

FUNDING FOR STARTUPS



America's
SEED FUND
SBIR.STTR

UP TO \$2 MILLION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

America's Seed Fund powered by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) funds startups in the development of deep technologies – those that are based on discoveries in fundamental science and engineering – transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact.

With NSF funding you retain full control over your team, the direction of your work, and your intellectual property. Our hope is that the startups funded by NSF will become successful and have a positive impact.

\$230+ MILLION & 400 AWARDS EVERY YEAR

"It's no secret that there is a dearth of black and brown women in technology; but for immigrants with accents (like me) things get even more complicated: I look and sound too different from anyone who has successfully led a company to an exit, making it extra hard for me to raise money from investors. Having the opportunity to get non-dilutive funding from an early start has helped not only de-risk our engineering development but has validated me as a founder and built confidence in my business, that I'm betting will grow over the next decade."

Maria Artunduaga

Founder and CEO, Respira Labs (NSF-2112096)



ABOUT AWARDEES

279 small businesses received a Phase I award in Fiscal Year 2023

94% had fewer than 10 employees

80% were created in the last 5 years

62% were new to NSF

EQUITY AND EXITS FROM NSF-FUNDED COMPANIES*:

\$28B follow-on institutional (equity) financing

450 successful exits (acquisitions, mergers, IPOs)

*THESE FIGURES WERE PULLED FROM PITCHBOOK FROM 10/1/2013 TO 9/30/2023 AND INCLUDE COMPANIES THAT RECEIVED NSF FUNDING PRIOR TO 2016.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

For profit organizations that are:

- **U.S. BASED**
(operating primarily in the U.S.)
- **MORE THAN 50% OWNED** by a U.S. citizen or legal resident
- **FEWER THAN 500** employees

MORE DETAILS: sbir.gov/faq

WE FUND IN PHASES

PHASE I
UP TO \$305,000

PHASE II
UP TO \$1,250,000

PHASE II B
UP TO \$500,000

We fund unproven, high-impact innovations in almost any area of technology.

HOW TO GET STARTED:

PROJECT PITCH

Submit a Project Pitch and find out in a few weeks if your project is a good fit.

PROJECT PITCHES MUST OUTLINE:

1. Technology Innovation
2. Technical Objectives and Challenges
3. Market Opportunity
4. Company and Team

If your project is a good fit, you will receive an official invitation to submit a Phase I proposal.

Each startup can only submit one Project Pitch at a time.

FIND OUT WHAT'S NEXT.
seedfund.nsf.gov

[SBIR@NSF.GOV](https://sbir@nsf.gov)

