seeking interns to fill technical and creative roles that require science, technology, engineering, and/or math (STEM) skills.

Employers may be reimbursed up to 50% of an intern's wages, up to \$3,000 annually per intern.

[Partnership for Workforce Quality \(PWQ\)](#)

Provides matching training grants and support services targeted to improve the competitive position of small and mid-sized manufacturing and technology companies.

Applicants must be a Maryland employer with a minimum of 10 full-time employees.

Employers who qualify for the Program may be reimbursed for up to 50% of qualified direct costs of worker training.

STATE

Maryland



GRANT

[Advantage Maryland \(MEDAAF\)](#)

[ExportMD Program](#)

[Economic Development Opportunities Fund \(Sunny Day\)](#)

[Milestone Achievement Program \(MAP\)](#)

[Massachusetts Next Generation Initiative \(MassNextGen\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

Funding to support economic development initiatives in priority funding areas of the state.

Helps to offset some of the costs of marketing internationally for Maryland’s small and mid-sized companies.

Supports extraordinary economic development opportunities that create and retain employment as well as create significant capital investments.

Designed to address the needs of early-stage life sciences companies by providing grant funding to execute critical, value-creating technical milestones.

The MassNextGen is a five year commitment to ensure greater gender parity in the next generation of life science entrepreneurs.

QUALIFICATIONS

Projects must be within [Priority Funding Areas](#) and eligible industry sectors.

To qualify, a company: must have business operations in Maryland and be in good standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, must be in existence for at least one year, and is a “small business” as defined by the SBA.

Projects must generate significant jobs in areas of high unemployment. Projects must be consistent with the state’s strategic economic development plan.

Applicants must be a for-profit corporation, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, or partnership located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which is registered to do business in Massachusetts, and in good standing.

Open to women-led early-stage life science companies.

AMOUNT

Funding varies.

Up to \$5,000 in reimbursement for expenses associated with an international marketing project.

Participants must provide a minimum capital investment of at least five times the amount of the Sunny Day assistance.

Awards of up to \$200,000 in non-dilutive grant funding.

Funding varies.

Massachusetts



STATE



Massachusetts

GRANT

[Massachusetts Transition and Growth Program \(MassTAG\)](#)

[MassTech Intern Partnership \(MTIP\) Program](#)

[MassVentures START Program](#)

[Workforce Training Fund Express Program](#)

[Workforce Training Fund General Program](#)

DESCRIPTION

The MassTAG program will provide grant funding to encourage companies to establish operations in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the world’s leading ecosystem for life sciences innovation and growth.

Provides stipends to digital technology companies that are starting and scaling-up across Massachusetts to directly support internships for Massachusetts college and graduate students.

The SBIR Targeted Technologies (START) program helps growing Massachusetts-based companies commercialize technologies developed under SBIR and STTR contracts.

Businesses with 100 or fewer employees that contribute to the Workforce Training Fund are eligible to apply for an Express Grant.

Employers, employer organizations, labor organizations, and training providers are encouraged to apply for funds to train current and newly hired workers.

QUALIFICATIONS

Open to companies within the life sciences sectors, including: agricultural biotechnology, bioinformatics/software, CRO/CMO, diagnostics, drug discovery, medical devices, regenerative medicine, professional services, RNAi, technology for life sciences.

In order to be eligible, companies must be headquartered in Massachusetts, have 100 or fewer employees, hire a talented **eligible** intern, and pay the intern as a W-2 employee with required payroll withholdings.

All START awards are contingent on state funding.

Massachusetts businesses with 100 or fewer total employees in Massachusetts and labor organizations may apply. In order to qualify, businesses must pay into the Workforce Training Fund. All for-profit companies pay into the fund.

Businesses of all sizes are eligible.

AMOUNT

Funding varies.

Companies can be reimbursed for up to 50% of the intern’s hourly wage up to \$8 per hour for a total of \$3,200/year per individual intern.

Program grants range from \$100,000 to \$500,000 depending on the strength of commercialization efforts.

Grant funds are limited to \$30,000 per company per calendar year and \$3,000 per employee per course.

Grants up to \$250,000.

STATE**Michigan****GRANT**

[Michigan Business Development Program \(MBDP\)](#)

[MATch Energy Grant](#)

[PlanetM Startup Grants](#)

[Emerging Technologies Fund \(ETF\)](#)

[Accelerate Michigan](#)

[NEIdeas](#)

DESCRIPTION

Funding to businesses for highly competitive projects in Michigan that create jobs and/or provide investment.

Provides matching funds to eligible Michigan small businesses and university researchers applying for advanced energy- and transportation-related federal funding.

Separated into two different categories, these grants encourage mobility startups to test their technologies in Michigan in partnership with communities or at Michigan's state-of-the-art testing facilities.

Designed to expand funding opportunities for Michigan technology-based companies in the federal innovation research and development arena by providing match dollars to eligible SBIR or STTR proposals.

Supports entrepreneurs who are taking risks and driving innovation in high-tech industries.

Celebrates existing business in the cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park—rewarding those with the best ideas for growth.

QUALIFICATIONS

Available to eligible businesses that create qualified new jobs and/or make qualified new investment in Michigan.

Eligibility varies.

Eligibility varies.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR or STTR grants to qualify for the state matching grant program.

Competition open to businesses at any stage.

For existing for-profit businesses physically located and operating in the cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park. An 'existing' business is one that is at least three years old by the application deadline.

AMOUNT

Funding varies.

\$30,000 to \$50,000.

Funding varies.

Will match SBIR/STTR awards in the amounts of \$25,000 for Phase I and up to \$125,000 for Phase II proposals.

Up to \$500,000

Awards of \$10,000 each to 26 businesses.

STATE**Michigan****GRANT**

[The Michigan Corporate Relations Network \(MCRN\) Small Company Innovation Program \(SCIP\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

Provides funding to Michigan small businesses to help cover the cost of conducting a research project at any state of Michigan public university.

QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible, applicants must be an existing Michigan company (LARA registered), with significant business operations in the state and plans to remain and grow in Michigan.

AMOUNT

Provides matching funds up to \$40,000.

Minnesota

[Innovation Voucher Award Program](#)

Funding to assist small businesses in purchasing technical assistance and services necessary to advance research, development or commercialization of new or innovative products and services.

Business must be headquartered in or relocating its headquarters and/or operations to Minnesota, and the business must have 40 or fewer employees including owner(s), with at least 51% of employees and payroll in Minnesota.

\$5,000 to \$25,000.

[Minnesota Job Creation Fund](#)

Financial incentives to new and expanding businesses that meet certain job creation and capital investment targets.

Available to businesses engaged in manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, technology-related industries, and other eligible activities.

Funding varies.

[DEED Training Grant Programs](#)

Funding to offset training-related expenses incurred by business, industry, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions to meet current and future workforce needs.

Criteria varies based on program.

Up to \$400,000.

Missouri

[Missouri TechLaunch](#)

Designed to help high-tech entrepreneurs overcome the principal financing challenges of launching new start-ups that leverage discoveries and talent at Missouri's world-class public and private universities and other research organizations.

A Missouri-based start-up company (or company relocating its headquarters and operations to Missouri) that meets the required criteria.

Amounts vary, but individual awards will not exceed \$100,000.

STATE



GRANT

[Seed Capital Co-Investment Program](#)

DESCRIPTION

MTC’s Seed Capital Co-Investment program (SeedCap) is designed to accelerate private investment in Missouri-based start-up companies and to increase the overall investment impact of that third-party investment. Through this program, MTC will award seed capital funds that match other capital investments.

QUALIFICATIONS

A Missouri-based start-up company (or company relocating its headquarters and operations to Missouri) that meets the required criteria.

AMOUNT

Amounts vary, but individual awards will not exceed \$500,000.

[Arch Grants](#)

Funding to support entrepreneurs who locate their early-stage businesses in St. Louis.

Competition is open to: idea stage to pre-Series A companies of all industries with an innovative product/solution. Applicants must have a scalable business model and an interest in St. Louis and helping its startup ecosystem grow and thrive.

\$50,000 equity-free cash grants and pro bono support services.



Montana

[The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program \(BSTF\) Job Creation Fund](#)

Funding to local and tribal governments in the form of grants or loans to assist basic sector businesses in creating good paying jobs for Montana residents.

Eligible Assisted Business must create at least one net new eligible job in Montana and pay an average weekly wage that meets or exceeds the lesser of 170% of Montana’s current minimum wage.

The maximum grant or loan award is up to \$7,500 for each eligible new job created (Match required is \$1 for every \$2 awarded)

[Montana SBIR/ STTR Matching Funds Program](#)

Assists technology-based Montana companies by providing additional funding that can be used for technology development or other uses during the time that the company is working on a SBIR or STTR project with a federal agency.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR or STTR grants to qualify for the state matching grant program.

Grants of up to \$60,000 are available on a yearly basis.

STATE

Montana



GRANT

[Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology \(MBRCT\)](#)

[Indian Equity Fund \(IEF\) Small Business Grant](#)

[Montana STEP Grant](#)

DESCRIPTION

Provides a predictable and stable source of funding for research and commercialization projects in Montana. MBRCT encourages economic development through investment in research projects that have a clear path to commercialization.

Assists startup or expanding Native American businesses in Montana.

Funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration, helps new and experienced exporters with expanding into new international markets.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifying criteria for each project includes: the potential to diversify or add value to a traditional basic industry of the state's economy, promise for enhancing technology-based sectors or commercial development of discoveries, employs or takes advantage of existing research and commercialization strengths, has a realistic and achievable project design, employs an innovative technology, and is located in Montana.

The funds are available to enrolled members of Montana's federally recognized tribes in Montana and to enrolled members of the Little Shell Tribe residing in Montana. All applications must include documentation of tribal enrollment in the form of a Certified Indian Blood (CIB) Form or tribal ID.

Eligibility varies.

AMOUNT

Grant awards range from less than \$20,000 to up to \$500,000.

Awards for individual businesses can be up to \$14,000 with a minimum dollar to dollar cash or in-kind match (\$1:\$1).

50% reimbursement of the cost of international marketing activities (up to \$30,000 per year).

STATE**Nebraska****GRANT**

[Nebraska Academic Research and Development Grant](#)

[Nebraska Innovation Fund Prototype Grants](#)

[Nebraska Small Business Innovation / Research / Small Business Tech Transfer \(SBIR/STTR\) Grant Program](#)

[Customized Job Training \(CJT\) Grant Program](#)

DESCRIPTION

Offers Nebraska businesses a matching competitive grant for research and development activities done in conjunction with a Nebraska college or university.

A matching grant that provides financial assistance for product development to businesses operating in Nebraska.

A matching grant that provides financial assistance to Nebraska businesses that have received a Federal SBIR or STTR grant.

Provides assistance for employee training to businesses that create or retain quality jobs in Nebraska.

QUALIFICATIONS

Any Nebraska based for-profit business regardless of employment size may request financial assistance to pay Nebraska public, private colleges, university educational institutions or faculty for academic research and product development undertaken on their behalf.

Open to any Nebraska-based corporation, limited liability company, partnership, registered limited partnership, sole proprietorship, business trust, or other entity with fewer than 500 employees engaged in non-retail primary industries adding value to products or processes in Nebraska.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR or STTR grants to qualify for the state matching grant program.

All Nebraska for-profit businesses who sell products and/or services to markets outside of the state are eligible for CJT grants.

AMOUNT

Up to \$400,000.

Up to \$150,000 per project.

Phase 0 grants can reimburse for up to \$5,000 per project; Phase 1 and 2 grants will match federal SBIR/STTR awards up to \$100,000 or 65% of the federal grant (whichever is less).

Reimbursements per job created or worker improved; these amounts vary based on a number of criteria.

STATE

Nebraska

GRANT

[Intern Nebraska Grant Program \(InternNE\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

Financial assistance for businesses that create new internships in Nebraska.

QUALIFICATIONS

Business and organizations that may receive support from an InternNE grant must: Be located in Nebraska and be a for-profit company or a non-profit.

AMOUNT

InternNE grants can reimburse up to a 50% of an intern's wages, up to \$5,000 per internship.

[Nebraska State Trade Expansion Program \(STEP\)](#)

Helps increase the number of small businesses that export, and increases export value for those already doing so.

Applicants must operate a business in Nebraska to process, manufacture, and/or distribute a product, or provide an exportable service. They must be in business for at least one year, and they must qualify as a small business entity according to the SBA.

Reimbursement grants of up to 25 percent of eligible expenses for projects or activities.

Nevada

[Silver State Works initiative](#)

The Silver State Works initiative was designed to create an opportunity for employers to help strengthen Nevada's economy while receiving incentives to hire pre-screened qualified workers to staff their businesses.

For an employer to be eligible to participate, the employer must have an established, verified, paid-to-date Unemployment Insurance (UI) account, as well as a valid business license if required by the city or county in which the employer conducts business.

Employers can get up to \$2,000 per employee in incentive reimbursements or training allowances for new hires.

[Nevada's State Trade Expansion Program Grant \(STEP\)](#)

The purpose of the grant is to assist Nevada Eligible Small Business Concerns (ESBCs) to enter or expand into export markets.

Competitive applicants will meet all qualifications as set forth by GOED and the SBA and will present a clear and effective plan to utilize the award to achieve actual export sales within six to twelve months of completion of the activity.

Award amounts typically will be between \$2,500 and \$10,000.

STATE**New
Hampshire****GRANT****Annual Flatley
Challenge Startup
Competition****The Manchester
Young
Professionals
Network (MYPN)
New Hampshire
Startup Challenge****New Hampshire
Innovation
Research Center****The New
Hampshire Job
Training Fund****DESCRIPTION**

The Flatley Challenge is intended to stimulate the development and growth of early-stage companies by providing them both free incubation space plus the opportunity to interact with world class companies already resident at Gateway Hills.

A business plan competition that connects entrepreneurs and social innovators with seed capital and key services to help them on their path toward the creation of value, sustainable growth and sustainability.

Funding to foster innovation within New Hampshire by helping small businesses develop new products and processes, increasing their competitiveness and ultimately the number of quality jobs in the state.

Provides a 50/50 cash match grant for customized training of a company's employees.

QUALIFICATIONS

Open to startups and emerging businesses in the fields of IT, communications, data storage, connectivity, robotics, clean tech, medical devices, digital health, mobile app design, life sciences and other leading-edge technologies.

Open to any granite state resident with an idea. Applicants must be a New Hampshire resident and an owner or founder of a business. Additionally, startups must be for-profit, have been in existence for less than three years, have raised under \$100,000 in funding, and generated under \$100,000 in past year revenue.

Applications are particularly encouraged from companies in the following areas: Biomedical/Biotechnology, Engineering, Information Technology, Life Science, Materials Science, and Manufacturing, excluding clinical studies.

The Job Training Fund is available to businesses located in New Hampshire and businesses intending to locate in the State, and who pay quarterly taxes into the NH Unemployment Trust Fund.

AMOUNT

Free rent for one year for up to 5,000 square feet of office and/or lab space at the Nashua Technology Park and/or Nashua Office Park at Gateway Hills, and up to \$10,000 in fit-up, connectivity and related costs.

Cash and In-kind services valued at over \$55,000.

Grants up to \$75,000 per company.

From \$750 to \$100,000.

STATE

New Jersey



GRANT

Customized Training Grants

The Garden State Growth Zone (GSGZ) Business Improvement Incentive (BII)

DESCRIPTION

The Competitive Customized Training Grants aim to upgrade the skills of workers and enhance your ability to remain viable in New Jersey.

Part of a three-year pilot program designed to enhance the vibrancy of commercial corridors through business attraction, retention, and building improvements in the five GSGZs: Atlantic City, Camden, Passaic, Paterson, and Trenton.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must be an individual employer, an employer organization, a labor organization, a community-based organization, an educational or training institution, or a consortium made up of one or more of these institutions needing to provide customized training to upgrade the job-related skills of workers employed in New Jersey.

The applicant must be located in an eligible commercial area within their respective GSGZ, which will be determined by the city.

AMOUNT

Maximum grant awards are set as follows: businesses with 250 employees or less are eligible for up to \$50,000; businesses with more than 250 employees are eligible for up to \$75,000. The maximum consortium award will be \$125,000.

Grants of up to 50% of total project cost, grant amount not to exceed \$20,000, to businesses operating within the first-floor of a commercial corridor in the GSGZ that are planning to make building improvements, with a minimum project cost of \$5,000.

STATE

New Jersey



GRANT

[New Jersey Economic Development Authority \(NJEDA\) NJ Ignite Program](#)

DESCRIPTION

A New Jersey incubator and collaborative workspace rent initiative designed to foster the development of young companies in New Jersey.

QUALIFICATIONS

Startups applying must employ at least one full-time employee (but less than 10 employees total), be less than three years old, and have less than \$1M in gross sales in the last 12 months.

AMOUNT

A \$500K grant program where the EDA will finance 2, 4 or 6 months of a technology or life science company's rent at an NJ approved facility if the approved facility has agreed to match the grant on a 1:2 basis.

[Skills Partnership Program](#)

The Skills Partnership training grants offer employee training customized to meet your needs.

The grant is open to: individual businesses in New Jersey, and business organizations, labor organizations, or community organizations.

Up to \$1,500 per trainee.

New Mexico



[New Mexico Innovation Vouchers](#)

Competitive grants designed to enable early-stage science and technology companies to overcome business development barriers.

Applicants must meet the following qualifications: must be a New Mexico based science or technology company and with a NM address, must have an EIN#, and must be associated with an [approved program](#). Companies are limited to one award per calendar year and no more than three awards over the lifetime of the company.

Individual awards are capped at \$2,000.

[New Mexico Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) Matching Grant](#)

Provides matching funds to New Mexican companies that have been granted federal SBIR awards. The purpose of these funds is to assist businesses in achieving development and commercialization goals.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR grants to qualify for the state matching grant program.

Funding varies.

STATE

New Mexico



GRANT

[Job Training Incentive Program \(JTIP\)](#)

[The Venture Acceleration Fund \(VAF\)*](#)

[Native American Venture Acceleration Fund Awards \(NAVAF\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

Funds classroom and on-the-job training for newly-created jobs in expanding or relocating businesses for up to 6 months.

The VAF fund seeks to improve the economy of Northern New Mexico by providing a unique source of funding to companies who are on track to add jobs, grow revenues, or attract follow-on investment. ***Note** that companies selected for VAF do not give up any equity by accepting the funding. *Repayment is made in the form of providing mutually agreed upon support to northern New Mexico's startup community.*

The Fund was created to boost employment and diversify the economy in Northern New Mexico, and will make awards to tribally owned companies for critical technical services that lead to leveraged revenue, job creation and diversification.

QUALIFICATIONS

Businesses eligible for consideration include: companies that manufacture or produce a product in New Mexico, non-retail service companies that export a substantial percentage of services out of state (50% or more of revenues and/or customer base), and certain green industries.

Eligibility requirements vary each year.

Eligibility requirements include: the business enterprise must be at least 51% owned and controlled by a tribal member, a tribal member or corporation of the Pueblos of Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Santa Clara, Pojoaque, Taos, San Ildefonso, Tesuque, Cochiti, or Jemez, company must be located in the counties of Sandoval, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, San Miguel, Mora, Rio Arriba or Taos.

AMOUNT

Reimbursement of 50-75% of employee wages.

Award size varies each year.

Awards up to \$20,000.

STATE



New York

GRANT

[Empire State Economic Development Fund \(EDF\)](#)

[Economic Development Purposes Grants](#)

[Global NY Fund Grant Fund Program](#)

[Regional Council Capital Fund Program \(ESD Grants-REDC\)](#)

[One North Carolina Small Business Program](#)

[North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#)

DESCRIPTION

Financial assistance for projects that promote New York State’s economic health by facilitating job creation and/or retention, or increased business activity in the state.

Funding is for economic development initiatives and projects that create or retain jobs, generate increased economic activity and improve the economic and social viability and vitality of local communities.

Global NY Fund provides grants and loans to help New York State’s small and medium-sized businesses go global and create new jobs.

Capital grant funding is available for capital-based economic development projects intended to create or retain jobs; prevent, reduce or eliminate unemployment and underemployment; and/or increase business or economic activity in a community or Region.

Matching funds for North Carolina businesses who have received a federal Phase I SBIR Program or STTR award.

NCBiotech offers several funding programs designed to fill gaps in technology development and company growth.

QUALIFICATIONS

Eligible projects include businesses involved in industrial, manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, or research and development, high technology, service and other non-retail commercial enterprises.

Eligible applicants include for-profit businesses, not-for-profit corporations, business improvement districts, local development corporations, etc.

Open to New York State companies and non-profit organizations seeking to create or expand direct exports.

Eligible applicants include for-profit businesses, not-for-profit corporations, business improvement districts, local development corporations, etc.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR or STTR grants to qualify for the state matching grant program.

Open to innovative North Carolina life science companies.

AMOUNT

Award amount undisclosed.

Award amount undisclosed.

Grants of up to \$25,000.

Award amount undisclosed.

Funding varies.

\$75,000 to \$500,000 in company grant funding.



North Carolina

STATE



**North
Carolina**

GRANT

[NC Idea Micro](#)

DESCRIPTION

Small amounts of funding to entrepreneurs who are testing a big, new business idea.

QUALIFICATIONS

Companies must meet [specific criteria](#).

AMOUNT

Up to \$10,000.

[NC Idea Investment Crowdfunding Grant](#)

Funding for companies ready to expand their businesses via investment crowdfunding on Localstake NC.

Companies must meet [specific criteria](#).

Grants of \$5,000 each; \$2,000 for will be used to pay for platform fees with the remainder directed toward supporting marketing materials and other related expenses.



**North
Dakota**

[Renewable Energy Program](#)

Promote the growth of North Dakota’s renewable energy industries through research, development, marketing, and education.

An application may be submitted by any person, corporation, partnership, cooperative, association, cooperating agricultural producers organized through a limited liability corporation or cooperative, or other appropriate entity, or consortium of such parties.

Grants may not exceed the legislative appropriation and no one applicant may receive \$500,000. All projects must generate matching investment.

[Operation Intern](#)

Operation Intern is designed to expand the number of internship, work experience and apprenticeship positions with North Dakota employers in selected targeted industries: energy, advanced manufacturing, value-added agriculture, tourism, and technology-based businesses.

Priority will also be given to new startups, companies who have never participated in the program, and new internship and apprenticeship positions.

Employers can access \$3,000 of matching funds for each student. The maximum amount of matching funds an employer can receive per biennium is \$30,000. Employers will be limited to a maximum of 5 interns each funding round.

STATE**North
Dakota****Ohio****GRANT****North Dakota
(ND) Innovate****JobsOhio
Economic
Development
Grant****Ohio International
Market Access
Grant for
Exporters (IMAGE)****JobsOhio
Workforce Grant****DESCRIPTION**

Through expert guidance from business coaches, certified entrepreneurial centers and extensive leadership courses, Innovate ND provides the entrepreneurial community of North Dakota the resources needed to help turn an innovative idea into a profitable business.

The program requires the creation of jobs within a specified period of time and may consider the amount of proceeds per job created. JobsOhio may consider providing assistance for eligible projects that improve operational efficiencies or production expansion, along with the retention of jobs.

Designed to offset Ohio small business' costs associated with international marketing initiatives, including trade shows and missions, marketing materials and website translation, and export education programs.

The program requires job creation and training of employees within a specified period of time and may consider the amount of proceeds per job created and employees trained. JobsOhio may consider providing assistance for eligible projects that improve operational efficiencies or production expansion, along with the retention of jobs.

QUALIFICATIONS

Entrepreneurs/businesses participating in Innovate ND must meet the following requirements: be innovative in the way they do business, serve a market outside of their initial community, and be based in North Dakota.

The program includes projects by companies engaged in JobsOhio's targeted industries and business functions. JobsOhio will set a wage floor based on multiple wage considerations. Ineligible projects include but are not limited to retail and other population driven businesses.

Open to licensed businesses in Ohio that manufacture, assemble and/or distribute a product or provide an exportable service.

The program includes projects by companies engaged in JobsOhio's targeted industries and business functions. JobsOhio will set a wage floor based on multiple wage considerations. Ineligible projects include but are not limited to retail and other population driven businesses.

AMOUNT

Up to \$2,500 for Phase-1, up to \$5,000 for Phase-2, and up to \$16,500 for Phase-3.

JobsOhio will set a wage floor based on multiple wage considerations.

A 50 percent reimbursement up to \$12,500 per fiscal year for qualifying activities.

Funding varies.

STATE

Ohio



GRANT

[Ohio Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program](#)

DESCRIPTION

Aims to fill a gap in current workforce development programs by providing needed training dollars to Ohio’s incumbent workforce through a unique public-private partnership.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must be a for-profit entity in a state-designated targeted industry, with a facility in Ohio that’s been in operation for the 12 months prior to the application submittal. Targeted industries are: Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace and Aviation, Automotive,, BioHealth, Corporate Headquarters, Energy, Financial Services, Food Processing, Information Technology and Services, Polymers and Chemicals, Logistics, or Research and Development.

AMOUNT

Each Applicant will be eligible for up to \$2,000 in reimbursement for each eligible incumbent employee per Fiscal Year and up to \$25,000 in total assistance per Fiscal Year.

Oklahoma



[Quality Jobs Incentive Program](#)

The program promotes job growth and helps improve your company’s bottom line by injecting cash back into your business as you expand and create new jobs in Oklahoma.

Companies must achieve an average wage threshold and \$2.5 million in new annual payrolls within three years to qualify. Companies must offer basic health insurance to employees. In some cases, qualifying companies must also attain 75% out-of-state sales.

Program provides quarterly cash payments up to 5% of new payrolls for up to 10 years.

[Small Employer Quality Jobs Program](#)

This program provides quarterly incentive payments to a qualifying small employer (500 employees or less).

Qualifying payrolls must be attributable to annual salaries that are at least 110% of the average wage of the county in which the jobs are located. Companies must attain 75% out-of-state sales.

Quarterly payments may be as much as 5% of new taxable payroll for up to 7 years.

STATE**Oklahoma****GRANT****21st Century Quality Jobs Program****DESCRIPTION**

The program is designed to attract growth industries and sectors to Oklahoma in the 21st century through a policy of rewarding businesses with a highly skilled, knowledge-based workforce.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must be within a qualifying industry to receive benefits. The list of qualifying industries includes all those of the regular Quality Jobs program (with the exception of Oil & Gas Companies), and an enhanced list from legislation. Applicants in some industries are required to have and maintain an out-of-state sales threshold of 50%.

AMOUNT

May pay qualifying businesses cash back, up to 10 percent of payroll, for up to ten years for the creation of 10 jobs with an average wage of \$94,000 annually or higher.

Oregon**Export Promotion Program**

Funding to help companies participate in international trade shows and trade missions to help them enter into new international markets or expand their visibility in existing markets.

Export Promotion Grants are awarded to eligible small businesses that meet the US SBA's definition and can self-certify their eligibility. Small businesses are generally defined as those with 500 or fewer employees. The applicant must promote their own product or service that is export ready and is Oregon manufactured, processed, or value-added.

Export Promotion Grants reimburse up to 50% of a company's eligible expenses up to \$10,000.

Business Oregon's SBIR/STTR Matching Grants

Business Oregon's matching grants provide funds to help fill gaps in what the federal grant will cover and assist businesses build on projects and advance new technologies.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR or STTR grants to qualify for the state matching grant program.

Up to \$50,000 for companies with a Phase I federal grant award and up to \$100,000 for companies with a Phase II federal award.

Oregon Individual Development Account Initiative (IDAs)

IDAs are matching grants offered to entrepreneurs below a qualifying income threshold. Individuals enrolled in the program must save a specified amount within a certain time frame, then receive a multiple of that amount as a grant to be used for approved business expenses.

Open to qualifying Oregonians with lower incomes who are saving for a defined goal (ie. starting a business).

Funding varies.

STATE**Pennsylvania****GRANT****Alternative and Clean Energy Program (ACE)****Ben Franklin Technology Partners Challenge Grant****Global Access Program (GAP)****Pennsylvania First (PA First)****DESCRIPTION**

Provides financial assistance in the form of grant and loan funds that will be used by eligible applicants for the utilization, development, and construction of alternative and clean energy projects in the state.

Funding for access to capital, business expertise, technology commercialization services to advance the development of new technologies and for the generation, conservation, and transportation of alternative and clean energy.

Designed to enhance the capability of small to mid-sized Pennsylvania companies to increase export sales.

A comprehensive funding tool to facilitate increased investment and job creation within the commonwealth. Competitive projects must offer substantial economic impact, either for the Commonwealth as a whole or for the locality or region in which a business will locate or expand; private match required; job creation/preservation required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Eligible applicants include: businesses, economic development organizations, and political subdivisions.

Open to entrepreneurs, start-up & early-stage companies, established companies, investors, higher education, and research and BFTP alumni companies.

Open to export-ready Pennsylvania companies in good standing, according to SBA standards.

Open to businesses, municipalities, municipal authorities, redevelopment authorities, industrial development authorities or corporations, local development districts.

AMOUNT

Up to \$10,000 for every job projected to be created by the business within 3 years after approval of the grant. Grants for any alternative energy production or clean energy project shall not exceed \$2 million or 30 percent of the total project cost.

Funding varies.

Up to \$5,000 per award period to qualifying Pennsylvania companies to reimburse up to 75% of eligible expenses associated with specific export promotion activities.

Funding undisclosed.

STATE

Pennsylvania

GRANT

[Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program \(PennTAP\)](#)

[Renewable Energy Program \(REP\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

Helps Pennsylvania companies improve their competitiveness, by providing a limited amount of free technical assistance to resolve specific technical questions or needs, while it facilitates connections to other relevant information, resources and/or programs.

Financial assistance in the form of grant and loan funds to promote the use of alternative energy (geothermal technologies and wind energy projects) in Pennsylvania.

QUALIFICATIONS

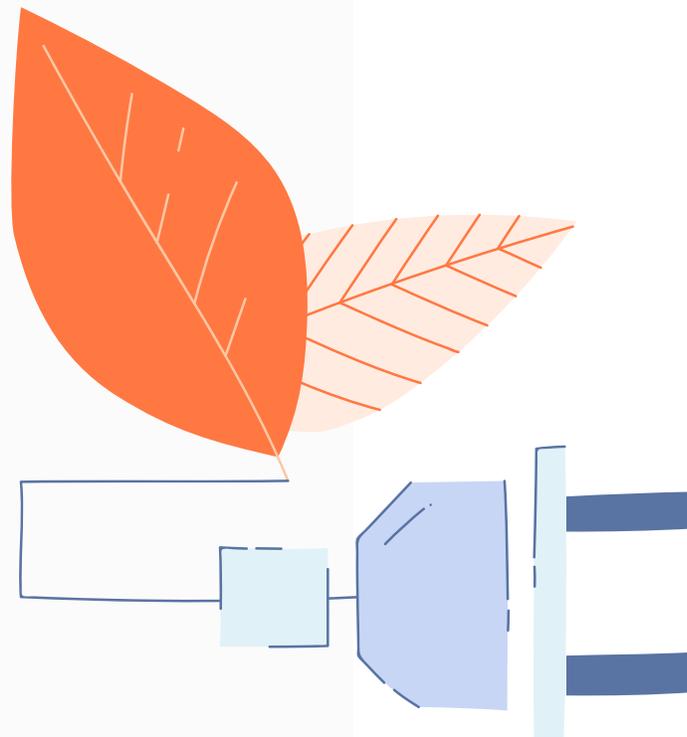
Open to Pennsylvania-based businesses and entrepreneurs.

Open to a business, an economic development organization, an individual (geothermal only), or a political subdivision.

AMOUNT

Funding varies.

Grants for component manufacturers of renewable energy generation equipment up to \$5,000 for every new job created. Grants for wind energy generation or distribution projects up to \$1 million, or 30 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. Grants for planning and feasibility studies up to 50 percent of the total cost of the planning project or \$175,000, whichever is less.



STATE

Pennsylvania



GRANT

Solar Energy Program (SEP)

DESCRIPTION

Provides financial assistance in the form of grant and loan funds to promote the generation and use of solar energy and the manufacture or assembly of solar equipment in Pennsylvania.

QUALIFICATIONS

Open to businesses, economic development organizations, and political subdivisions.

AMOUNT

Grants for component manufacturers of solar energy generation equipment up to \$5,000 for every new job created within three years after approval of the loan. Grants for solar energy generation or distribution projects shall not exceed \$1 million or \$1.50 per watt, whichever is less.

WEDnetPA

Provides qualified employers training funds for new and existing employees. Funding can be used for a wide range of incumbent worker training, categorized as either Essential Skills Training or Advanced Technology Training.

Employees to be trained must be residents of and employed in Pennsylvania, must earn at least 150% of current federal minimum wage, excluding benefits, and must be permanent, full-time employees and eligible for full-time benefits.

Up to \$450 per trainee, per year, for Essential Skills Training. Up to \$850 per trainee, per year, for Advanced Technology Training.

Rhode Island



Innovation Voucher Program

Funding to help Rhode Island businesses unlock R&D capacity.

Open to Rhode Island small businesses that have fewer than 500 employees. Funded projects must be conducted in Rhode Island in partnership with a Rhode Island knowledge provider or at the recipient's manufacturing facility.

Up to \$50,000 to fund R&D assistance from a Rhode Island university, research center, or medical center.

STATE



Rhode Island

GRANT

Industry Cluster Grants

The Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council's (STAC) Innovate RI Small Business Fund

State Trade Expansion Program (STEP)

DESCRIPTION

Industry Cluster Grants encourage companies to work together to solve problems, exchange ideas, and develop talent.

Provides funding to assist local entrepreneurs and high-growth start-ups.

A national export initiative which makes matching-fund awards to states to assist small businesses in entering and expanding into international markets.

QUALIFICATIONS

Eligibility varies for the Technical Assistance Grant and the Implementation Grant.

Eligibility varies based on the grant.

Matching Grant: Provides grants of up to \$45,000 to recipients of SBIR/STTR Phase I awards and up to \$100,000 to recipients of Phase II awards.
Internship Grant: Provides grants of up to \$3,000 to help companies offset the cost of providing internships to RI residents attending a RI college or university.

A company must meet the following requirements: registered in Rhode Island as a for-profit business and operating in the USA, meet the SBA definition of "small business," been in business for at least one year, has sufficient resources to support international trade growth, is engaged in or wishes to be engaged in the delivery abroad of goods and/or services produced in the United States.

AMOUNT

The Implementation Grant sought must be between \$100,000 and \$500,000, while the Technical Assistance Grant sought must be between \$75,000 and \$250,000.

Application Grant: Provides grants of up to \$3,000 to help small businesses offset the costs associated with preparing a competitive Phase I SBIR/STTR application.

Funding varies based on the award.

STATE**GRANT****DESCRIPTION****QUALIFICATIONS****AMOUNT****Rhode Island****MassChallenge
Rhode Island**

Connects entrepreneurs to a powerful community of resources and support in Rhode Island and regional opportunities in Boston, in addition to our global network of leading corporate partners, policymakers, and innovation leaders.

Open to early-stage startups in Rhode Island.

Up to \$100,000 in cash prizes.

South Carolina**Export Incentives
Program**

Helps small and medium-sized businesses enter new markets and/or increase their exporting activities.

Companies must meet the US SBA's definition of a small business, have been in business for at least two years, currently operating at a profit, headquartered in S.C. or manufacturing in S.C., currently have an export/market-ready product, demonstrate an understanding of the costs associated with exporting and doing business with foreign purchasers, and be in good standing with S.C. Department of Revenue or the Internal Revenue Service.

Funding varies.

**SBIR/STTR Grant
Matching**

Matching funds to client companies that have been granted SBIR or STTR Phase I Awards.

Applicants must have received federal SBIR or STTR grants to qualify for the state matching grant program.

Federal SBIR/STTR grants will be matched dollar for dollar with the Matching Grant, up to a maximum of \$50,000.

**Project
Development
Fund (PDF)**

South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) funding for qualified companies in the SC Launch program that are not affiliated with an academic institution.

Open to early-stage companies.

Up to \$25,000.

STATE**GRANT****DESCRIPTION****QUALIFICATIONS****AMOUNT****South Carolina****Demonstration Grant**

South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) funding for a small business and/or academic partner developing a new product, distribution channel, customer or research.

Early-stage companies or academic institutions in South Carolina.

Up to \$50,000.

Academic Startup Assistance Program (ASAP)

South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) funding for for-profit companies sponsored by an academic institution.

Open to academic startups.

Funding varies.

Acceleration Grant

South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) funding to progress a company towards commercialization and better position the company for an SC Launch, Inc. investment.

Open to established early-stage companies.

Up to \$50,000.

Relocation Assistance Grant

South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) funding to offset costs associated with moving a company to South Carolina.

Open to established, for-profit technology companies relocating to South Carolina.

Funding amounts to be determined and may be milestone-based.

South Dakota**Workforce Development Program**

Funding to help train new and existing employees that require additional skills as the result of company growth.

All training must be technical in nature, new employee training must be the result of growth in the company, not attrition, the wage of the employees before the training begins must be at least \$12.00 per hour, current employee trainees must receive an increase in their wages that is directly attributed to the training, companies must offer employees health insurance that is at least partially paid by the employer.

The funds are awarded on a reimbursement basis, typically \$500 per trainee.

STATE**South Dakota****GRANT****Dakota Seeds****DESCRIPTION**

An innovative internship program that connects students with employers as a way to help fill temporary workforce needs and establish a pipeline for future permanent employment.

QUALIFICATIONS

Companies must be for-profit businesses unless they are involved in scientific research or STEM education, the internship must provide a meaningful work experience, positions must have a link to science, technology (computer science), engineering, mathematics, accounting or manufacturing, students must be paid a minimum wage of \$10.00 per hour.

AMOUNT

Matching funds up to \$2,000 per intern for internships in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

Proof of Concept Program

Funding to conduct research that demonstrates the technical and economic feasibility of an innovation before it is commercialized.

Open to those committed to commercializing an innovation in South Dakota, such as entrepreneurs, universities, existing South Dakota companies and other entities.

Up to \$25,000.

Tennessee**FastTrack Job Training Assistance Program**

The FastTrack grant program is designed to help offset costs companies incur in job training, infrastructure development, and a variety of other expenses associated with expansion and relocation activity.

Eligibility and funding levels determined by the amount of company investment, number of new full-time jobs, wages of new full-time jobs, types of skills and knowledge that must be obtained, and the location of the project.

Funding varies.

STATE**GRANT****DESCRIPTION****QUALIFICATIONS****AMOUNT****Tennessee****SBIR/STTR
Matching Fund
Grants Program**

Funding to advance commercialization efforts via a matching of funding awarded to Tennessee based companies through successful SBIR and STTR applications.

Applicants must have received SBIR or STTR funding. Matching Fund Grant requests should also contribute to the overall economic development of Tennessee and aid in LaunchTN's mission to support entrepreneurship and innovation across the state.

Phase I Match: \$0.50 per \$1 SBIR/STTR for companies with principal businesses in Tier 1 and 2 counties, or \$0.60 per \$1 SBIR/STTR for companies with principal businesses in Tier 3 and 4 counties,

with principal businesses in Tier 3 and 4 counties, female-owned companies, minority-owned companies, veteran-owned companies and companies owned by those with disabilities. Phase II Match: \$0.25 per \$1 SBIR/STTR for all companies.

Utah**Technology
Commercialization
and Innovation
Program (TCIP)**

Competitive grants for small businesses and university teams to accelerate the commercialization of their innovative technologies.

Specializes in assisting companies at the go-to-market phase of the business lifecycle.

Grants from from \$50,000 – \$200,000.

Vermont**The Vermont
Employment
Growth Incentive
(VEGI)**

A performance-based cash incentive (not a tax credit) paid to approved companies for a prospective job and payroll creation in any region of the state and in almost any sector.

Companies looking to earn the incentive must apply to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC), who will determine if the company and project meet statutory requirements. There are no restrictions on the type or size of company that can apply or the number of jobs that must be created.

Funding varies.

**Vermont Training
Program (VTP)**

A flexible, nimble, and strategic workforce development program to enhance the skills of the Vermont workforce and increase the productivity of Vermont employers.

Training projects should focus on a new and/or innovative: product and/or equipment, technology processes market, opportunity significant productivity gain.

Funding varies.

STATE

Vermont



GRANT

[State Trade Expansion Program Grant \(STEP\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

Awarded by the SBA to support Vermont businesses to engage internationally through trade missions, trade shows, and export education.

QUALIFICATIONS

Companies must meet the SBA definition of an 'eligible small business concern.'

AMOUNT

Funding varies. Up to \$50,000.

Virginia



[Virginia Small Business Jobs Grant Fund Program](#)

Designed to give qualified small businesses grants to help offset some of the costs of hiring new employees.

Eligible business sectors include: manufacturing, distribution centers, research and development, information technology services to B2B), inbound call centers.

Awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 per each new full-time position created.

Washington



[State Trade Expansion Program \(STEP\)](#)

Funding for qualified companies new to exporting or expanding into new export markets.

Qualifying companies must: be registered to do business in Washington State, have a Federal Identification Number tied to a Washington address, be in good standing with the Washington State Department of Revenue, be a small business concern (SBC) as defined by SBA criteria, and meet other program criteria, such as being in business for at least one year and ability to demonstrate export readiness.

Up to \$5,000 for export-related expenses (a minimum 25% cash match is required).

West Virginia



[West Virginia First STEP-Next STEP](#)

The West Virginia First STEP-Next STEP provides funding to West Virginia small businesses looking to enter (first step) or expand (next step) in the global marketplace.

Funding varies based on the grant.

The maximum award per funding period is \$15,000 per STEP client limited to three export projects, whichever comes first.

STATE



GRANT

[Wisconsin Fast Forward Grants](#)

[ExporTech Program](#)

[ExporTech Program](#)

[Workforce Training Grant Program](#)

DESCRIPTION

The Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training grant program is designed to help address the crucial need for skilled workers by making funds available for demand-driven workforce training.

The goal of the ExporTech Program is to support the export capabilities of businesses in the state of Wisconsin.

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The program aids businesses in attracting, developing and retaining talent as a part of a business development project. The program provides grant funds to businesses to upgrade or improve the job-related skills of a business's existing and new employees.

QUALIFICATIONS

[Criteria](#) varies based on the grant.

Eligible ExporTech companies must be established businesses operating in Wisconsin that manufacture, process, assemble and/or distribute a product or perform a service with a potential to be exported.

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Eligibility criteria undisclosed.

AMOUNT

Funding varies based on the grant.

Funding varies.

Funding varies.

Grants of 50% of eligible training costs, up to \$5,000 per employee trained.

STATE



GRANT

[SBIR Advance Matching Grant](#)

[Entrepreneurial Micro-Grant \(EMG\) Program](#)

[Global Business Development \(GBD\) Program](#)

DESCRIPTION

Provides state match funding, training, and other resources to Wisconsin businesses to advance the commercialization of SBIR/STTR-funded technology and expedite economic and job creation impact in Wisconsin.

Support business planning and strategy for entrepreneurs and small business owners in the state of Wisconsin.

The goal of the Global Business Development (GBD) Program is to support the export capabilities of businesses in the state of Wisconsin.

QUALIFICATIONS

Companies with a current/recent Phase 1 SBIR/STTR award may be eligible to apply for a Phase 1 Match Grant. Companies with a current/recent Phase 2 SBIR/STTR award may be eligible to apply for a Phase 2 Match Grant.

Open to those starting or expanding a technology-based or research-oriented business or to firms located in Wisconsin that rely on the use of technology. Eligible projects include: development of an SBIR/STTR Phase I or Phase II proposal or other federal funding proposal, development of an SBIR/STTR Phase II Commercialization Plan or a comprehensive business plan, or procurement of a CTC-approved market research study in support of a commercialization or business plan.

Eligible businesses must be an established business operating for not less than one year that manufactures, processes, assembles and/or distributes a product or performs a service with a potential to be exported, is headquartered in Wisconsin or has export-related operations located within the state and provide economic impact to the state, must be new-to-exporting or participating in a market expansion.

AMOUNT

Phase 1 award match: Matches 50% up to \$75K of Phase 1 SBIR or STTR awards. Phase 2 award match: Matches up to \$100K per year for up to 2 years of Phase 2 SBIR/STTR award.

Funding varies.

Funding varies based on grant.

STATE

Wyoming

GRANT

[Kickstart Program](#)

DESCRIPTION

Funding for Wyoming startups with high-growth potential and fewer than 50 employees.

QUALIFICATIONS

Eligible businesses must be headquartered in Wyoming, employ 50 or less people, compliant with ENDOW's 5 economic engines, be scalable, a globally differentiated concept, a defined value proposition, a large target market, potential for IPO or acquisition, and must be committed to seeking additional funding.

AMOUNT

\$5,000-\$50,000 grants.

[SBIR Phase I and Phase II Matching Program](#)

Matching funds for Wyoming companies who receive federal funds through the SBIR or STTR programs.

Applicants must commit to remaining in Wyoming for three years after commercialization of their technology and to seeking additional funding.

Phase 1 Matches: Up to \$100,000 for first-time SBIR Phase 1 awardees, and up to \$70,000 for repeating SBIR Phase 1 awardees. Phase 2 Matches: Up to \$200,000.

[Trade Show and Market Expansion Grant](#)

Helps defray costs for private Wyoming for-profit businesses participating in market expansion activities, such as trade shows and trade missions with the intention of expanding into regional, national or international markets.

Wyoming businesses are eligible to apply for Trade Show and Market Expansion Grant funds if they meet the following criteria: private-sector, Wyoming-based for-profit company wishing to expand into new markets, can demonstrate ability to capitalize on a market expansion activity, can document the event is an appropriate venue for the company.

Reimburses up to 50 percent of approved expenses for a trade show, networking event or trade mission in the United States.

STATE**Wyoming****GRANT**[Wyoming Workforce Development Training Fund](#)**DESCRIPTION**

Funding to help growing Wyoming businesses by deferring much of the training costs during the expansion phase.

QUALIFICATIONS

Eligibility criteria varies based on grant.

AMOUNT

Funding varies based on grant.

*no state grant funding for startups or small businesses available for Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Texas at the time of writing.

Corporate and Non-Profit Grants for Startups

While federal or state funding can be great, award sizes vary greatly and many states lack grant funding for startups entirely. In some cases, corporate grants can help to bridge the funding gap. This kind of money usually comes from big corporations who are looking for a way to give back, while also bringing in some positive PR.

However, it's important to note that the application process for corporate grants is often (though not always) quite different than applying for state or federal funding. Instead of stacks of forms to fill out, applying for a corporate grant often involves some kind of pitch competition or presentation. While this can be a lot of work, the bonus is that you may end up with runner-up prizes, even if you don't win the big award. Below is a list of the best corporate grants available to startup businesses.

CORPORATE /NON-PROFIT GRANTS

DESCRIPTION**QUALIFICATIONS****FUNDING**[National Association for the Self-Employed \(NASE\)](#)

NASE Members can apply for small business grants.

Open to NASE members.

Up to \$4,000.

Fundera's Annual Entrepreneurial Grant, [The Zach Grant](#)

Funding to help budding entrepreneurs grow their businesses.

To apply, applicants must record a 3-minute video answering the question: "Why did you start your own business?" Videos will be judged based on quality, originality, and creativity.

\$2,500 to the best video entry.

CORPORATE /NON-PROFIT GRANTS

DESCRIPTION

QUALIFICATIONS

FUNDING

FedEx Small Business Grant

FedEx annually awards grants of up to \$25,000 to ten small businesses.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must open or have an active FedEx account in good standing and be a U.S.-based payor.

Up to \$25,000.

Visa Everywhere Initiative

A global innovation program that tasks start-ups to solve payment challenges of tomorrow, further enhance their own product propositions and provide visionary solutions for Visa's vast network of partners.

The challenge changes each year.

\$50,000 to the final three winners of the contest.

Amber Business Grants For Women

The Amber Foundation helps women start businesses and helps existing ones grow. The funding grants are small, but very helpful in getting you started. There is no requirement or expectation to repay the funds.

The Foundation looks for applications with passion, business savvy, vision, and so much more—women who believe in what they're doing.

Monthly awards of \$2,000 and one annual award of \$25,000.

StreetShares Foundation Veteran Small Business Award

The StreetShares Foundation is committed to creating more opportunities for military veteran entrepreneurs. Their grant program allows us to boost veteran small businesses in a big way by providing opportunities for access to capital.

Applicants must be a veteran, reserve or active duty member of any of the United States Armed Forces, OR a spouse of a military member or veteran, must be a U.S. person and at least 21 years old, be a legal entity (sole proprietorship or legally incorporated LLC, S-Corp, or C-Corp or formal partnership), and own at least 50 percent of the business. Also, the business entity must have a social impact on the American military veteran community.

\$4,000 to \$15,000.

CORPORATE /NON-PROFIT GRANTS

Cartier Women's Initiative Awards

An annual international business competition created in 2006 to identify, support and encourage projects by women entrepreneurs.

QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered for the Cartier Women's Initiative, the project must be a for-profit early-stage business (1 to 3 years old) led by a woman.

FUNDING

\$100,000 for first prize and \$30,000 for second prize.

Fast Pitch Awards

Each year Women Founders Network creates a unique opportunity for Female Founders.

Restricted to women founders/CEOs and businesses that are majority-owned by women.

\$50,000 in cash awards and more than \$100,000 in professional services.

Girlboss Foundation Grant

The Girlboss Foundation awards one grant biannually to female entrepreneurs pursuing creative endeavors.

Grants are exclusive to female business owners in the worlds of design, fashion, music, and the arts. To be eligible, applicants must identify as female, be US residents, and be 18 years or older by the close of the submission window.

Each grant beneficiary will receive project funding of \$15,000.

Idea Café Small Business Grant

Small grants with low-barrier application processes for businesses with forward-thinking ideas.

Anyone who currently owns a business or is planning to start one in the next 3 months.

\$1,000 in cash, free hosting for 2 years, provided by [LiquidWeb](#), a total of \$1,500 in advertising credits.

Tory Burch Foundation Fellows Program

Designed for women entrepreneurs, providing the community of support needed to connect, learn, and grow your business.

Applicants must be a woman entrepreneur who owns a majority stake in a qualifying business and manages it on a day-to-day basis.

A one-year fellowship, \$5,000 in grant funding and the chance to pitch their concept to industry leaders for greater funding.



Conclusion

At the end of the day, grants are an excellent opportunity to fund your growing business without giving up any equity. However, grant programs are notoriously competitive, so it's important to get organized if you want to end up with some free cash in your pocket.

To make sure that you have all the financial documents you need to secure grant funding for your startup, contact the accounting experts at [OpenDigits](#).