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 $140 million in 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
Contact the NIA Office of Strategic Extramural Programs with questions or to discuss your project idea with Dr. Michael-David A.R.R. Kerns at NIAsmallbusiness@mail.nih.gov.

ONLINE RESOURCES
Visit nia.nih.gov/sbir to find Frequently Asked Questions and review NIA's research priorities.
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 R&D 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)
- To support innovators from all backgrounds including women and socially disadvantaged entrepreneurs.

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 R&D 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 a leading cause of death in the U.S., affecting more than 6 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 $140 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.

**How Do SBIR & STTR Differ?**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SBIR</th>
<th>STTR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Supports small businesses conducting early-stage R&amp;D to commercialize innovations in healthy aging and diseases of aging</td>
<td>Supports small businesses that are formally collaborating with a research institution (e.g., university) in R&amp;D to commercialize innovations</td>
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<td>PERMITS research institution partnerships</td>
<td>REQUIRES research institution partnerships</td>
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<td>The small business may outsource about 33% of Phase I activities and 50% of Phase II activities</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>The Project Director / Principal Investigator’s primary employment (&gt;50%) must be with the small business for the duration of the project period</td>
<td>An agreement providing necessary intellectual property (IP) rights to the small business is required to carry out follow-on R&amp;D and commercialization</td>
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_Awards are always made to the small business._ Contact us for help determining whether SBIR or STTR is the best match for your project.

**SBIR & STTR Program Phases and Funding Levels**

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<th>Phase</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>SBIR</th>
<th>STTR</th>
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<td>Phase I</td>
<td>Discovery &amp; Feasibility</td>
<td>• Typically 1 year in length &lt;br&gt;• Awards up to $300,000, or up to $500,000 for AD/ADRD &lt;br&gt;• Establish technical merit, feasibility, and potential for commercialization</td>
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<td>Phase II</td>
<td>Development &amp; Full R&amp;D</td>
<td>• Typically 2 years in length &lt;br&gt;• Awards up to $2 million, or up to $2.5 million for AD/ADRD &lt;br&gt;• Continues Phase I R&amp;D efforts &lt;br&gt;• Requires a commercialization plan</td>
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<td>Fast Track</td>
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<td>• One combined application for Phases I and II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct-to-Phase II (SBIR only)</td>
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<td>• Apply directly for Phase II funding &lt;br&gt;• Demonstrated feasibility through other funding sources</td>
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<td>Commercialization Readiness Pilot</td>
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<td>• Funding for late-stage R&amp;D and technical assistance for commercialization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase IIB</td>
<td>Competing Renewal</td>
<td>• Up to 3 years &lt;br&gt;• Awards up to $3 million</td>
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SBIR and STTR are programs of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), designed to support small businesses in conducting research and development (R&D) projects in the field of healthy aging and aging-related diseases. The programs encourage collaboration between small businesses and research institutions to promote the commercialization of innovations.
Tips for Applying

✅ **Start Early.**

Strong proposals take time to develop.

Complete required registrations for your company at least 6 to 8 weeks prior to the application deadline.

The four required registrations are System for Award Management (SAM.gov) including your 18-digit Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number, SBA Company Registry, eRA Commons, and Grants.gov.

✅ **Considerations for Developing Your Application.**

1. The technology prototype or therapeutic to be developed;
2. The technical innovation the development would represent, the unmet need it addresses, and technical challenges to overcome;
3. The value proposition and competition; and how the technology builds on current scientific premise and/or preliminary data;
4. The proposed specific research aims, including key models, assays, metrics, and quantitative performance milestones; and
5. The relevance of the research and development to NIA’s mission.

**Additional Resources for Applicants and Grantees**

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<th>Everyone</th>
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<td><strong>Webinars &amp; Events.</strong> Watch archived presentations including a mock peer review session on our website and sign up for future events.</td>
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<th>Applicants</th>
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<td><strong>Sample Applications.</strong> Review other successful applications on our website to see what information other applicants included and how they presented it.</td>
<td><strong>Applicant Assistance Program.</strong> A 10-week coaching program to help prepare your Phase I application. Open to first-time and never-funded applicants.</td>
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<th>Phase I Awardees</th>
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<td><strong>Diversity Supplement.</strong> Funds to recruit and support students, postdocs, and eligible investigators from underrepresented groups that enhance the diversity of the research and entrepreneurial workforce.</td>
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| Innovator Support. **Support from the NIA Entrepreneurs-in-Residence** including business consults, pitch coaching, and company showcase opportunities. |  |

| Additional Resources and Support for Grantees. **Companies that receive SBIR/STTR awards are eligible to apply for additional funding, technical assistance, and training programs such as the I-Corps™ at NIH program, C3i Medical Device Entrepreneurial Training Program, and training programs designed for diverse applicants.** |  |