

# Office of Small Business Research

## Funding Innovation for Healthy Aging

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) leads a broad scientific effort to understand the nature of aging and to extend the healthy, active years of life.

NIA provides more than \$100 million in set-aside funding for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

The Institute offers non-dilutive grants to commercialize interventions that address aging, aging-related diseases, and the special needs of older Americans.

NIA is the primary federal agency leading research on Alzheimer's disease (AD) and AD-related dementias (ADRD).

## What Is Your



## BIG IDEA

We're looking for groundbreaking ideas in aging research and AD/ADRD:



### INNOVATION

to support healthy aging and aging in place



### INTERVENTIONS

to help people with aging-related diseases



### SOLUTIONS

for aging-related challenges and needs



### TOOLS

to efficiently assess and diagnose aging-related diseases



### TECHNOLOGY

to reduce burden and improve care and services

### APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Is your project idea a good fit for NIA? Contact Dr. Michael-David A.R.R. Kerns: [kernsmd@mail.nih.gov](mailto:kernsmd@mail.nih.gov).

### ONLINE RESOURCES

Visit [nia.nih.gov/sbir](http://nia.nih.gov/sbir) to find Frequently Asked Questions and review NIA's research priorities.

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

Contact the NIA Office of Small Business Research: 301-827-2522 or [niasmallbusiness@mail.nih.gov](mailto:niasmallbusiness@mail.nih.gov).

## Available Opportunities

### OMNIBUS FUNDING

Investigator-initiated  
Standard application due dates:

► **Jan. 5, Apr. 5, Sept. 5** ◀

### NIA-FOCUSED FUNDING

Focused priority areas in aging  
Includes higher AD/ADRD budgets  
Application due dates vary

## NIA Divisions Support Research on:



Aging Biology



Behavioral and  
Social Research



Geriatrics and  
Clinical Gerontology



Neuroscience,  
including AD/ADRD



## NIA SBIR & STTR Seeks

- Innovative solutions to significant **unmet clinical needs**
- Solutions that have **significant commercial potential**
- Projects that:
  - Leverage the **expertise of the company/founder**
  - Seek funding to **produce feasibility data** (Phase I) or conduct **product-focused development activities** (Phase II)



## Special Research Interests in AD/ADRD

NIA's SBIR & STTR programs have funding available up to **\$500,000 for Phase I** and **\$2.5 million for Phase II** in AD/ADRD topics.

NIA seeks AD/ADRD research focusing on:

- Prevention
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Care & Caregiving
- Research & Clinical Tools
- Analytical Tools
- Digital Health
- Novel Devices

## Focus on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research

AD is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S., affecting more than 5 million Americans. Continued, significant investments are needed if we are to meet the national goal of preventing and effectively treating AD.

NIA's SBIR and STTR programs provide AD and ADRD research funding where it is most needed: in the early stages of R&D when new ideas are tested. We expect to provide over \$100 million in funding for small business innovation in aging, AD, and ADRD.

# Understanding the NIA SBIR & STTR Programs

## Who Is Eligible?

Organized for-profit U.S. small businesses with 500 or fewer employees. Learn more at [nia.nih.gov/sbir](http://nia.nih.gov/sbir).

## How Do SBIR & STTR Differ?

SBIR	STTR
Supports small businesses conducting early-stage R&D to commercialize innovations in healthy aging and diseases of aging	Supports small businesses that are formally collaborating with a research institution (e.g., university) in R&D to commercialize innovations
<b>PERMITS</b> research institution partnerships	<b>REQUIRES</b> research institution partnerships
The small business may subcontract ~33% of Phase I activities and 50% of Phase II activities	The for-profit small business should conduct a minimum of 40% of the work, and a non-profit U.S. research institution should conduct a minimum of 30% of the work
The Project Director / Principal Investigator's primary employment (>50%) must be with the small business for the duration of the project period	An agreement providing necessary intellectual property (IP) rights to the small business is required to carry out follow-on R&D and commercialization
<p><b>Awards are always made to the small business.</b>            Contact us for help determining whether SBIR or STTR is the best match for your project.</p>	

## SBIR & STTR Program Phases and Funding Levels

<b>Phase I</b>	Discovery & Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 1 year</li> <li>• Awards up to \$300,000, or up to \$500,000 for AD/ADRD</li> <li>• Establish technical merit, feasibility, and potential for commercialization</li> </ul>
<b>Phase II</b>	Development & Full R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 years</li> <li>• Awards up to \$2 million, or up to \$2.5 million for AD/ADRD</li> <li>• Continues Phase I R&amp;D efforts</li> <li>• Requires a commercialization plan</li> </ul>
<b>Fast Track</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One combined application for Phases I and II</li> </ul>
<b>Direct-to-Phase II (SBIR only)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply directly for Phase II funding</li> <li>• Demonstrated feasibility through other funding sources</li> </ul>
<b>Commercialization Readiness Pilot</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for late-stage R&amp;D and technical assistance for commercialization</li> </ul>
<b>Phase IIB</b>	Competing Renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 years</li> <li>• Awards up to \$3 million</li> </ul>



# Tips for Applying

## ✔ Start Early.

Strong proposals take time to develop.

## ✔ Complete Required Registrations.

You will need to register your company with five systems before applying.

Sign up for DUN and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS), System for Award Management (Sam.gov), SBA Company Registry, eRA Commons, and Grants.gov.

## ✔ Connect with NIA Before Submitting Your Application.

- What is the therapeutic or technology you are developing?
- How is your idea innovative, what unmet need is being addressed, and what technical challenges must be overcome?
- What is the value proposition and the existing competition for the therapeutic or technology?
- How is the product relevant to NIA's R&D mission?
- What are your specific research aims, including key models, assays, metrics, and quantitative performance milestones?

## Additional Resources

### First-Time and Never-Funded Applicants

**Applicant Assistance Program.** A 10-week coaching program to help develop your application. Offered once each standard funding period.

### All Awardees

**Technical Assistance Budget Allowance.** Supports services such as access to technologies, IP protections, and market research. Offers up to \$6,500 for Phase I and up to \$50,000 for Phase II when requested in the grant application.

**Diversity Supplement.** Helps increase the diversity of the research workforce by supporting students, postdocs, and eligible investigators from underrepresented groups.

**C3i Program for NIH.** Supports medical device innovators in commercializing their products through a 24-week entrepreneurial training course.

**SEED Resources.** Support from the NIH Small Business Entrepreneurial Education and Development (SEED) Office including access to Entrepreneurs in Residence and regulatory support.

### Phase I Awardees

**I-Corps™ at NIH.** An 8-week intensive course that offers real-world, hands-on entrepreneurship training and customer discovery in life sciences and biotechnology.



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